

# Weekly Message

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Greetings special friends,

This is an early message this week as we are taking our fall vacation to California. We will be back to Wednesday's next week. Time is passing quickly and many of you are planning ahead to One Day Dance Workshops and contests. If you would like a copy of ***The Line*** in a PDF format, please reply to this e-mail and request your copy. The Line is currently at the printer and will be ready to 'snail mail' around the 1st of October. Visit our web site for more information about upcoming events.

Here are some thoughts for the day:

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**"Don't believe that winning is really everything. It's more important to stand for something. If you don't stand for something, what do you win?" Joseph Lane Kirkland (1922-1999) writer**

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**"To be a great champion you must believe you are the best. If you're not, pretend you are."**  
**Muhammad Ali, boxer**

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**"Expect to lose sometimes, but a loss can be a stepping stone to victory if it's utilized in the right way."**  
**Jake Gaither (1903-1994) college football coach**

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**"Before you begin anything, remind yourself that difficulties and delays, quite impossible to foresee, lie ahead. You can only see one thing clearly, and that is your goal. Form a mental vision of that and cling to it through thick and thin."**  
**Kathleen Norris (1880-1966) writer**

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There are many lessons to learn in life. A friend once told me that every time I made a costly mistake it was '*paying tuition*.' At some point in time, you will have to pay for your mistakes. It is the way you pay your 'tuition' to the school of life. Below is a passage on life that I hope will have great meaning to you, as it did to me. It is a gathering of thoughts and phrases that make good sense.

Have a wonderful week, and, as always, please *keep in touch*. I love hearing from you!

*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

*American Dance/Drill Team*

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## **LESSONS**

*Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.  
Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life  
is to keep your mind young. - Henry Ford*

Every person must go through a learning process and sometimes that learning comes only in the school of hard knocks. Here are some of the things you will learn in the Hard Knocks University.

- \* You will learn many lessons - you are enrolled in a full-time informal school called life. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or think them irrelevant and stupid.
- \* There are no mistakes, only lessons - growth is a process of trial and error, and experimentation. The "failed" experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately "works."
- \* A lesson is repeated until learned - a lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.
- \* Learning lessons does not end - there is no part of life that does not contain its lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.
- \* "There" is no better than "here." - when your "there" has become a "here" you will simply obtain another "there" that will again, look better than "here."
- \* What you make of your life is up to you - you have all the tools and resources you need. What you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.
- \* Your answers lie inside you - the answers to life's questions lie inside you. All you need to do is look, listen and trust.

*Somebody ought to tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit every minute of every day.  
Do it, I say, whatever you want to do, do it now.  
- Michael Landon*

## Blessing in Disguise

Years ago, cotton was the big money crop in the South. Then the boll weevil came along. It began eating up all the cotton crops.

Everyone despaired; ruin was imminent. However, that little pest turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It forced farmers to plant peanuts rather than cotton. Eventually peanuts became a more profitable crop than cotton ever was.

In appreciation, farmers erected a statue of the hated boll weevil in Enterprise, Alabama.

What problem in your life can be turned into an opportunity? Approach all concerns looking for a positive that can be turned to your advantage!

*Dreams are renewable. No matter what our age or condition, there are still untapped possibilities within us and new beauty waiting to be born. - Dale Turner*

Some positive activities for you to enjoy:

- Listen to a child
- Share a book
- Share a talent
- Speak only kind words
- Pursue a dream
- Praise a youngster
- Donate blood
- Laugh a lot
- Wave to five strangers
- Share a fond memory
- Seek peace in your life



*Waiting until everything is perfect before making a move is like waiting to start a trip until all the traffic lights are green.*

*- Karen Ireland*