



December 16, 2011

Dear VOGA Member,

When Lynnda and I were at Disney World last week, at Epcot we met Yassim, a young man from Paris. He had been here since September and said that he didn't want to go back. I said, "Yassim, what is the biggest difference between here and France?" He responded quickly and firmly, "Here, you still believe in your future." That is a powerful statement. We know that the French have bought into the fear and hype about hydraulic fracturing and have banned the process so they won't be able to develop their own shale resources. As a result the French have to get their gas from Russia at Russia's prices subject to Russia's control. That doesn't give much hope for their future. How sad.

When there is hope for the future there is power in the present. People will do the work it takes to achieve their dreams if they have hope. My high school players got up at 5 AM for two a days and didn't even complain about it because they knew that is what it would take to become a champion. They had already been there twice. As a result they repeated as State Champions. Hope is powerful.

2011 has been a challenging year in many ways. We have had to fight low gas prices, the Escrow account issue, all the negative media and even the issues in Rockingham County that we didn't cause to name just a few. Overall we did very well. The challenges made us stronger. We learned a lot. We became a better Team. Our organization continued to grow.

We had a very successful open house at The Heartland on December 6th. The PR committee led by Will Clear did a great job of planning this event and making it happen. Every time we can get positive information to the public it helps all of us. The Membership Committee is planning a Membership Drive Breakfast on December 28th at Noah Horn's shop to introduce VOGA to potential new members. More information will be out shortly. Our Winter meeting is scheduled for January 26th at the Marriott in Richmond. The Southwest Virginia Counties' Reception, that we are helping to sponsor, will be held at the Omni Hotel that evening.

Hope is more than buying a lottery ticket and hoping to win the jackpot. It is more than a wish. Hope is the belief that tomorrow will be better than today in part because we will make it better. Hope is the attitude that we can and will overcome our obstacles. It is belief in us, our Team and our Nation. But it is also the belief that our creator wants us to succeed. Over 2000 years ago a baby brought hope to a hopeless world. He still gives us hope today. As the fireworks were ending at Epcot they began playing, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me..." People there from all over the world suddenly joined in song. It gave me chills to think how one small event had united all of these people from so many places. We all wanted the same thing, Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men and Hope for a brighter tomorrow. My high school soccer players taught me a long time ago that all things are still possible. Have hope. Believe in your future. You can make it a great future!

I can be contacted at; Gregory.Kozera@nabors.com or gkozera@aol.com or at (304) 545-7259. May you and your family have an awesome Christmas Season and a Happy, Safe and Successful 2012!

Greg Kozera- VOGA President