

## ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR – AND WE'RE STILL HERE!

*From the Desk of Karen Kropf*

I have a confession to make: On the heels of a drastic income adjustment, and some mindboggling changes in state and federal legislation, 2018 felt like it was time for Jim and I to get out of California.

There was more parental indifference and we saw many allies retreat from the culture war. Some of my supporters decided to just hunker down, circle the wagons and hope to survive the raging storms.

When I voiced my concerns about the assault on traditional values most CA parents are oblivious to, a few people suggested I was overstating the danger.

I have to admit, it was very frustrating. I have always said, "They aren't **my** kids. If the communities we serve don't think there's a need for **Positively Waiting**, then Jim and I will go do something else."

*(Seriously, telling the most embarrassing thing in my life to strangers isn't exactly FUN. We only do it because of the magical-God-thing that happens.)*

OK, so you've heard the saying, "Man plans, God laughs"? Well...

In late May 2019, an organization asked me to be the Keynote Speaker at their 2020 Conference in Feb. They said they would fly us back to CA if we moved, so I committed to do the event.

A few days later, one of my FAVORITE teachers who meant to retire in June 2019, decided to teach Summer School, so I committed to speak to those classes.

In July 2019, *another* teacher who left CA many years ago, sent an unexpected financial gift. **Positively Waiting** typically runs in the red during the summer months, so because of his generosity, we had some unexpected breathing room.

Within a week or so, a private school in Wildomar requested parent **and** student presentations. This school hasn't put us on their calendar for 3 years, so I jumped on that commitment!



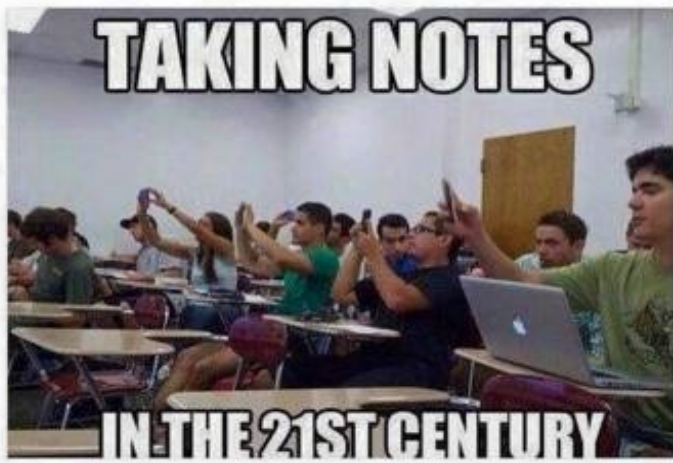
That same week, out of the blue, another private school in Palos Verdes contacted me. They heard from someone, who heard from someone, that **Positively Waiting** presentations are both awesome and within their budget. A 5-way conference call later (practically an *interrogation* 😊) and I was committed to parent and student events in a brand new community.

Then the public school teacher who *didn't* retire as expected, decided to keep teaching until December 2019! She gives me an open door on a semi-hostile campus, so I said, "If you're there, I'm there!" Now I'm committed to her Fall classes.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Sheriff's VIDA program for kids at risk, enthusiastically invited us back for the Fall of 2019. They let me speak to both parents **and** teens... so, you guessed it, I committed to 12 more dates this Fall!

I'll be honest, sometimes swimming against the currents of absurdity in CA is exhausting. I keep sounding the alarm, and it seems no one is listening.

I've watched many parents and great teachers desert the CA school system in protest of these policies. Leaving many teens whose parents aren't engaged, with no advocate at all.



Every time I think Jim and I need to get out of CA, my heart asks, *When you are gone, Karen, who will fight for **them**?*

My heart still answers, Send *ME*, Lord. But to stay in the fight, I need your help.

We know you have many other options for your charitable giving, so we never take financial support for granted. Every donation is a sacrifice. We especially appreciate support from parents whose kids are launched. You make it possible for someone else's kids to hear the truth, often in communities with limited resources. We are so grateful!

***Let's keep changing lives.***

**Details will follow... Save The Date!**

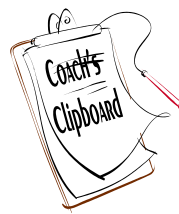


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## COACH'S CORNER

Protective parenting instincts are so fierce that letting a teen take ANY kind of risk seems like "bad parenting." And yet, unless your teen risks failing, or getting hurt, or experiences embarrassment or distress — they can't develop any adult coping skills and they won't learn **their** choices produce **their** consequences.

This month I coached a Mom whose daughter was miffed that financial challenges prevented something she wanted to do. Mom's first instinct was to appease the 16 year old with a substitutionary gift, but she sought out my advice before moving forward with that plan.

We came up with a different approach. Since talking to the daughter wasn't getting her anywhere, Mom sent her the following text:

"One of the hardest jobs as a mom is to not rush in and fix every disappointment. When you're sad, I'm sad too. But I don't want to rob you of the chance to learn how to cope with things on your own -- because the woman you're becoming is more important than any temporary hurts I have. I believe in you!"

By changing the way she responded, Mom gave her daughter something different to react to — and helped restore her sense of being a "good parent."

In my experience, almost every mother is her own worst critic. So, Moms please remind yourself that **SUCCESSFUL PARENTING is raising a self-reliant, capable and contributing adult.** It will keep you from doing things that make you feel good, but rob your child of a chance to mature.

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