

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**by Martin H. Oogjen III**  
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As I am nearing the end of my first year as President, I pause to reflect on the upcoming FCCA Conference and the schedule that is planned. In reviewing the schedule of events, it looks to be a week packed with exceptional educational programs and exciting social activities. Take a moment to look through the *Journal* to review everything that is being offered.

The educational programs range from communication in the next century to money management (and with the Dow recently reaching over 11,000 points, it's something to think about), to expanding your personal strengths and achieving your professional goals. Our plenary sessions are informational and inspirational as well. The opening ceremony will have a special keynote speaker who promises to provide an exciting start to our conference. We will also have Administrative Office and Federal Judicial Center personnel to fill us in on what's new in the AO and FJC; the FCCA business meeting will inform us all on the budget, committee reports, elections, etc., and, of course, we end the week with a fun-filled night of eating and dancing! There are many social events planned both on and off the beach which are included in your registration fee. There are also optional events for you to enjoy, as well.

Please take note of the nominations for the position of Secretary and Circuit Representative for the odd-numbered circuits which are highlighted in this issue. You may think these positions are not a critical part of our organization, but they are. They are of great importance, and the efforts of the individuals who serve in these positions are truly appreciated.

One such individual who has served on the Board with distinction is Cherie Schaefer. Cherie recently took a position outside the judiciary but still in the federal government. Cherie did a fine job not only representing the Fourth Circuit but was also chair of our Blood Drive. Good luck to Cherie in her new position, and welcome to Judy Shelton who is now representing the Fourth Circuit.

I also want you to take note of the recently concluded annual awarding of scholarships. The Professional Development Committee has reported to me that a larger than usual number of members applied for scholarships this year, and that most applications were granted a monetary stipend. Providing educational opportunities is the cornerstone of our organization.

In closing, my first year as your FCCA President has been rewarding, and I thank everyone who has contributed in making it so. I look forward to seeing everyone in Miami Beach for our **BLAST ON THE BEACH!**