



Hi Mom!

By Rod Johnson



Don't you just hate it? It's Bowl Time — Rose Bowl — Cotton Bowl — Orange Bowl — Super Bowl — Pro Bowl. The games are fun to watch and believe me I watch my share. It's the extracurricular that gets to me. Every time a television camera is aimed at the sideline for a close-up of one of the players, the 275-pound animal turns as if on cue and with all of the intelligence he can muster, waves, signals being #1, and says, "Hi Mom!"

So here I am, the proud new President of this organization. The duty at hand is clear; write your first President's Message. Put your best effort forward. With your message, let the membership know that you are on the right track and that their trust has been well given. All these thoughts, and yet one keeps coming forward — "Hi Mom!"

Maybe the sideline jocks are more intelligent than I had thought. The phrase has worked pretty well through the years. A slam of the kitchen door and a loud, "Hi Mom! I'm home!" always got attention when I was in grade school. "Hi Mom", whispered quietly so as to not wake Dad, calmed some nerves when a high school kid missed curfew by a couple of hours. It didn't lessen any punishments, but did serve to calm my worried mother's worst fears. "Hi Mom!" even works long distance today, just like in the commercials.

I guess "Hi Mom!" doesn't always mean just "Hello Mother!". The center stage athlete and the new President is also saying, "Hi Dad!, Hi Wife!, Hi Kids!, Hi Family!, and Hi Everybody Out There Who I Care About And Who Cares About Me!" It can also mean that something very important to me is happening, and I want to share it with you.

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as President of this organization. Being President of our organization is important to me, and I do not take the trust that has been given to me lightly. I have long had the de-

sire to see our organization, and moreover, our profession succeed. Serving as a Director for the past several years, and now as President, has given me the opportunity to put that desire to work.

The opportunity to serve as President of this organization is important to me; just as I am sure it was to the twenty-nine Superintendents before me. It is appropriate that I thank Roger Bell for his untiring efforts over the last two years. I suspect that any eager newcomer knows little of the drudgery that goes with the territory. During his term, Roger never missed a beat or, for that matter, a meeting. His perfect attendance record is most admirable when you consider that many meetings

necessitated long drives for meals that could have easily been eaten at home. Being Vice-President under Roger was easy; just do like Dan Quayle — show up and play golf. Contrary to his own humble opinion, we do owe Roger a great deal. I for one owe him twelve nickels for the President's Messages that I have read in the past two years.

Roger wrote of a hard-working Board of Directors. I agree, and look forward to working with many of the same people, in addition to seeing new faces and hearing new ideas. It is my intention to involve as many new people as possible. People get involved in WGCSA because they share the enthusiasm and see the importance of this organization.

The new year, and for that matter the new decade, promises numerous challenges to our profession. Membership in this organization will continue to help Superintendents meet those challenges. With a solid Board of Directors, and an outstanding membership, how can the new guy go wrong?

So what the heck, everyone all together now — "Hi Mom!"



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