



RECAP: JUNE MONTHLY BUSINESS & NETWORKING EVENT

By Gitanjali Senapati

What's the difference between a good friend, and a great friend?

A good friend will come bail you out of jail.

A great friend will be sitting next to you and say, "Now that was fun."



The Indo-US Chamber held its monthly networking and business meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at the corporate headquarters of Homeowners Choice Insurance. Ron Weaver, a shareholder with the law firm of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., spoke about developing an aptitude for networking and making those aforementioned great friends.



Mr. Weaver explained he incorporates his dedication to networking as an extension of his commitment to his faith, family and friends. Just as he seeks to satisfy the unique needs of his family and friends, so does he towards networking and business. Rather than seeking inwards, Mr. Weaver looks outwardly and determines how he can contribute to others, rather than identifying how his new contacts may benefit him. In doing so, he finds networking has created a loyal and preminent list of colleagues and friends.

For example, as a real-estate attorney, Mr. Weaver witnessed first hand the difficulties real-estate professionals faced starting in 2009. Due to a genuine

interest in those he met while networking, Mr. Weaver created the organization "Real Estate Lives," a group dedicated to transitioning real-estate professionals back into the work place.

In addition to a focus on contributions, a strong networker must also be brave and bold. Mr. Weaver believes a room full of unknowns should be faced as a challenge. Rather than meekly standing on the outskirts, have confidence to introduce yourself to heavyweights. More often than not, a new contact will be charmed by your pluck and more likely to remember you positively.



Mr. Weaver shared that as a new attorney, newly admitted to the American Bar Association, he had the opportunity to be in attendance at an annual function attended by the United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger - along with 5,000 others. After the Chief Justice's presentation, Mr. Weaver managed to find himself in close enough proximity to make an introduction. Though Chief Justice Burger was admittedly taken aback, the memory stayed with him until a year later, when it was his turn to recognize Mr. Weaver.

Mr. Weaver also noted an efficient networker cannot simply be strong during introductions. For the creation of effective and long-lasting relationships, follow-up is imperative. In addition to committing the names of your new associates to memory, a simple note or telephone call can cement a burgeoning friendship.



Finally, it is important to approach networking and the creation of new connections with enthusiasm. Mr. Weaver noted that as with any desire, you have to be passionate and committed to the cause at hand.

Your passion will be infectious and allow you to create success in not only networking, but also in your business and life as a whole.

The Indo-US Chamber encourages all of our members to support the sponsors of June's monthly business and networking meeting:



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financial planning to add to Mr. Desai's largely successful firm.

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Dr. Anala Panchumarti has recently opened her own dentistry practice, Sunshine Creative Smiles, located at 4714 N. Armenia Ave, Suite 102, Tampa FL 33603. Dr. Panchumarti's practice is dedicated to combining compassion with the highest quality dental treatment, emphasizing a responsibility to patients as the top priority.



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JULY BUSINESS & NETWORKING EVENT:

WHY IS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IMPORTANT AND HOW CAN IT HELP YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

By Tricia Patel



What does it mean to have a presence in the community and how can community involvement play a role in helping to further a career? The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce is honored to host Henry Gonzalez III at our July 17th business



and networking meeting, where Mr. Gonzalez will shed light on a topic that many often take for granted. Mr. Gonzalez will discuss some of his personal experiences in community involvement, and how it has helped him personally as it relates to his career. Mr. Gonzalez earned his MBA in Finance and Management from the University of South Florida and after 14 years with the Bank of Tampa, and another year as President of Firm Solutions Holding, LLC, Mr. Gonzalez was named President of Platinum Bank for the Tampa Bay Region in 2012. Mr. Gonzalez has always been an active member of the Tampa Bay community, and has previously served as Chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and as President of the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gonzalez is also Honorary Commander of the United States Air Force 6th Air Mobility Wing.

The Chamber strives to provide an educational platform for new and existing members to learn from leading industry figures such as Mr. Gonzalez, and next month's meeting will provide an opportunity to gain insight into how something as simple as community involvement can actively help someone throughout their career. The Chamber continuously endeavors to create an inclusive environment for students, business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs alike, and we encourage you to reach out to one of our Executive Committee members if you have questions about the format of our meetings, or to simply offer feedback on how we can make the experience more meaningful for you. As is customary at all our Monthly Business and Networking Events, there is no cost to attend and dinner will be served.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

By Susan J. Ellis

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, especially wanting to help others. But it's also OK to want some benefits for yourself from volunteering.

Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that a volunteer "benefits" from doing volunteer work. There is a long tradition of seeing volunteering as a form of charity, based on altruism and selflessness. The best volunteering does involve the desire to serve others, but this does not exclude other motivations, as well.

Instead of considering volunteering as something you do for people who are not as fortunate as yourself, begin to think of it as an exchange.

Consider that most people find themselves in need at some point in their lives. So today you may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow you may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort. Even now you might be on both sides of the service cycle: maybe you are a tutor for someone who can't read, while last month the volunteer ambulance corps rushed you to the emergency room. Volunteering also includes "self-help." So if you are active in your neighborhood crime watch, your home is protected while you protect your neighbors' homes, too. Adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better.

Think about how much you receive when you give and consider why you want to volunteer. You may have several different reasons. Here are just a few of the many possible motivations identified by other volunteers:

- To share a skill
- To get to know a community
- To gain leadership skills
- Satisfaction from accomplishment
- To have an impact
- To learn something new
- To be challenged
- To make new friends
- To be part of a team

You will probably have some special reasons of your own. Remember that the motivations you have to select the place to offer your services may not be the reasons why you stay. Once you're on the volunteer job, you will continue to serve as long as you feel that your efforts are accomplishing something, that your talents are appreciated, and that you make a difference. And if you also like the people with whom you work, so much the better!

As long as you are truly serving through your volunteer work, isn't it wonderful that such an exchange occurs? In fact, it tends to strengthen your commitment to volunteering when you can see the benefits to both the recipient of your efforts and to yourself. And it is much more comfortable than "charity" because it upholds the self-esteem of those with whom you volunteer.

To read this article in its unedited entirety:

Ellis, Susan, J. "Why Volunteer?" Energize Inc. www.energizeinc.com/art/awhy

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