

THE YEARS THAT WERE

Soli Deo Gloria

by Lorraine Williams Johnson

Dedicated to Frances “Fay” Miller

MRSPA President 2017 - 2019

Let me tell you a story - it won't take very long
And when you've heard it - you'll probably sing a song
About the perseverance and dedication of a lady named Fay
And a whole bunch of folks who helped her save the day.

Now Fay was elected President of the MRSPA group
But on the day of her installation, she sat at home drinking soup
Yes, soup, folk, because you see - Fay's back shot out of place
And by His goodness and infinite mercy did not fall on her face.

So the commitment was read, and to it she agreed
And the outgoing officers and members promised to help her succeed
And although she couldn't step up to the plate, she didn't hesitate
To take the reins and proceed to become the head of state.

So Fay was installed and the membership relaxed near and far
As she pledged to lead MRSPA to a higher and brighter star
And she proudly proclaimed her message would be
Your Membership Matters, to everyone, not just to me.

She followed her doctor's advice and began to heal;
Her leadership had such a mountain of zeal
That everyone pitched in to set the boat afloat
And started MRSPA on a voyage of infinite note.

A new E.D. was chosen; his tenure did not go well
And before you knew it, things really did not gel
And another E.D. was needed to set the ship aright
Lest difficulty and chaos become MRSPA's plight.

But, what about the work that needed to be done?
What about the business of the office to run?
The lack of office leadership, at the top, had derailed
It could cripple MRSPA's desire to sail.

Well, less you cry and lose hope
Our leadership and office staff did not reach the end of their rope
But surveyed the situation before a bigger problem arose
And determined to be successful and hold their course.

In the midst of the darkness and uncertain days
One almost forgot that a piece was missing.
Our President, with the help of other leaders, and office staff
Kept things going and the organization did not miss a beat.

So another Search Committee went to work, very fast.
Its duty it did not shirk; it advertised via email and blast
And another Executive Director was secured, at last.
One that seemed suited to this challenging task.

In the meantime, Fay and Matilda were on the road
Visiting locals and getting MRSPA's story told.
They visited the familiar and unfamiliar alike
And Fay's sense of duty was always in sight.

The Search Committee concluded its search.

It had found a perfect match for the position
One acquainted with education's issues and transition
One who had a kinship with MRSPA's goals.

The light beamed steadily and everyone smiled
We had worked hard but secured a perfect fit
And the organization was righted anew
With not a partial, but a full operating crew.

We had obtained a gem with experience galore
And we knew that our ship would not go ashore
And with activities working as they should
The Association would continue to work for the membership's good.

Again, Fay and Matilda visited locals here and there
And met MRSPA's membership everywhere
For her work was constant, continuous, too
And her dedication to the position she did not eschew.

With the help of the Board, Committees and office staff together
She led the Association through uncertain weather
And began to organize and rework documents anew
As they prepared for the incoming newly-elected crew

But adversity reared its ugly head
And the one who had so beautifully led
The organization to a much greater height
Was once again by adversity plagued.

In just one week, falls were taken by key leaders
Illnesses caused others to side-step and pause
And our leader once again was sidelined
By personal illness and tragedy.

And once again, the organization seemed stymied.
But from her home and her phone
With the assistance of the E.D., the organization and office staff
We continued to serve our members.

I told you the story would not take long
And that we could burst out in a loud and happy song
About an organization that understood and survived a hard time
And continues to help its members enjoy retirement, just fine.

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Mealtime Prayer