

NO ROCKER FOR THIS OL GRANNY

By Linda J Brancadora
Berks County Patriots

Dear Fellow Patriots,

I just feel as though I want to tell you how I perceive our organization. I know we have problems. I know there is a lack of volunteers to step up to help. Most organizations that I know of are just like ours. A few people do all the work and the rest sit back and watch.

I am not admonishing those people that don't do anything, as I too was one of them. Most people are content to sit at home in front of the TV and just go on with their life doing whatever they wish to do. It's been like this for all time. Even the signers of the Declaration – just a handful of people willing to step up and do something.

I, for one, take a great deal of pride knowing that I am doing something. I may not be changing the world, but I am changing our family. I know my Grandchildren look at me a lot differently than they did a few years ago. It's getting the thought out to them that Grandmas don't just sit on a rocker and knit. This Grandma is doing something. I don't have to change the world for them to see me do something.

Many of you Patriots have been fighting the fight for a long time and see little results. Let me just say that, every time we get a new member, this is a result. I know that we are reaching one more person. It doesn't matter to me that they do not participate – they are at our meetings hearing our messages – I know this has to change many people's hearts. I know these people go home and talk to their kids, spouses, neighbors. We are responsible for that. Would I like to see more people help – of course. But it is what it is. We do what we can. And we do it for hardly any reward. Sometimes things we do for ourselves are just as important. Getting the message out is very important. Every meeting is a revelation to many people. People are starting to wake up. People are having their eyes opened. We are responsible for that.

If we do nothing – if we fold up and go away – this would be a major blow to a lot of people. In their own way, by attending these meetings, they are doing something. They are participating. They are getting the message. They are doing much more than they had been previously. This is a start for many. When I first attended the meetings, I was just content to sit and listen. I had no intention of doing anything else. I was attending – that was good enough.

We must not focus on the people that don't participate – we must focus on doing whatever we can do and that has to be enough. If we end up changing the world – great – but we know that will not happen. The changes we make within our own little world are important too.

I have changed a lot since joining the Patriots. I have met many new people – many really nice people and some not so nice – but that's OK. I am stepping up to the plate. I am finally doing something constructive for our Country instead of complaining about it. I am much more aware of issues that are of concern to our community – I am much more aware of things happening in our Country. I am a realist – I know I can't do much – but I do know I can do more – one person at a time.

I am grateful that this organization exists. I am thankful for all the friends I made. I hope all of you feel the same. I know we all are busy and we all have important issues at home that must be dealt with. Whatever time and effort you put forth in our organization does not go unnoticed. It is not in vain. I know we get little recognition for our efforts – but we are making a difference. We go on and on thinking – why? Why are we batting our heads against a wall. Why are we doing this? Well, I am doing it for the betterment of our world. I am doing it because I want to contribute something. I want to “pass on” knowing I did whatever I could to leave a better place for my heirs. I may never see my efforts come to light, but that is OK for me. Someone, somewhere, someday will get the benefits – if nothing more than - gee whiz – look at her – an old lady doing all that she does. Maybe I will be a motivation for someone else. I truly believe that will happen. And, that is enough for me.

So pack up all your gripes – put them in a box and label it -- do later. For now we fight the fight.

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Berks County Patriots