



Coordinator's Newsletter

February 2010

Serving Minnesota TOPS Anoka, Benton, Big Stone, Chisago, Douglas, Grant, Hennepin, Isanti, Pope, Ramsey, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Traverse, Washington and Wright Counties

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Congratulations to all chapter royalty and division winners. Your corrected chapter resumes and certificates are enclosed for your winners. Be sure to ask your winners to share their success stories during your chapter awards ceremony. They will certainly be motivational and help inspire others to reach their goals. I am excited to tell you that out of the 113 chapters in my area we have lost a total of 7811 pounds in 2009. **Way to go members. This is AWESOME!!**

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Election of chapter officers must take place at the first regular chapter meeting in March. Active members of more than 30 days are eligible to be nominated to hold office. Newly elected and appointed officers assume duties at the first regular meeting in April.

Elections are by secret ballot vote with at least two nominees for the office. The chapter Weight Recorder and Assistant Weight Recorder are appointed by the newly elected leader. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive years a member can be elected or appointed to the same office.

Remember to fill in all the information requested on form L-001. Please print legibly or type the information so that I can read it. Make sure you include the leaders email address. If the leader does not have email and there is someone in your chapter that has an email address please put that down. This way your field staff can send out information via email.

Make sure the new leader's membership is current. Headquarters will be sending out the first mailing to leaders towards the end of April first part of May. If a leader's membership is **NOT** current they will not receive the mailing. Remember if the funds are available in your checking account, chapters are encouraged to pay leaders international dues.

Newly elected officers and weight recorders you too must be an active member of TOPS in order to be nominated, hold office and to remain in that office for the year.

It is very important that you send only **ONE** copy of the Officer Chart to me promptly. The easiest way to accomplish this is to complete the form the night of elections and drop it in the mail on your way home from your chapter meeting. As soon as I receive your Officer Chart I will review it to make sure the new officers are eligible to hold office and forward it on to headquarters. Again I only need **ONE** copy of the officer chart.

Taking an office need not be a time consuming, scary of difficult job. It's not up to just the leader, or other officers to make a chapter successful. They are there for the same reason everyone else is **TO TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**. Remember, by holding an office may be just what you need to succeed.

IMPORTANT: Any change throughout the year in chapter leader, chapter meeting place, time or day of meeting must be reported on form L-023 or can be emailed to me with the information **RIGHT AWAY**. This information is necessary for headquarters, Area Captains and me in order to update our records. This is also very important information for new and perspective members that are looking on TOPS website for a chapter to join.

(OVER)

SPRING WORKSHOPS: Area Captains Vicki, Diane and Steve will be conducting spring workshops on the following dates and locations. Please note that you are welcome to attend whichever workshop fits your schedule.

We encourage all TOPS members to attend these workshops, they are not just for officers, this is a time for all chapter members to meet and greet your Area Captain, new members, new chapters and visit with friends. Packets with new forms will be handed out at workshop.

Vicki Schreiner-Kaiser	March 27, 2010	Pennock Community Center (close to Willmar, MN)
Diane Carmichael	April 10, 2010	New Brighton American Legion (change in location)
Steve Kaiser	April 17, 2010	Salvation Army, Minneapolis, MN

Leaders, watch for your Area Captains chapter letter giving you more information.

SRD: “TOPS Summer Olympics” is the theme for this years SRD. It is being held in St. Cloud at the Kelly Inn on May 21 and 22, 2010. Letters have been sent to the leaders. Make sure you fill out and submit your registration before the deadline. Please make sure your chapter members are aware of the different categories so that they can participate on stage. You should be making plans now to attend. Hold fundraisers in your chapters to help members defray the costs. It will be a weekend filled with fun, inspiration and motivation. Shari Kieper Coordinator in charge has been working hard at putting together workshops that will be sure to impress you. Come and listen to our new state royalty and division winner’s success stories and be there to congratulate them.

IRD 2010: “Set Your Sites on Harbour Lights” is being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 15 -17th, 2010. Make sure if your going that you give yourself enough time to apply for your passport . Regional Director Ruth Gielow is offering a fabulous bus tour. The bus is departing from Milwaukee, WI on July 8th. It will stop in Ohio the first night with final destination IRD Halifax. Tours are included in this package. Cost for the tour is as follows: July 8th – July 22nd, Single \$3,939 Double \$2,749 Triple \$2229 and Quad \$2109. For more information please go to website www.topspride.org or email Ruth at ruthgielow@aol.com.

JUST A REMINDER: I will be on vacation from February 16th – March 2nd. If you need any assistance with TOPS problems while I am gone please call one of the Area Captains. If they can’t answer your question they will get in touch with Coordinator Shari Kieper and will get back to you.

Vicki Schreiner-Kaiser	320 587-8155	email mnavicki78schlai@mchsi.com
Steve Kaiser	218 330-0525	email steve_tops_ac@msn.com
Diane Carmichael	651 738-2814	email decarma@comcast.net

Make sure you look at the back cover of your February 2010 TOPS News. Isanti, MN got their recognition printed. Way to go Isanti...

Also remember that you no longer receive a membership card from headquarters when you become a new member or renewing. Your membership card is printed on every TOPS News issue that you receive.

In closing I want to wish each of you a good year in your weight loss. Lets commit to ourselves that we CAN DO IT!! Our goal that we set for ourselves can be accomplished in 2010.

TOPS Hugs,

Bob Dischinger