

Jill Rankin's Installation April 2017

"Hooked on ESA"

Fishermen, or Fisherwomen, look at life a bit differently than the rest of the world. They see opportunities that are hidden from plain site. They look beneath the surface of still waters to what lies deep below. They're aware the best catches may come from deep water. They know which lures work to entice the best candidate hiding in the nooks and crannies. They know how to cast to slowly bring the potential out to the top so that all may benefit. Those who love to fish have a passion for it. This coming year we will all learn how to be the best Fisherperson that we can be.

Within the ESA Oregon Ocean there are many different species, each with their own qualities and each also bring their own special talents to the school that we all belong to. This evening we will explore the talents of some of the different members of our school.

Linda – Tracking the finances of our ESA Oregon Ocean is a difficult task as money can be as slippery to hold onto as a fish. They dance with a flow both in and out, seeming to have no destination and no fore warning of movement. You will track these finances, gathering them in one net and taking stock of the catch. On your fishing pole is a Silver Dollar Fish as you are Treasurer and the fisher of the dollars in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Debbie – You will be the ledger keeper of the ESA Oregon Ocean. Your logbook will be the official record of this fishing trip. You will log each port of call, who comes aboard the ship and all goings-on of the school. On your fishing pole is a Pencil Fish as you are Recording Secretary and the official log keeper in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Barb – It will be your duty to seek out the elusive additions to our catch to teach and entertain. You will work to gather members of the school into groups so that we can further our minds and souls, helping us to grow individually and as a group. On your fishing pole is a Grouper Fish as you are Workshop Chairman and the gatherer of the school in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Kaycee – On your fishing pole is a Bluestreak Cleaner Wrasse Fish as you are Corresponding Secretary and the caretaker of the ESA Oregon Ocean. This small but busy and industrious little fish is constantly on the lookout for ways to help keep harmful things away from those it cleans and is even willing to enter the mouths much larger predators to clean around sharp teeth! If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Ann – On your fishing pole is a Queen fish as you are one of the Queens in the ESA Oregon Ocean. A semi tropical fish known for being powerful and speedy as well as courageous. You will require these attributes to discover and persuade reluctant members to stand for state office next year. Your knowledge of their attributes will help you encourage and support their willingness to serve ESA Oregon. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Nancy – You will cast wide your net to the side of the boat and bring in new fishes to help grow our school in the ESA Oregon Ocean. You will encourage all others to fish far and wide to also help increase our school. On your fishing pole is a Queen fish as you also are one of the Queens in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Lani – you have shown us the beauty of our 50th state and state of mind of Hawaii and No Ka ‘Oī. Now you will become the navigator for Jill’s fishing trips, helping to ensure she has all of the necessary lures and bait packed. You will help advise her on the best way to unravel any tangles that present themselves. As the Jr Past President you will not be an advisor to the President you will also be our Disaster Chair. You will help with bailing of the boat or any other disasters that might happen. On your fishing pole is a Queen fish as you are one of the Queens in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

Jill – You are at the head of this fast moving and ever changing school. Our Captain at the helm of the boat. You will determine our direction based upon your instincts and the stars, listening to the advice of those around you. There will be an ebb and flow to the journey but we all have confidence that you will guide us safely through any rough waters. On your fishing pole is a Queen fish as you are one of the Queens in the ESA Oregon Ocean. If you accept these duties, please accept your fishing pole and say I do.

I’d like to tell you a story that is the basis of what ESA is about.

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out ‘Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?’

The young man paused, looked up, and replied 'Throwing starfish into the ocean.'

'I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?' asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, 'The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die.'

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, 'But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!'

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, 'It made a difference for that one.'

So, can I encourage you to take the time to do something that will make a difference to someone else's life ... and it doesn't have to be much and they don't need to know. Just take a moment, do something special ... the universe will know and that's enough.

Come and let us make a difference as we all join Jill and her board this year as we get Hooked on ESA.