

PNP's, Directors, Prov. Presidents, Lodge Presidents & Members:

It is with an "Attitude of Gratitude" I stand before you to open this 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Royal Purple Society, also referred to as convention. Where we, the Directors, strive to balance tradition with business; required by Canadian Law.

In your head; picture this: a 100 year old foundation-- with new construction on top. That is what this society is. We have experienced all the pains and stumbling blocks that come along with new builds; with the added pressure of dealing with an aged foundation. It is a good thing our foundation has the strength required to handle this construction. For this we thank our PNP's. Is the Board making progress, I believe we are!

It has been an honor to represent you and work for you this past year. My experiences will serve me well into the future. Thank you for your many kindnesses as well as your trust that I would do a good job for the organization.

As some of you know, I love horses. My understanding and respect for horses was fostered at an early age. When I say that I see our National Directors as a team of horses; it is with all due respect. This team is made of an assortment of spirits, personalities, skills, as well as, saddle baggage. Our members are in the wagon; the horses are pulling said wagon. National Directors are pulling a wagon driven by our Provinces. I visualize the Provinces with the ability for setting direction. This team of horses/directors have worked tirelessly over the past year to stay in front, to find open space, to avoid potholes, all for sustainability and growth of the organization.

The Vision of this Board has been to provide strong, stable, supportive leadership to enable our members to be confident, dynamic and dedicated. Our tagline; "Your Cause is Our Cause" conveys the message that National is here to support you as you support your communities. Supporting children and communities is a common theme that I saw supported while on my over 14,000km travels to 16 Lodges visits with representatives from 21 Lodges, in four Provinces. My birth Province, Ontario, did not receive a visit this year. My experience and learning of each Lodge and Province, I did visit, has been amazing. Special thanks to those who put me up in their homes, drove me where I needed to be and supported me in countless other ways over the year. Much respect to all of you.

Over the course of the weekend you can expect to hear new ideas for doing business, opportunities that may interest you personally as well as a heap of respect to those who have made Canadian Royal Purple what it is today. Your job will be to listen, learn and have fun while we go about the business at hand. Be present and mindful for the betterment of our organization, of your Province and your Lodge. Open your mind to new ways of doing business as we strive for sustainability and growth.

In closing of these open remarks, my gratitude to my husband and children for supporting and understanding my wishes to engage with the organization as I have. Without that, my experience would have been negative. Shout out to my co-workers as I work to balance: family, work and hobby(Royal Purple). To my home Lodge for their patience with special thanks to Sue and Lyne for their support, their ear and creative juices over the past year. Some of you will have noticed Grandma(Mother In Law) did not make the 12 hour trip. She sends blessings to everyone and she knows we are thinking of her for her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday next month.

Maybe a windy opening but you all know I live on the prairies!

Shall we roll up our sleeves and get to work?