



## Dear Diary

By Terry Berrier, Secretary/Treasurer

April 1, 1979. "It's April! Whew! I'm not ready for it! But yet, I want school to be over with. I'm ready to go to Holland."

These were the exact words written in my journal at the end of my sophomore year at Texas Tech. Some things never change, except that now I would say, "I'm ready to go to bed." As the last few weeks of school approach, though, let us caution each other NOT to wish time away, but to relish it. Let's find ways to say a heart-felt "good-bye" to the top class, celebrate any and all peak moments of the year, and also set the stage for an exciting 2014-15.

Students signed up for your class. They *chose* to be there, and many of them stayed with you throughout their time at your school. Make plans to acknowledge their commitment to choir by thanking them publically at your spring concert or awards event. Present each of them with a snazzy flash-drive downloaded with their UIL or Festival music. If you are in a first or second-year situation, you won't have the history with your top class of students. However, their classmates do. Employ some students to create a movie or slide show of just the students who are leaving your school, and combine it with inspirational and upbeat music.

Create ways to celebrate the "mountain-top" moments of your choir department. Entice your historian or motivated student to make a scrapbook of the year's events. It could be a physical book or it can take the form of another slide show or movie. There are several movie-making applications you can use with Windows or your Apple products. Get some clever students to make up new words to a familiar song, which summarize the past year's choir events. Have them perform it at your awards event, accompanied by your resident beat-boxer. Take any trophies to get engraved, and have them along with your composite displayed at your year-end event.

To help keep your underclassmen excited about the year to come, engage them in preparing for it. If you have chosen a musical, plan a scavenger hunt or other game to have them collect clues leading to the name of the musical. Winners get candy! Get some of your Region Choir-type students to collect information of all the High School All State Camps, and encourage your students to attend. Email this list to your choir parents. Is next year your "trip year?" Write a limerick revealing the location, and get one of your popular students to read it during the school announcements. Have a special event where your most helpful and successful students get due recognition. Hold officer elections for 2014-15, and announce those officers at that event.

In your diary, maybe it will read something like: "It's May! I am so ready to celebrate the year with my students and plan next year's activities. My students are worth it, and my program is worth it. I'll get some rest in June."