



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Rosemaling friends,

Hope this greeting finds that each of you had a good year in 2003 and are well. I want to especially thank those dedicated individuals who have served with me to keep the Western Rosemalers Association going on course . . . and who each have been serving your organization in some capacity

for **several** years. **Many are continuing** in their positions. I appreciate their able support of the work we are charged with AND, and most of all, their friendship. This organization (as any other) **cannot** survive without the folks who step up and offer their time and talents. Please take the time to thank each of them personally and offer your continued support to them and the new officers. Please also consider your own service in that capacity for the future.

2003 was a pretty good year for us. In January, we had a great workshop with our own **Kathy Anderson**; mini workshops, a very successful Fall workshop with Shirley Evenstad at a new facility and have already laid plans for two great, major workshops for next year . . . in the spring with Pam Rucinski and next Fall with **Gudrun Berg**. (Please see the related articles about workshops). There are many fun ideas for mini workshops as well.

Hopefully, those who are able to attend workshops and improve their skills will eventually share those skills (if they aren't already) by teaching others.

Response to the survey has been **limited** (about 20 out of a membership of 146), but interesting. Final results will be submitted after the New Year. If you have not yet participated, I urge you to do so. The copy in the Vine can be mailed or brought to the January meeting. There will be blank forms also available at the meeting. After that, we will tally them up and publish the results in the next Vine. There is a lot of enthusiasm out there for this beautiful art form . . . so let's do what we can to provide opportunities for long standing members as well as those whose interest is just taking form!! Those members who represent us at Scandinavian festivals can attest to that enthusiasm from the people who come to buy Rosemaled items or find a teacher and classes so they can get started. There is much we can and should do!! And we can do a lot, collectively, as an association! To do that most effectively, we need to pool our thoughts and efforts. Keep those surveys coming in!

(Continued on page 2)

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The **Acanthus Vine** is published 4 times a year approximately two weeks prior to the coming meeting. News items that any member deems interesting or beneficial to our members is welcome. If you have e-mail, send as **Word Doc** attached to e-mail to **Barb Smith** (address above-left); or surface mail to return address on this Vine.