

American Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day . . .

“Unity, not uniformity, must be our aim. We attain unity only through variety. Differences must be integrated, not annihilated nor absorbed.”

Mary Parker Follet



“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.”

Mother Teresa



“The deeds you do today may be the only sermon some people will hear.”

St Francis of Assisi



“You must keep your mind on the objective, not the obstacle.” William

Randolph Hearst

American Update

A fast pace has hit us all as we have headed back to school after the holidays. We had a great convention in Houston with the Texas Dance Educators last week and would like to congratulate C.R. Pennington, our Chief Financial Officer, for receiving the “Distinguished Service Award” from TDEA, along with outstanding current and former directors, Debbie Shope, Kelly Branham, and Tina Hudgens. Congratulations to all!

Contests and hotels are filling quickly for some locations so we encourage you to register for any of the upcoming 2011 American regional and national competitions. We will be welcoming, once again, many teams from Japan at our National/ International competition at the University of North Texas in March. Make sure to visit our web site for more information on dates, locations and hotels.



We have been super excited to see so many fans that “Like” our **American Dance/Drill Team Facebook page**. We post updates several times a week and encourage our fans to upload photos and videos of their teams throughout the year. Make sure to visit us soon!

Inspiration of the Week

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE NUMBER ONE

by Vince Lombardi

Revised for dance/drill teams by Joyce E. Pennington

Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while. You don't do things right once in awhile. You do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.

There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my mind and that is first place. In college football there is a second place bowl game. But it is a game for losers played by losers. It is, and always has been, an American seal to be first in anything we do and to win and to win and to win.

Every time a dancer goes to apply her talents, she's got to dance from the ground up and from the soles of her feet right up to her head. Every inch of her has to dance. Some girls dance with their heads, and that's OK. You have got to be smart to be number one in any business, but more important, you've got to dance with your heart--with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a dancer with a lot of brains and a lot of heart, she's never going to leave a competition in second place.

Running a dance/drill team is no different from running any other kind of organization --a football team, an army, a political party, a business. The principles are the same. The object is to win--to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is.

It's a reality of life that dancers are competitive and the most competitive contests draw the most competitive dancers. That's why they are there--to compete. They know the rules and objectives when they enter the "game". The objective is to win--fairly, squarely, decently, by the rules--but to win.

And, in truth, I've never known a dancer worth her salt who in the long run, deep down in her heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline. There is something good in people that really yearns for, needs, discipline and the harsh reality of head to head combat.

This weekly message is generated from:

Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO

 American ★★★★★
Dance/Drill Team ★★
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