

## ***"Lighting the Fire of Job Seeking MilSpouse Applicants"***

By BrendaLee M. Winans

I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am to start this journey TODAY! Twenty-four hours ago, I came across a network posting from Deb about MSCCN. Little did I know that one little post would ignite such a fire inside of me! I have not felt this way about something in a very long time! In less than one week, I will be turning 39. It's not old, I know. It's probably not even middle aged. I just thought that I would have everything together by the time I turn 40. And I do have everything together... personally. I have an amazing husband, a sweet and respectful child, a wonderful home, and we have our health. Yes, I have a lot. But growing up, I had this passion, this fire to become someone. Somehow, I forgot about that. It was my job to take care of the family and I put them first, loving every minute of it. Working for me was just that, work. I got nothing out of it. It was more like a punch in and punch out kind of day. Slowly, my fire dimmed to a flame. That flame just flickered away. I knew I was important to my family. But I wanted more, I needed more.

I remember being in high school and wanting to study Sports Medicine. All I wanted was to go to college and become the first Female Head Trainer in the NFL. When I told family members what I was going to do, I got laughed at. I was told, "There will never be a female trainer in the NFL". It did not matter to me; I was going to do it. I didn't but I remember I had this fire inside of me. This "Watch and I'll so you" attitude that I kept me going. Ten years after that, my life was so different. I look back and wonder "when did I lose that"? Please don't get me wrong, I love my life and appreciate all that I have now, but I deserve to go out and get the job that I want. It's my time!

I've looked everywhere: the want-ads (yes, in the papers), online company web pages, all the Job Web site and search engines where you post your resume.....and wait. Seriously, that is all you can do. When you have a question for one of those sites, you click a button and choose from 'general questions'. Your questions don't get answered and all you get is frustrated. You have to somehow keep going, keep yourself motivated. I just kept trying and looking but I got the same results.

Then, when I saw the MSCCN web page and sent one little email to Deb, I thought, this looks different, let me give it a shot. I never expected to get anything back except maybe a generic "Thank you for submitting your Resume, we'll let you know" email.

When I saw her reply to my email, I about bounced out of my chair. Here is the Founder, President and CEO, emailing me?? Who am I? And, it was far from generic. From the first email, Deb gave me a sense of "you matter, don't you forget that" "We've got your back, let's do this". I felt like I was talking to a life long friend who was there to support you in every way. I haven't felt like that in years. I forgot how good that felt, the feeling like you know you can start this journey and more importantly, succeed and finish it.

My passion is to help people. I like to make people happy. I've always been that way. From something as little as making sure their dinner order came out perfectly (went I waited tables)

to helping someone fill out fraud forms to recover money taken from their account. I loved being able to reassure them that I am taking control of their problem, it's my problem now and they don't have to worry about it anymore. Seeing the relief in their eyes because they believe I WILL fix it was what I needed. I need that again. I need to know that my work, my results matter to someone. I've working in the Hotel/Restaurant industry, banking and credit union industry, and a call center and I loved every minute of it because I made someone's day better, no matter how little or big the problem was, it was gone. My motto has always been "It's not a problem unless you have a solution".

Working from home would be everything I could ask for. I believe being able to work from home would allow me to give my all to my job and my family. When it's work time, I'm there 100%. I wouldn't have to worry about a commute or the car not starting. Then, when it's time to be mom and wife again, I close the door to my office and enjoy my family. I hope to find something where I can work from home so that I can have the best of both worlds. So hang tight and stay tuned... I will keep you posted!