

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Dan Sippl, RSVA President

“Building Relationships”

As we strive to strengthen, preserve and build our great program for future generations, we must be diligent in reminding ourselves that our program has done well for our families, so now it is time for us to take care of the program. If not us, then who?

In our travels to many states and organizations this fall, it has become ever so apparent that we are the best ones to nurture and build our program or, perhaps, the only ones to do it justice. One very easy way to work on this is to build relationships with other blindness organizations and earn their respect and support.

This is relatively easy as I have yet to come across any blind or visually impaired person lacking the desire to support or admire the BEP program; just simply feel they are not the entrepreneurial personality type.

Since reaching out and working with our friends in the blindness community accomplishes so much with such little effort, we can easily find time to reach out to other civic organizations to enhance their knowledge of the blindness related issues that we overcome so readily in our everyday lives. Please keep in mind that the more you reach out, the easier it becomes to learn from their trials

and tribulations in their lives and share those with our friends in the blindness community.

As an example, this fall I relinquished my position as past President of one of our local Kiwanis Clubs and accepted the position of President once again. As of this writing, I accepted the position of Treasurer of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired effective Jan. 1st.

It is amazing how so many people are curious as to the inter-workings of our business and how we accomplish such an undertaking. This curiosity brings understandings and support from great business leaders of our communities. Often times this involvement is the only involvement and experience that many have had in their lifetimes with a blind or visually impaired person. I have never left a meeting without a great sense of satisfaction and achievement, not for myself, but rather for the entire blindness community.

As we are all aware, many of us have a very lucrative business, but more of us have moderate financial success. In either case, the vast majority of us have more time than financial resources to share with other disability and non-disability organizations.

Perhaps we can look at it another way. Many individuals and businesses are suffering from a severe lack of disability knowledge and a limited awareness of the abilities of the blind and visually impaired community.

Therefore, we can help educate them on blindness issues and they can reciprocate by assisting us in preserving and building our program through legislative support, moral support, and financial support to enhance our educational endeavors.

We must remember that education begins at home, so it is imperative that we all attend the Sagebrush Training Conference in Las Vegas in February to build relationships with our colleagues and peripheral businesses to take back to our business colleagues, friends and families back home.

Looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas and hearing your thoughts on how to build relationships!

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ANNUAL SAGEBRUSH TRAINING
CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 10-14, 2014
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