

DREAM In 2010



Join the dream team- Your TOPS Field Staff- We all have dreams for your success! Reach for the gold and strive to be the best you can be. Give that extra bit of effort you can. Did you ever stop to think that water is hot at 211 degrees but it actually boils at 212 degrees? That one degree makes all the difference in the world. That one degree even makes steam and steam can power locomotives. So is 2010 your year to win? You are each amazing and every week when you walk through the door to your TOPS meeting you have made the commitment to want to be there. TOPS has provided the tools for you and now it is the time for a fresh start to make that commitment to DO IT!

I wanted to take an opportunity and express the importance of getting your renewals to your chapter when they arrive. TOPS mail our renewals to us up to six weeks before our renewals are due. If we pay them as soon as they arrive we still get our full amount of time. We are not cheated out of any time because it does not change our renewal date. It simply gets the renewal out of our hands before we have a chance of putting it in that "safe place" that we know we are never going to see it again! You know that place where we tend to put things that if we ever find we will probably spend a long time there enjoying all the things we have lost and not seen for a very long time! So in short, when your renewal arrives, don't wait until the due date to pay, the chances of it getting lost or falling through the cracks may be greater.

I have completed the tabulation of the annual resumes and I am so proud of all of your successes. The one thing that I did notice is that some of the best average loss per members was below the 5 pound average this year. So my challenge to you this year if you are one of those chapters that received your resume back and your best average loss was below the 5 pound loss per member is "Take Back The Black". Perhaps you just want to increase your best average loss and try for the Best Average Loss award at SRD next year. It can be anyone's game. Strive for a loss every week. Strive for your boiling point, reach for that extra degree, and find the steam that powers your locomotive!

I have received an increased amount of emails and calls recently stating that some of their chapter members are not getting their TOPS News magazines. The TOPS News magazine is a 9 edition a year magazine. The April-May, August-September, & December- January editions are combined editions, all other months you will receive a TOPS News magazine monthly. If you are still having issues receiving your magazine the first thing to check is if your membership is current. Find out if the membership is

active or not. You can check and verify this online at the TOPS.org website. If the membership is active the second thing to verify is has there been a change of address? Have you moved? Often times when we move we forget to contact everyone to notify them of our change of address. This is a simple fix. Notify your leader of a change of address. Your leaders can log onto TOPS.org and make the desired changes to your address. If there are still issues with you getting your TOPS magazine please check with your Post Office as to if there might be a problem with the delivery of your magazine.

Reminder- Please make sure we are utilizing our new combined guidebook that was mailed to us at the end of last year. All other guide books except for the ceremonies guidebook should have been discarded as soon as the chapter resume was mailed to me. It is a great idea to purchase a couple extra copies of this guidebook to make available to members in the chapter. Try keeping one available and open on the table for review to all members since it is what governs the entire chapter. Not just the officers. Another good idea would be to utilize the guidebook to have a program. Members can learn from these guidebooks, and knowledge instills strength as well as teaching one to believe in oneself. Often times when our guidebooks are re-written, things tend to drop out of them that were in the others, and some new rules appear that were not in the others. That is why it is important that we review them to find exactly what is new and what is missing.

I know many of you are having open houses because I have been getting New Member applications like CRAZY! So it is working! I know I have heard this past week of two open houses that were a smashing success. One had four new members join and the other had six! Way to go! One open house had theirs advertised on the radio and local television station! Way to go chapters! Remember an open house does not have to serve food! In fact, the image of food at an open house may not be the best image for a perspective TOPS member after all. If in fact you serve food, it does count as one of your two food functions for the year. Any non-alcoholic beverage is allowed, perhaps serving a punch is a better option.

It will soon be time for the winter Olympics, all the athletes are training and getting ready to compete for their medal. Their hopes are high for the Gold. They each have a dream. They are living their dream to the fullest. Do you have a dream? Are you living your dream? Are you hoping for the gold? Reach for the stars and find your maximum potential and your TOPS pals will always be there!

Sincerely,

Randy Paul

