



# PEARLS OF WISDOM

OPC Past President Linda Squarzolo

When you see geese heading south for the winter... flying along in a "V" formation... you may wonder why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following.

By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone ... and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing ... and another goose flies point.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. When a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation, to catch up with their group. (Source Unknown)

How does this story relate to past presidents?  
What kind of "uplift" is the council's past president providing to the other members on the executive?

Although her role requires her to act in a consultative capacity, the past president can, and should, offer positive messages and hands-on assistance to the president and executive without being overbearing.

Working as a team and making everyone be her best will increase the *"flying range"* of the whole council.



For councils to flourish, they need to have members who are knowledgeable about the League. According to the National “Handbook for Past Presidents”, the past president should be knowledgeable about elections, the development of policy manuals and the Constitution and Bylaws. She should develop and offer workshops to educate the council on a whole range of topics. Retired past presidents should be asked “to lend help” by providing their wealth of skills and knowledge.

People, who share a common direction and sense of community, can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the “lifting power” of one another. In the new year, look for webinars that I will be offering on archiving, council histories and other topics.

Let’s be the geese who “fly in formation” and “honk from behind” with encouragement for leaders of our CWL councils!

