

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Heather Kardeen, OAGC President

It is hard to believe that four years ago I was asked to consider accepting the position of president-elect and that I now am writing my final President's Message. It has gone by so quickly. The two thoughts that I had back then were *Wow, what an honor!* and *Can I do it?*

Can I do it?

In my first article as OAGC president, I quoted Caroline Myss: "Always go with the choice that scares you the most, because that's the one that is going to require the most from you." This experience was definitely scary at first. One of the first tasks that I had to take on was finding someone to replace our associate director, Ann Sheldon. She had been in the position for 21 years and was a huge asset to our organization. With the help of many others on the ad hoc committee and interview team, we found and hired a new executive director, Abbie Sigmon. Abbie worked alongside Ann until Ann's official retirement in August 2023. Abbie has proven to be an exemplary advocate for the gifted children in our state and a wonderful fit for our organization. Personally, I have learned and grown so much along this two-year journey with so many wonderful women beside me.

Wow, what an honor!

It has most definitely been an honor and a privilege to serve as the OAGC's 33rd president. I have been surrounded and supported by the best, most talented, most resourceful, and most exemplary professionals I have ever known. Their dedication, knowledge, and advocacy in the field of gifted education is nothing short of astonishing. I am sad that my term has come to an end, but I look forward to being able to serve the OAGC in a different capacity as past president. In addition, I am excited to see what the president-elect, Erica Baer, is going to do for our organization.



OAGC President, Heather Kardeen

Have you ever asked yourself, "Can I do it?" You can! Would you like to have the honor of serving and advocating for the gifted children of Ohio? You can do that too! The OAGC has opportunities available. If you would like to nominate yourself to be a part of our organization, you will find the 2024 nomination form in this issue. Up for nominations this year are: president-elect, secretary, and representatives for Regions 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12. Consider joining us. It's not that scary. I promise.