

## September 2019

September is a wonderful month! The leaves are beginning to change color and soon will fall to the ground. For some of us, packing up the house and heading south for the winter is the way we deal when we know that snow will soon be covering our portion of the Earth. Winter is a time for hunkering indoors, avoiding the snowy roads when possible and praying for an early Spring.

While the leaves are falling and the trees are bare, they are not dead. The grass turns brown and will be invisible for a few months, but it will become green again. We know that as the leaves decay, they are providing needed nourishment for everything which lies beneath the snow and frost. We positively know in a few months the flowers will again be blooming, lawns will again need mowing, and we will again be able to sit out on our decks to enjoy the fresh air.

By now you are probably wondering where the heck I am going with this article. It is all about positive thinking. Last year as Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, I wrote an article based on the *Positive Membership Pledge* which had been shared by one of our National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President sometime in the past. I will not repeat the specific message here; the article is probably somewhere in our website archives. However, the message it contains speaks specifically to how remaining positive in the face of negativity sets an example and models the behavior which we expect of our members.

Remember: How you act, how you converse with others, how you handle challenges and failures speaks volumes about your character. And, believe it or not, these behaviors absolutely do leave an impression on members at your auxiliary, causing some to decide not to renew their membership and others to not join in the first place.

I am going to close with a quote which I pinned up in every office I ever worked in and have pinned up on my kitchen message board. It is tattered and showing its age, but the message written many years ago by Mahatma Ghandi remains very clear. I hope you find it as meaningful as have I:

*Keep your Thoughts Positive – Thoughts become your Words*

*Keep your Words Positive – Words become your Behaviors*

*Keep your Behaviors Positive – Behaviors become your Habits*

*Keep your Habits Positive – Habits become your Values*

*Keep your Values Positive – Values become your Destiny*

*Yours in service to Veterans and their Families,*

*Bert*

If you have a topic that you would like me to discuss in a future bulletin, pass it along! I can be reached by email at [lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com) or by phone at 586.214.1019.