

MEMBERS OF THE DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA, DEPARTMENT OF
MINNESOTA, AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN.....

GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON.....

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOE MAYNE
THE TIME DURING THIS SPRING MEETING TO CONVEY A FEW BRIEF
REMARKS AS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER 2012-
2013. I CANNOT BE HERE TODAY AS I AM ATTENDING HOMECOMING
ACTIVITIES THIS WEEKEND FOR S.A.L. NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
JAMES NOBLE IN HIS HOME DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY.

IT'S GREAT TO SEE THAT MANY DETACHMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION
HAVE PRO-ACTIVE WEBSITES THAT CONVEY INFORMATION TO THE
MEMBERSHIP. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FINE JOB YOU HAVE DONE
WITH YOUR SITE. THE EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNICATION YOU
PROVIDE HERE IS VITAL TO THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF THIS
DETACHMENT.

GOOD LUCK WITH THE UPCOMING CLASSIC CAR SHOW IN JULY. I
UNDERSTAND THIS IS YOUR FIRST VENTURE INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
A SIMPLE MOTTO....IT WON'T FLY UNLESS YOU TRY! IT WILL TAKE A
GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND ENERGY TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, I'M SURE, BUT
THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THIS WILL BECOME THE ANNUAL EVENT
FOR YOU THAT WILL RAISE NOT ONLY FUNDS, BUT PRESENT MORE
POSITIVE PUBLICITY FOR THE SONS, IN WHAT WE DO, AND WHAT WE ARE
ALL ABOUT IN PROMOTING THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.

I APPLAUDE COMMANDER GARY FOR HIS PROJECT THIS YEAR TO AID
THOSE WITHIN OUR FAMILY. FROM WHAT I HAVE READ ABOUT THIS, THE
AMERICAN FAMILY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION WILL HELP MANY COPE WITH
RISING MEDICAL COSTS DURING THEIR TIME OF NEED. CAN YOU ONLY
IMAGINE THE PEACE OF MIND THIS PROGRAM GIVES TO THOSE NEEDING
AID...KNOWING THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY SUPPORTS THEIR WELL
BEING AND their FAMILIES IN A TIME OF POSSIBLE FINANCIAL CRISIS IF
THESE BILLS CANNOT BE PAID. THIS PROGRAM IS OUTSTANDING!

THE DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA RECENTLY LOST A GREAT MEMBER
WHO DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO OUR FAMILY. I REMEMBER DISCUSSIONS
WITH JOHN ZGODA ABOUT WHAT THE DETACHMENT WAS INVOLVED WITH
AND I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT HE TOLD ME ABOUT TRIPS WITH

VETERANS ON THE LAKE. HIS EYES WOULD LITERALLY LIGHT UP WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT PARTICIPATING AND GIVING VETERANS THE CHANCE TO SPEND TIME THERE...GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FUN WITH THE OUTDOORS...AN OPPORTUNITY THEY WOULD NOT GRASP WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE S.A.L. JOHN IS MISSED BY ALL WHO MET HIM.

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO IN PROMOTING THE CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION. I HAVE NO DOUBT THE DETACHMENT WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO REACH IT'S GOAL BEFORE THE MAY DEADLINE.

THE LATEST NUMBERS FOR MEMBERSHIP PLACE THE DETACHMENT OVER 81% BEFORE THIS WEEK'S TARGET DATE DEADLINE...ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE. I SEE THE RENEWEL RATE IS ALSO ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. WE ALL HAVE SOME TIME LEFT IN OUR YEAR TO BOOST THOSE RENEWELS.

I MENTIONED THREE KEY WORDS EARLIER WHEN DISCUSSING YOUR WEBSITE. INFORMATION...EDUCATION...COMMUNICATION. THE BASIS OF "FORGING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER" IN THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN OUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION...BUT ONLY IF WE UTILIZE THE INFORMATION WE HAVE TO OFFER. I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE CAN FORESEE THIS COMING YEAR...BUT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

SO WE FIRST GATHER THE INFORMATION (PROGRAMS FOSTERED BY THE PARENT ORGANIZATION...WHAT THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IS ALSO PROMOTING EACH YEAR...DETAILS ON WHAT WE AS SONS WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH OUR IDEAS...THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF WORKING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY) AND WE EDUCATE.

EVERY BLUECAP MEMBER IN OUR ORGANIZATION IS VITAL TO MAKING IT ALL WORK. AND WE MUST LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT A "NUMBER". WE EDUCATE EACH MEMBER IN WHAT THIS ENTIRE ENTITY DOES FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR NATION, OUR TROOPS HERE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS, OUR VETERANS WHO NEED THIS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TO STAND FOR THEM IN THE COMMUNITIES. THE EDUCATION STARTS WITH THE LEADERSHIP IN EACH DETACHMENT. WE TEACH EACH MEMBER WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE STAND FOR EVERY DAY.

SO LETS REVIEW. WE HAVE THE INFORMATION. WE UNDERSTAND IT'S OUR

DUTY TO EDUCATE THE MEMBERSHIP ON THAT INFORMATION. HERE'S WHERE THE COMMUNICATION BECOMES THE FACTOR.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE, IN THIS DAY OF SOCIAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY, WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER FASTER THAN AT ANY OTHER POINT IN OUR HISTORY. IT'S ALL RIGHT IN FRONT OF US....EMAIL, THE WEBSITES, FACEBOOK, TWITTER. THERE'S AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF YOUNGER VETERANS (MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THIS FAMILY) AND YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE S.A.L. AND AUXILIARY WHO UTILIZE THE SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY EVERY DAY FOR THEIR INFORMATION. WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL ADVANCEMENTS RECENTLY WITH THIS (THE NEW S.A.L. WEBSITE AND SMARTPHONE APP). AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT SOCIAL MEDIA WAVE WILL BRING FOR US? WE HAVE TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION WITH THESE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.

INFORMATION + EDUCATION plus
COMMUNICATION=
SUCCESS!!!

I TRULY BELIEVE THIS SIMPLE FORMULA IS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF OUR ENTIRE ORGANIZATION. IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. WE'VE COME A LONG WAY TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY. THE FUTURE FOR US ALL LOOKS VERY BRIGHT....KNOWING WHAT WE MUST DO IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALLOWING PNC JOE MAYNE TO CONVEY MY MESSAGE TO THE GREAT DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA. YOU HAVE FANTASTIC LEADERSHIP....LEADERSHIP THAT WILL MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN FOR YOU THIS YEAR.

SINCERELY YOURS IN COMRADESHIP,

CHRIS HUNTZINGER (PA)
LEADING CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
2012 - 2013