



Ozark Florist Association 2016, "Starry Starry Night"  
September 9, 10, and 11, at The Downstream Casino Resort

A letter from the executive Director

Inspired by the Beautiful Sky at our convention home, The Downstream Casino Resort, I was inspired to mention this theme to the Board of Directors. . . . After some discussion we decided to use it because it brought forth so many creative ideas and inspirations. . . . Among them: Constellations, Signs of the Zodiac, Movie Stars, The Hollywood Walk of Fame, comprised of over 2500 stars imbedded in the sidewalk, the actual geometric form, the iconic star shape, to name a few.

The actual stars of any Floral Convention would perhaps be the designs themselves, or perhaps the educators from whom we learn and are inspired. I am certain the creative minds of our members will involve not only these themes or interpretations but also many even more creative ones.

But my own personal take, after a little thought, was that I think the actual stars are the members themselves. And also, all the people that they have met during their careers who inspired them or perhaps challenged them to become better at whatever their chosen path.

None of us have become the professional that we have by ourselves.

We were all taught along the way by all sorts of incredibly generous artists and business people. Sometimes the lessons were simple and gentle suggestions and sometimes we learned the hard way, and we learned from our mistakes. But I celebrate all the people that I have met that always took my phone calls and answered my questions, no matter how silly or sometimes, stupid they were.

I learned about color theory, design techniques, buying tips, how to price, and how to sell my ideas. Sometimes the lessons were as simple as how to tie a bow. And then sometimes the lessons were much more complex. Like how to coax open a shipment of poppies to bloom for a wedding reception that turned out to be incredibly beautiful, but could have been a complete disaster had I not had a friend who just happened to be an expert.

So my challenge to you is to take this opportunity to thank your "Lucky Stars" for all of their help and support. . . . We are all standing on their shoulders. They have helped us to be who we have become and we have all shared this beautiful journey. Invite them to come and join us, and we will spend an entire weekend learning, laughing, crying, remembering, sharing and above all, thanking those that deserve it!

I hope to see you at The Downstream Casino Resort, on September 9, 10, and 11 for our "Starry Starry Night"!

C. Pat Phillips CFD AIFD, Executive Director