

“BRINGING BUSINESS BACK HOME”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings to All!

I can’t believe I gave away a million dollars!

But before I tell that story, let's talk about the New Year. It is a custom, it seems, with many people to try to make New Year's resolutions, to try and make changes in one's life or even in one's business. This year seems a little different concerning our companies, however, as we have already made many changes in the past year. For me a slowdown in sales has caused me to rethink many of the inventory lines I carry in my hobby store, I have adjusted my hours to reflect when my customers do stop to visit, and since I never replaced a full-time employee who quit two weeks before the shutdown in March, I now find that I concentrate my work more on assisting my customers than I had in the past. No matter what the changes you have been compelled to make since the pandemic started, I'm sure you all will agree that keeping our customers & clients happy is still the number one way to run a business. Hopefully you do not need to make a resolution about that.

So if like me you have already made many of those changes that needed to be made for the good of your business or organization, please consider two that you may need to be “resolved” about for the New Year. First, find time for yourself, working harder because we have to should also mean finding time to relax even more important. And second, don't forget to give to those in need. Many non-profits & charities are seeing less financial help because many of us are making less money. You may have to give less, but never stop giving at all. This time of year my charity of choice is always the Millennium Fund run by the **Akron Community Foundation**. Since 1999 the Millennium Fund has given out grants to grassroots children's programs where even a small amount can make a big difference. Go to www.akroncf.org for more details.

So how did I give away a million dollars? Back in 2000, when we held the first Kenmore Holiday Celebration (this year would have been our 21st had it not been cancelled because of the pandemic), I ran a children's event called the “Kids Treasure Hunt”. A child would stop at a participating business, get a small “treasure” like a toy or candy, and also get a sheet stamped showing they did visit that business (see how I used that to get parents into those businesses?). When a child got all the spots stamped, they came to my store last and got as their treasure a pack of this brand new card game called Pokemon. I gave out a pack to the first 100 children who dropped off their sheets. Recently a box of 36 of these packs of cards just sold at auction for \$360,000, making each pack worth \$10,000. Had I saved those cards instead of giving them away those 100 packs would be worth a cool one million dollars! But I don't mind, the excitement of seeing those children getting those hard to find first edition packs twenty years ago is still fresh in my mind, and worth every penny!

Thank you for listening, and please be safe!

John Buntin Jr, President
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KBOT FLASHBACK

- 10 Years Ago - January 2011**
- ⊕ **David E. Culbertson**, President
 - ⊕ Guest speakers for the luncheon held at The Church on the Boulevard were Dennis & Christy Thompson.
- 15 Years Ago - January 2006**
- ⊕ **Scott M. Smith**, President
 - ⊕ The KBOT Banquet and Induction of Officers was held at The Hibernian Club on January 27th.
- 20 Years Ago - January 2001**
- ⊕ **Jeff Scott**, President
 - ⊕ No information available.
- 25 Years Ago - January 1996**
- ⊕ **Rich Masterson**, President
 - ⊕ The Board votes to again have a float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16th.
- 30 Years Ago - January 1991**
- ⊕ **Judith Rosenberg**, President
 - ⊕ A letter was sent to the City of Akron requesting the Boulevard signs be repainted.
- 35 Years Ago - January 1986**
- ⊕ **Warren Ferrell**, President
 - ⊕ Councilman Don Brode reminds members to continue to send letters to the city asking that a Kenmore Community Center site survey be conducted this year.
 - ⊕ A motion to set aside \$500 for the establishment of a 5-K and 10-K run, to be held in conjunction with the Old Tyme Festival, was approved
- 40 Years Ago - January 1981**
- ⊕ **Don Jackson**, President
 - ⊕ No information available.