



## State of Chums in 2022 Saturday, October 15, 2022

Welcome to a brand-new day, my Chum Sisters! Welcome to the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave in Raleigh/Durham, NC.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Chum Sisters, we have come through a 2 1/2 years of a pandemic and still dealing with what may prove to be an ongoing covid environment. But...we have not caved. We have not succumbed to our fears. We have hung strong, focused and protected ourselves the best we can. As Chum Elizabeth would say, we are still moving!

We are strong women and therefore a strong organization. Chums, Incorporated is beating the odds for a civic and social organization. We are growing with two new chapters and one in the harper. Our members are growing and we are getting a significant number of inquiries via our website. This growth is a result of your strives towards **EXCELLENCE...INTENTIONAL and PURPOSEFUL!**

I asked you to think outside of our traditional box and we did just that. If you have not yet reviewed the Project Committee's report, please do a thorough review when you get home. The community services and activities have been phenomenal! They were done with **intention, purpose and with a vision of Excellence.**

As an organization we have also made tremendous strides.

1. Many of your elected officers have reached out to their chapter counterparts to offer their help should the need arise.
2. The presidents have been very vocal in sharing their ideas to help with the vision of excellence. Some we have realized such as:
  - a. A National Chums Day
  - b. A National Day of Service
3. Others will follow this conclave such as:
  - a. A National Strategic Plan which your Executive Committee worked on during retreat,
  - b. National Retreat Day/Weekend with purposeful focus and goals.
  - c. Virtual Workshops/Lectures series focused on our children
  - d. and more...

4. Our Projects Committee has been awesome. “Healthy 4 Me” was creative and thoughtful. The impact on our children (and Chums) was unbelievable. It was creative but impactful.
5. What can I say about our fearless Public Relations Committee.
  - a. We now have a Facebook page.
  - b. We now have regional ambassadors
  - c. With support from our general counsel, we now have a “Release and Hold Harmless” form.
6. When you have a heart for education and children, you find ways to make scholarship candidate selection an art form. That is our scholarship Committee.
7. Technology has become a necessity to the life of any organization. Our technology team is continuing to evolve and improve their technical skillsets, ease of use and training. We will see/hear more from them in It 2022/2023.
8. It is hard to be creative when you are the manager of our governing documents but our committee is made up of creative Chum sisters and .they are working to make the review and approval of our documents easier.
9. At the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conclave, you will hear from our new Ad Hoc Chairs, Chum Cheryl Merrett of Charleston Chapter who is working with her team to establish a Chum Foundation with rules/regulations, etc. to realize Chum Marie’s vision; and Chum Ellen Jones of Hampton-Newport News as Chair of our Archives Committee. They will also be establishing rules and regulations for safeguarding our important and auditable documents.
10. We have a New Chapter...Chum Sisters from the Stafford County Chapter, please Stand. Thank you Chum Marsha Ingersoll and Chum Sharon Duncan for all your support.
11. And I would be remiss if I did not mention our outstanding Membership Committee. Talking about thinking outside the box...They have been everywhere and trying to touch everyone. More to come from this team.

Chum Sisters, if you are wondering what the State of Chums, Incorporated is, don’t wonder, I can tell you...We are doing just fine! Your leadership is not perfect. Our chapters are not perfect. Our sisterhood is not perfect. But what makes the difference between Ok and doing just fine is our love of Chums and our purpose and principles given to us by our Founders and our **Intentional** strive to grow and improve in all areas of our Chum Life.

**CHUM SISTERS, WE ARE DOING JUST FINE!**



Chum Barbara Neville  
National President