

Cathleen Inman's President's Message 2019-2020

April 13, 2019

I stand before you blessed to be an Aggie Mom. It has truly changed my life and given me gifts beyond measure. Friendships with women I would have never known had I not joined Aggie Moms. I have my daughter, Tara Tredaway '15, to thank for that.

I'd like to thank Linda Schmidt, Former Federation President 2014-2015 and Jeanne Harrell, Former Federation President, 2013-2014, for conducting the installation today. My first year on the board, Linda was VP at Large and I loved serving with her. I have served on committees with Jeanne and she's just the sweetest person. I knew they would both do an amazing job. Thank you so much, ladies! I'd also like to thank my home club, Blanco County, for helping with so many things for the upcoming year. I'd like to thank my friends and family who are with me here today.... My son, Tyler Tredaway, my daughter Tara Tredaway '15, Retired Brigadier General Scott Bethel, my sister Mary Anne Romero, my nephew Timothy Goodman, his fiancée Morgan Lyons '16 and DVM '19, my nephew Hunter Goodman and his wife Emma Goodman '12 and '15, Col. Gerald "Jerry" L. Smith '82, USMC (Ret.) and Karen Allen, both from the Veteran Resource & Support Center.

I'm honored to serve all of you, our 108 member clubs and our 6300 plus members as the 2019-2020 Federation president. I am charged with leading this remarkable organization in accomplishing our mission. The Federation began from a few mothers wanting to support their sons while they were off at college. In 1922, Mrs. Ada Peoples worked with ten other mothers to form the Dallas A&M Mothers' Club. Their desire to work together to serve their Aggies and the University is the epitome of service & sisterhood. Those early pioneer Aggie Moms had the foresight to create the Federation in 1928 to serve as an umbrella organization to unite and serve the individual Aggie Moms' Clubs. And 91 years later, here we stand.

My theme is "Aggie Moms: Service & Sisterhood." My logo design features the hands of Aggie Moms which represent the bonds of sisterhood inside of a heart, which represents both a servant's heart and a mother's heart.

At our meeting last night, I dedicated the upcoming year as Federation President and the accompanying 2019-2020 Directory to the Veteran Resource & Support Center. This year I'll work diligently to spotlight the VRSC and the impact they have on our Aggie veterans' lives. Their motto is "Serve Well Those Who Have Served" and they live that every day. Through generous donations they've created 79 new endowed scholarships and awarded over \$350K to veterans or their spouses, Aggie Shields has saved veterans

over \$400K in textbooks, as well as Aggie Rings for Vets just to name a few programs. For more information please visit their website at <https://aggieveterans.tamu.edu/>.

I encourage you to attend all 3 Federation meetings next year and have as many moms attend as possible from your club. This is a great environment to bond, to network, to learn together and attend workshops with valuable information you can take back to your clubs. We have great speakers, Yell Leaders to get your blood pumping, and Miss Reveille is always the star of the show! Aggie Mom Camp will be a blast and it's in February again this year.

Those who serve together have a bond. The same is true for Aggie Moms. I invite you to embrace the Service & Sisterhood theme. Just as we have always heard the mantra "Aggies Help Aggies", it's important that we ourselves live the "Aggie Moms Help Aggie Moms" mantra as well. We are sisters, in the love we share for our Aggies and each other!

When you're recruiting moms for your clubs, talk to them about service and sisterhood. Share how we celebrate each other's triumphs with Aggie Brags and how we help each other through the challenges our Aggies face. Invite them to join our Federation Facebook page so they can see firsthand how we give each other advice, answer questions, share experiences and help each other navigate college life as a parent. Share that we have thousands of moms across the state, nation and world just like them. When you have new Aggie Moms in your club, mentor them. Teach those who have first generation Aggies about A&M and why it is such a special place. Share just how much of a blessing this amazing organization is! *That is living the Aggie Mom Sisterhood.*

Guiseppe Rizzi and his family lost everything in the Louisiana floods in 2016, a month before his Freshman year. They contacted the university for help and the university put them in touch with the New Orleans Aggie Moms Club. His books and school supplies had been destroyed and he had no transportation to A&M because his family had lost both cars. The Louisiana Aggie Moms replaced his books and supplies and drove him eight hours to College Station to drop him off. He said without them, he might have had to delay school for an entire year. *That is living the Aggie Mom Sisterhood.*

This year, I learned of an Aggie Mom that passed away suddenly and tragically. Her club was devastated. In memory of her, the women in her club are buying her daughter's ring. A gift that shows a grieving daughter that her beloved mother lives on in the Aggie Moms in her hometown. *That is living the Aggie Mom Sisterhood.*

For the next year, I am here to serve you. The women on the 2019-2020 Federation Board are here to serve each of you and your clubs and to help you succeed and reach your goals, whatever they may be. Please know that you can reach out to any one of us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

I want to give thanks to all those who came before us and worked tirelessly to make Aggie Moms the outstanding organization it is today. To quote Isaac Newton "If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants."

Just like the Aggie Spirit, the Aggie Mom Sisterhood must be nurtured, passed down and most importantly...*it must be lived*. We are the torchbearers of the Aggie Mom Sisterhood and we must always ensure the flame never goes out.