

November 2011

“We are making a difference”

President reviews 2011 and sets goals for 2012

Procrastination can often be an effective ally. Let me explain. In July, the editorial staff of this newsletter was getting ready to put it to bed, as they say in the industry, when the editor turned to me and said: “Jane, you will have been President of IBCPC for a year when our November edition is published. You need to write a retrospective and visionary article for the membership.” “Are you on it?” she would inquire at appropriate moments, and I would groan. It seemed like such a daunting task.

My phone rang late one October day -- a call which gave this message its focus. It was a friend of a friend who wondered if I could help. She has a friend who is a doctor in Serbia. It turns out it has only been in the last ten years that the Serbian medical community has been able to treat people diagnosed with breast cancer. And now they

have survivors! My friend’s friend’s friend’s doctor friend wanted to know how to start a support group for Serbians who are now living with breast cancer.

As IBCPC President, I have met many health care professionals worldwide among them Dr. Adriana Bonifacino in Rome last summer. (You can read about our meeting in the July 2011 edition.) Dr. Bonifacino sits on a European Union committee of medical professionals who deal with all aspects of breast cancer. I was able to put the two doctors in touch. This is what we are all about! Connecting with each other! From Serbia to Vancouver to Rome and back to Serbia. We are making a difference in the world of breast cancer awareness.

The IBCPC Steering Committee set three goals for our first year, and we have made good progress as we have:

- Doubled our membership from fifty to over a hundred teams in eleven countries
- Established effective communication channels by:
  1. Updating and maintaining our website
  2. Producing four editions of our Newsletter
  3. Setting up a database
  4. Networking with teams around the world
- Established process and time lines for the selection of the 2014 Festival (Submissions due November 30, 2011)

We would like you to get involved too. Please encourage family and friends to subscribe to our newsletter, visit our website and consider volunteering some of your time and talent to us.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, thank you for putting your trust in us. We are committed to building, managing and representing the International Breast Cancer Paddlers’ Commission, an organization whose mission is to support and promote the participatory and inclusiveness of breast cancer dragon boat paddling. We thank you for being brave, for picking up a paddle, and for being a vibrant symbol of the benefits of exercise while living with breast cancer.

Paddles up ‘til next year. Go gently and keep well.