Rebirth

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As I write this (far in advance of the publication date), I am nearing the halfway mark of my year as AECT President and I am thinking about where we are as an organization now, how far we have come, and what could/should be our future. I suppose the instructional designer in me just makes continuous evaluation a constant! Sometime ago, my mother shared with me a social media tale (without attribution) about eagles that strikes me as relevant to AECT, so I re-share it here.

The eagle has the longest lifespan among birds. In its 40s, the eagle's long and flexible talons can no longer grab prey and their long and sharp beaks become bent. Their old-aged and heavy wings (due to thick feathers) become stuck to their chest making it difficult to fly. At this point, eagles are left with two options: *die* or go through a painful process of *change* that lasts 150 days. The change process requires that the eagle fly to a mountain top, build a nest, and proceed to knock its beak against a rock until it is gone. The eagle uses the rocks to destroy their useless talons and then waits for

them to grow back. Emaciated now, when the talons have grown back, the eagle starts plucking the matted feathers from its chest and wings. THEN, after five long months, the eagle takes flight in a rebirth...and lives for 30 more years!

I think AECT is in a rebirth flight. Strategic planning, branding efforts, increased membership benefits, international expansion, convention improvements, Division and Affiliate growth, careful fiscal management, leadership with constant focus on our mission: these are evidence that AECT has made the choice to undergo the sometimes painful and arduous change necessary to fly high. MANY of you have contributed to the rebirth and MANY of you are helping our field and AECT soar to new heights.

With deep appreciation and thanks to all who sat in that nest,

Kay

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