**Ane Deister**

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April 25, 2020

To: Gloria Jean Flowers, Province VIII Nomination Committee Chair

Cc: Christine Budzowski, Helenor Webb, Sydney Breeze Lowe, Committee members

From: Ane Deister, President Province VIII

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Susan Bray, Applicant for Vice President Prov VIII

Dear Nomination Committee:

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of Province VIII first in a Provisional position and subsequently elected at the January 2018 Retreat. I am pleased with the leadership transition that has occurred during that time and have a deep commitment to ensuring the progress continues.

As a result, I am pleased to support Susan Bray’s nomination to stand for Vice President of the Province. This is a key position for two primary reasons. First she would back up and stand in for the President when needed. She may be called upon to represent the Province at different levels of the organization and she would need to be in sync with the President to effectively represent her. Second the job description focuses a lot on event planning. Key in that is the annual retreat/assembly event. Susan’s skills far exceed the demands of these two primary duties, particularly in the event planning area. She has many years of successful event planning – covering the entire spectrum of design, planning, cost projections, implementation and management of others. She is a pro and she executes from the heart.

The September 2019 Province VIII retreat/assembly was a success by all accounts and
Susan played an essential leadership role in that endeavor. Susan, Barbara and Carolyn quickly came together forming an unstoppable trio to plan the activities, design the flow and the ‘look’ of the program. For the 2020 assembly/retreat the same trio immediately volunteered and have prepared an exceptional program with most of the details already worked out. While we may need to postpone that event until a later date the program is done. This is an area of service where Susan shines and others flock to her to make things happen. She is special, they know it and want to be on her team. That is the best form of servant leadership in action.

Another key reason I support Susan is the way she stepped up and took on the secretary and communications roles when the elected secretary was unable to serve. Susan has been unflappable, just doing what was needed, keeping her spirit bright and sharing her creativity throughout. I wholeheartedly recommend and support Susan Bray for Vice President for Province VIII.

As ever, Ane Deister