**CIRCLE OF KINDNESS**

Each of you have hopefully heard about the **Circle of Excellence** - it's a National award presented to a Department who exceeds certain performance measures of doing great things for our organization.

I believe this circle of excellence is applicable to each of us. Each of us, through our efforts to grow the membership, collect those dues, participate in the Auxiliary programs, plays a very important role in gaining entrance into this circle. Each of us, if we do our job well, contributes to making our organization better.

That's one circle - a very important one.

But the one I want to bring to your attention today is the **circle of kindness** - kindness toward one another - kindness in thoughts and words toward one another.

Studies have been conducted to identify why organizations members no longer attend meetings, no longer participate in program activities, refuse to renew their dues. The answers were many and varied but the one common thread behind each answer was a perceived or an actual act of unkindness was visited upon them by another member.

Kindness toward one another is important enough that it is in our Ritual in the President's closing remarks for every meeting. "Let us treat one another with respect and kindness at all times."

Let’s put kindness into practice