



EASTERN DIVISION
SPRING BULLETIN

Dear Partners,

Well, we survived an insane winter. March came in like a lamb but went out the same way! Unheard of.

March 9, 2024 was the Eastern Division conference in Canastota, NY. What an awesome turnout! 46 partners represented five of the six states. Needless to say, I was thrilled. Always enjoy making new friends.....

- Great ideas were shared. A few:
 - ... Connecticut's theme is a magnifying glass.... To look for new partners! They hold virtual meetings for those who can not leave their homes physically. Keeps them connected! Some are doing "Great Strides" walks to raise monies.
 - ... New Jersey makes afghans to raffle off for the children as well as adopting a child.
 - ... New York sells 'partnership cards' for \$3.00. Half the proceeds go to the Chapeau's project and the other half to their Dept. Each Dept. Chapeau creates her own card to be sold based on her project.
 - ... Pennsylvania's project is *Muriel's Breath of Life* located in the Pittsburg Childrens' Hospital. A brother and sister who had a sister with CF run it. They help with out-of-pocket costs for families with children who are patients there.

- We held bag raffles and a 50/50. All proceeds went to National Chapeau Linda Diebel's project the 8 / 40 Foundation. Total raised was **\$1328**. Patricia Mann raffled off a hot air fryer. Proceeds (\$265) for Children & Youth. Last but not least, a 'free' raffle from Rose for all attendees (\$100 worth lottery tickets) was done at the end. Lucky MaryEllen Flynn of Pa. won the 50/50, the Children & Youth raffle AND Rose's raffle! Way to go, MaryEllen.

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Pennsylvania for holding # 3 in the NATION in Partnership. I'm so proud of you.

- National LaMarche information was shared to be sure all were informed.

I would just like to thank all who attended one more time. Without YOU, we would have had no meeting! God bless.

I recently read an article about a project called “**The Jared Box**”. It all began with 5 year old Jared McMullen of Pa. who was diagnosed with an incurable cancer. He would take a backpack full of games and fun things to pass the wait-time before treatment. He noticed that other children had nothing to keep their minds occupied, so he began to share his items with them. Jared passed away in 2000.

One year later, his classmates began the Jared Box project to honor his memory and his sharing, joyful nature. To date, over a million shoe-size boxes have been donated at 528 hospitals.

Joyce Bojdak is a seventh and eighth grade catechist in Oneida County, NY. The project began with her students and just went viral from there. Everyone from children to adults wanted to be part of such an amazing kindness.

All that is needed are plastic shoe boxes (from the Dollar Tree) and goodies to put inside! A book, crayons and coloring book, stuffed animals or dolls, small games, cards, etc. **ALONG WITH A PERSONAL NOTE** to let the child know he / she is being thought of. Just sign your first name and pass the box along. Does not even need to be wrapped.

I am blown away by this simple show of affection for our children. It is not expensive and it's so simple to do. **A GREAT project for a new partner!** Instead of signing up someone and letting her just sit there during meetings, put her to work. Give her the feeling of being useful and helping children! It's ok to have more than one partner in the Salons / Departments be in charge of Jared Boxes. Create a contest as to whose Salon makes the most boxes! Donate them to your local hospitals or rehabilitation centers for children. God bless.

Well, that's it for this time. The spring flowers are all a-bud and make us feel so much better. Of course, it's also time to begin planting new flowers and mowing the lawn. But we can do this.

My wishes are a safe and healthy spring to you all. Stay in touch and let me know how your Jared Boxes are going.

In Fun & Fellowship,

Rose Burbidge, *Eastern Division Chapeau*