***President’s Message – October, 2013***

November 1st has passed by now and that signals to me I have made it

through another harvest season. Market nights become date nights as we

scale back to just my husband and I which allows for errands and food stops

on the way home from Pittsburgh. The time changes which makes it really

hard to mow in the evening so I get more work done in the house. Another

upside is I can officially use the fruit and vegetables I canned and froze this

season. I am pretty sure it is not correct to do that before November 1stsomething

like wearing white after Labor Day. Speaking of clothes, this time

of year signals my ability to get back to the mall. I realized the other day

there is a five month period during which I have no time to spend money on

the fun stuff in life! And speaking of money, it is also the best time of year

to write the check to the SHAP Research Fund because all the problems of

growing fruit are fresh in my mind, and if there is any money in the checking

account, now is the time. In case you missed it, I just suggested taking a

moment to contribute to research. Perhaps you made a pledge earlier in the

year or maybe it is in the back of your mind that you meant to contribute at

the end of the season. Or maybe you used the pledge card as a coffee coaster

and can no longer read it. Either way, I encourage you to seriously consider

the long term benefits of research. The recent government shut down makes

it glaringly apparent why as growers we want and need to support as much

research for ourselves as we can. Remember your suggestions on what to

study are given serious consideration by the research committee.

One more reason to celebrate fall-my daughter just walked in with donuts for

the crew. One of the workers turned 60 today and we need a reason to take

a break! Since it isn’t yet November 1st while I write this, I also need to still

be in ‘full-speed ahead’ mode, so it’s a short letter this month!

***Carolyn McQuiston***