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Dear TOPS Members,

Yes, it is Fall already and time to take advantage of the Farmers' Markets, great outdoor weather for a walk or bike ride. It is also almost the end of the 3rd quarter of 2011. How is your year going? I hope all KOPS are in leeway at or below goal. What a wonderful place to be to help the TOPS see and know it can be done. We still have 3 months to make a difference in order to show a loss at the end of the year and continue down that Road to Success. Good luck to all.

I have enclosed a copy of the Alerts for Chapters from the Board of Directors meeting last month. Please take time to read, copy if necessary and discuss these important changes and information.

New Members: Congratulations to all the chapters who have brought in our 85 new members since July 1. Remember, there is a contest for a free membership (explained on the inside cover of the July TOPS News). We really want to grow our chapters. There are benefits to joining now or even starting a new chapter. In addition to getting the 5th membership free after signing up 4 new members, the Board of Directors added a special discount for The Choice Is Mine—5 for \$25. That's only \$5 each for a \$15 book. What a great incentive.

New Chapter: Welcome to our newest chapter that chartered on Sept. 15th. They are WI 1530 Ashland. They meet at the Sanborn Comm. Center on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Thank you Bev Leppala for getting them going.

New Member Packet: Do you have a folder ready for a new member when they join your chapter? I have asked the Area Captains to take a look at your new member packet when they visit. Having an information packet for a new member is crucial as anyone ready to begin their weight loss journey is eager for information to help them. That first meeting is very important and they need to go home with these items: My Day One booklet; TOPS Rules; officer contact list; chapter by-laws & TOPS Terms. Other helpful things to include are: copy of a food diary, achievement log and an copy of our TOPS News magazine. See the TOPS Chapter Manual, #7 on page 14. Thanks for having a packet ready for your next new member.

Thank You: A huge thank you for being so generous when your Area Captain visits and presents the annual TOPS program. Giving them some gas money or even a speaker fee is much appreciated even if they live in your same town. They are not compensated by TOPS or me for these visits.

THANK YOU FOR READING AT CHAPTER

New AC: Please welcome our newest Area Captain, Margie Beitlich, as Field Staff for 21 chapters in the following 9 counties: Pierce, Pepin, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Buffalo Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe and LaCrosse. She started on August 1 and has been busy visiting chapters already. Margie lives in Onalaska and is a member and leader of WI 1369 La Crosse. She has been in TOPS for 16 yrs and has lost over 75 pounds. Thanks for stepping up to a new challenge, Margie, and welcome to our Field Staff family.

Chapter changes: If you have a change of any officer, meeting day, place or time be sure to either call, e-mail or send me that information immediately. I need to stay up to date and also keep HQ and your Area Captain informed.

Maintenance: I will be typing the 2012 Maintenance forms and sending next month along with a copy of the highest weight and renewal dates for each chapter member.

Fall Rally & Visits: I will be attending 5 of the 6 Fall Rallies this year and am anxious to see and visit with many of you. I am also planning some travel to do some chapter visits in November.

Thought For The Day: You will never “find” time for anything. If you want time, you must make it!

Have a wonderful Fall. Hope to see you soon. GO PACKERS and GO TOPS!!!

Together We're TOPS,

Diane