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Hello fellow Central Region Desk and Derrick Members!

Schools out and summer has begun with all the activities that make this an exciting time of year for families - vacations, Little League games, camps, family reunions, weddings, cookouts etc. Our local Liberal Club is taking a two-month meeting break in June and July, but will be refreshed and ready to start our meetings again in August. I know other clubs still have activities planned throughout the summer, and I would encourage you to post any upcoming events on our Central Region Facebook page, so that everyone is aware of your events, and could possibly attend.

This weekend I traveled to Colorado City for a family wedding, and my spirits were lifted to see all the traffic on the interstate. People are getting out and about as mask restrictions are being lifted, and the hope the pandemic is mostly behind us and a return to normalcy. So, if your area is easing up on the masks, be sure to replace it with a smile!

Big doors swing on small hinges. Deeds are not just what you do today, they have long-lasting effects. We have a new preacher at my church and he and his wife and family moved to Hooker from Slovakia. He shared with us, that had his father and mother not loaded up their possessions in a cattle trailer and moved to Perryton, Texas in the 70’s, (his father was just beginning his career with Exxon at the time and later became a top Executive in the same company I worked for.) that he wouldn’t have known this area if not for that small hinge that swung a big door.

Interesting concept which one can look back in our own lives and see how decisions we made on a certain day, have led us to where we are now. In getting ready to write this letter, it made me think of Inez Awty. What stirred in her mind in 1949 to start the Desk and Derrick organization? She saw a need for education, and made a difference! Oh, and what a difference it was! Big doors swing on small hinges. I found the following article by Cecilia Gutierrez Venable on the Texas State Historical Association.

***DESK AND DERRICK CLUBS.*** *The Desk and Derrick Club, the first organization for professional women in the oil and gas industry, was established in March 1949 by Inez Lord Awty of the Humble Oil and Refining Company in New Orleans, Louisiana. By 1951, four clubs had been established, including one in Houston which soon boasted 372 members. They united by signing articles of association and renamed themselves the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs of North America (ADDC). Four years later the association included 101 clubs in the United States and four in Canada.*

*The state of Texas was divided into two regions (Region IV, East Texas, and Region V, West Texas), with every major city in Texas hosting a club. Total Texas membership had reached 2,038 in 1955. Through the years Texas has produced fourteen ADDC presidents. In 1969 a past president of the association, Irene Wischer (1954) from the San Antonio club, served as a member of President Richard Nixon's Citizens Advisory Council on the Status of Women.*

*The club's original purpose was to "promote among the women employed in the petroleum and allied industries through informative and educational programs, a clearer understanding of the industry which they serve." Each club held at least ten educational programs for its members. In March 1952 the association printed a club magazine called the*Oil and Gal Journal*. By 1957 the U.S. Patent Office granted the registration trademark of "Desk and Derrick," and the ADDC adopted the motto "Greater Knowledge–Greater Service."*

*In keeping with its educational goal, the association printed the*Desk and Derrick Oil Abbreviator*, a dictionary of commonly used terms in the oil industry and their shorthand connotations. The reference, which was conceived and compiled in 1967, was in its fifth edition and also available in a CD-ROM version in 2005. Other educational publications included*Fundamentals of Petroleum*,*Land and Leasing*, and*Practical Petroleum Geology*.*

*Each club held fundraisers for scholarships which were awarded to local students. In 1982 the association also established an educational trust for students seeking a degree in the field of petroleum and allied industries, and in 1987 the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs Foundation was created to assist in developing industry-related educational projects. Male membership was allowed that same year.*

*In the late 1990s the association brought its educational efforts to grade schools with a videotape entitled*Petro Molly and Her Magic Suitcase*produced by the Bakersfield, California, Desk and Derrick Club. A Desk and Derrick member who dressed as the character in coveralls and hard hat and carried a suitcase with petrochemical products made presentations to Texas schoolchildren. In 2001 the association produced an activity book entitled*Oil*.*

*The association remains a viable organization in 2005. In that year the ADDC had sixty clubs, including sixteen in Texas, and the association president was from the Houston club.*The Desk and Derrick Journal*, formerly the*Oil and Gal Journal*, is published quarterly. Since 1956 ADDC has had its permanent distribution office in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*

A lot has in the 72 years of the existence of the Association of Desk and Derrick. We have gained and lost clubs, and we have reorganized into new regions. We have invited anyone who is interested in learning about the energy business to become members in our organization. We’ve been through the booms and the busts of the industry.

Even though we are down from the glory days of thousands of members, to 715 active members this year, we are surviving in a tough environment and circumstances, and yet we’re still here, Big Doors swinging from the small hinge started in 1949 by Inez Awty.

Enjoy your summer!!!!