

KGTC President's Letter February 2, 2019

The new year is off and running, but I have to put the brakes on in order to quickly reflect on last year 2018. I was truly blessed and honored to represent KGTC as your president and to watch as our organization celebrated great events in 2018.

Board meeting in January of 2018 – plans were put in place for that year moving forward. New officers were introduced and I took the reins for two years of a great organization that I am proud to be a part of.

Region 3 held a great mini-conference in Overland Park at KU Edwards campus with the 'gifted guru' Lisa Van Gemert as the speaker.

Region 6 held its first ever joint conference with Missouri in Pittsburg at Pitt State University with Brandi Klepper as the guest speaker.

Region 2 held another mini-conference in Salina with Ginger Lewman as the guest speaker.

Great conferences with great speakers (so good that Brandi Klepper will once again be speaking at Region 6, only this time at a joint conference in Missouri.) Lisa Van Gemert and Ginger Lewman will be our keynote speakers at this year's conference in October.

March found 5 board members going to Washington D.C. to represent our organization at the NAGC Leadership and Advocacy Conference where we talked to state senators and representatives.

The year ended with a bang in October we brought our conference to the campus of Emporia State University and it couldn't of been better. We celebrated 40 years as an organization and local, national and international representation and our chairmain Connie Phelps did an amazing job. Kudos!!!

November we wrapped the year up and celebrated our achievements. Thank you 2018.

Now here we are in 2019. I want to thank you for the opportunity to represent our organization as the president and I look forward to this year as we have added to our board new members, including a parent chairman who has taken the reins and hit the road running, and a communications chair who is absolutely amazing.

We added a new region 5 chairman and she already has a great conference planned for this spring and ideas moving forward. We have added some region assistants, but we still need you!! If you have any interest in helping our organization or serving on the board in some capacity, please let me know. I have heard from two people who I am excited to work with. There is still room for you.

If you haven't visited the website, you need to because our new communications chair has it to where it worth visiting and seeing what new information will pop up from week to week. Tracy Elford, thank you for agreeing to take on this role and for the updates made in order to make this something worth reading. If anyone ever has anything they want posted on the website, please send it to Tracy and it will get there.

We started a new mentorship program under the leadership of our Continuing Education chairman (Lindsay Black) and what a great first year. We are looking forward to what this program will bring about this year at our convention.

We have made connections with representatives from other states and actually there are some board members going to visit some of these states and their conferences. This is something we have wanted to accomplish for a long time; making connections and i am excited to see how we begin to grow these relationships.

We have four great region meetings on the calendar and I hope you will attend at least one if not more than one as the region directors have secured great speakers that you won't want to miss.

Region 2: Tuesday, June 18th in Salina with Melissa Valenza from Topeka.

<u>Region 3:</u> Saturday, April 27th in overland park at KU Edwards campus with Kristina Collins from NAGC and Texas.

<u>Region 5</u>: Monday, April 22nd at Maize High School with Brandi Klepper.

<u>Region 6</u>: Friday, April 12th in Missouri at Cottey College.

Lookout for October because our convention chair, Kim Curtis has a fantastic convention planned at Kansas State University, October 13th and 14th with keynote speakers Lisa Van Gemert and Ginger Lewman. The theme will be "Repowering

Gifted Ed In Kansas". This will prove to be a great two days so if you have a proposal you would like to share, submit it.

Our next board meetings are set for March 30 at Emporia State University and May 29th at Emporia State University, then September 7th at Manhattan.

I am so looking forward to what this year holds for KGTC and I hope you will consider being a part of this great organization. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a blessed weekend and a great week.

Sincerely,

Nancy Thomas