

Costenbader Society Annual Meeting,
Washington, DC
October 16, 2015

Re: *Honoring Grace*

Good evening!

Susie (Baker) and I were given a few moments to speak on behalf of the Costenbader spouses and, actually, some spouses of the Costenbader spouses. So, this belongs to us all.

For as long as most of us can remember, Grace Parks Mitchell and Paul have made Costenbader meetings happen, indeed, they have made sure that our meetings matter, acting as, and performing in the roles of meeting planners.

With the realization that Grace was actually “stepping down”, there was an immediate groundswell of support from our community. I think we felt that we would not have had Costenbader meetings – or the level of success they’ve enjoyed - without Grace and Paul.

Tonight is Grace’s moment.

Much of the job – and it is a job – that Grace has so ably performed is behind the scenes – scouting out sites, negotiating and contracting with the hotel, reserving rooms, arranging AV, dinners, spouses breakfasts, and a myriad of never ending tasks. It takes commitment and endurance.

And, Grace? She just smiles - that enigmatic smile - et tu, Mona Lisa? - - and then gets the job done.

Grace has carried on and carried through all of this with panache, quiet efficiency and yes, with **grace**. As she passes on this role, she continues to honor us with her presence, her sense of history and her leadership.

Tonight, we wish to honor her. Here’s to Grace.

(Remarks, Patricia Aiken O’Neill, 10/16/2015)