



THE CONNECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the desk of... Craig Penet, FPPOA President

Before starting on my first message as National President of FPPOA, a huge **THANK YOU** is in order for outgoing president, Barbara Oswald. She served two terms as National President, retired, but came back again about five years ago to fill the position when we needed someone to step up. Barb has tremendous energy and motivation, which has benefited FPPOA and kept it together for the past decade. But don't be saddened by her leaving this position, as she will be coordinating the National Training Institute (NTI) this year, a job she will be doing for the 5th time if my recollection is correct. I've worked with Barb for most of the years she served as president, and honestly I'm not sure where the association would be today if she were not involved. Thank you Barb.

So, in 2000, I attended the 2nd National Training Institute (NTI) which was held in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Vice President of the Northeast re-

gion, my first board position with the organization. Subsequently I served as National Secretary for several terms and most recently as Northeast Region President. With Barb's term ending in December, it's now my turn to serve as National President. The FPPOA elections ended Friday, December 16th, and proudly, I was able to meet with Chief Matthew Rowland and Chief Tony San Giacomo (CAG Chair) on Monday, December 19th. I'd like to boast that on that morning I hopped a train to D.C. to let both Chiefs know there was a new FPPOA President in town.....However, the meeting was planned previously by both Chiefs and Barb. In any event, on the first day after election, one of the first things on my list was accomplished: meeting with Chiefs Rowland and San Giacomo.

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