

## **EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR UPDATE**

I know that it is past the time when this web page should have been updated. Sometimes it is tough trying not to duplicate what is sent out in emails or put in the WATCH. Things have been pretty busy for me, both personally and professionally (just like most of us!) and this page was one of those things that fell by the wayside. I apologize to everyone for that and am working on improving the frequency of updates.

The response to the Member Survey in December was wonderful! The Board of Directors (BOD) got an initial briefing at our meeting in January. We did a lot of work with the information and are expecting another update before the information is presented to everyone in the Business Meeting at the Conference.

By the way, the Conference registration form is now on line; please make sure to sign up early! We are excited about going to New Orleans and the Loews is a gorgeous hotel. I hope you have your leave set up and can join us there. While it is recommended that members block the conference time with leave, the Agency has historically determined that our Conference is considered approved training and managers are able to grant excused leave for training. I look forward to seeing many of our Eastern Region Members there...we can have a great Regional lunch!

We have been getting the word out there about PWC and have participated in several events over the past 6 months. Jacqui Whitaker and Norma Ely joined me in representing PWC at the Hispanic Coalition Conference in DC, and Norma was also at the Black Coalition Conference with some PWC give-aways. Rose Merchant-Bennett and Sherelle Carper represented PWC at the Open House at the new Command Center. Thank you all for helping to get the word out about PWC!

Our 2013 Conference in PHL is shaping up to be fantastic. As you know, Jane Kolia, New England RD has volunteered to co-chair the conference with me and several other members have also volunteered their time. If you are interested in developing the conference theme, coordinating fundraising efforts, working on the welcoming reception or closing banquet or with the auction items at the conference this year, please let Jane or me know, we could definitely use the help! We have signed the contract with the Sheraton Society Hill; they are in the final stages of a complete renovation and the hotel is beautiful. We have started booking speakers and already have a great one - I will tell you that she's been on national television and will have some really surprising information for you! We will be doing our fund raising for PHL this year in New Orleans so bring something to donate or have your checkbooks ready to bid on some of the great items that have already been donated (we have 2 vacation stays, a night in a beautiful hotel in Philly and many other items).

And last but certainly not least, welcome to new members Constance Mack, Amarylis Pena, Dina Antuna, Desire Askew, and Robert Vaughan!

Veronica Vaughan