

History The Story of the Pink Dress



By a WA APCO-NENA Historical Mystery Author

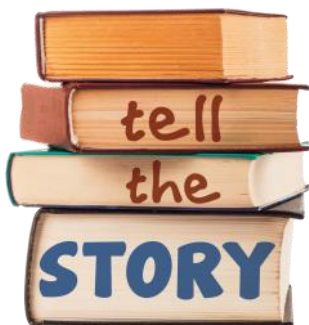
The month of February is American Heart Month – what a great month to remember someone who put a lot of heart into this chapter. Those of us who have been around a “few” years remember a President who wore a pink dress to the Summer Conference Banquet. But do you know the rest of the story?

It started back in 2001, when Dave Magnenat was the Awards Committee Chair. In June, Dave was going to travel to Kansas to celebrate with his grandparents on their 50th wedding anniversary. Since this celebration was during the same time frame of the summer conference, Dave called Brenda Cantu and asked Brenda if she would present the awards at the banquet. At the banquet, Brenda shared why Dave was not able to be present, and also that Dave would wear a pink dress to the banquet the following year if there were 121 (actual number unknown) attendees at the 2002 conference. When Dave returned from Kansas, Brenda shared with him the “cost” of missing the banquet. Dave laughed!

Fast forward to 2002; numbers for the conference were kept in two categories; attendees and vendors. The numbers for the attendees did not reach the number that would require the pink dress. But if the vendors were added we had enough for the pink dress. Dave being Dave, went with the combined numbers and made a grand entrance the night of the banquet! He entered wearing an off the shoulder, low cut back pink chiffon dress on a golden litter (some would see a gold luggage carrier) escorted by

President Elect Peggy Fouts. After his entrance, he changed into a black suit, but kept the pink feather boa for effect!

The reaction to the Pink Dress entrance was priceless. It was truly a sight that you would never be able to erase from your memory! Some felt the “dignity of the chapter” was threatened and some saw the man of the hour! It was fantastic to have a President that was willing to risk knee (and more) exposure to increase not only the attendance at our conference but also laughter and great memories. Dave understood that sometimes we need to smile and be willing to risk a little dignity to bring heart to our chapter. And that my friends, is the rest of the story.



**Do YOU have a WA
APCO-NENA
Historical Story to
tell? Please share
your memories with
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Committee by
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