

“BRINGING BUSINESS BACK HOME”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings to All!

This month is the 30th Anniversary of my business - *Kenmore Komics & Games!*

I often joke with people that it is the longest I've ever held a job, but I do not admit to them why that is. And since you fine members of the Kenmore Chamber let me ramble on at times in this column about “how to run a business” I thought I would give you a little background on why I think I can give you my opinion on this subject.

When I was 8 years old in Detroit a neighborhood lady, Mrs. Teller, hired me to feed & clean up after her 3 dogs & 8 cats, at 75 cents a week. I only quit after 5 years because my parents moved us to Jackson Michigan. I mowed lawns & babysat until I finally got that coveted paperboy route in my neighborhood at age 15. At 18 I next went to the Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus Ohio, where I got a job at the Columbus Airport restaurant. Having taught me to mop the floor & then wash dishes, bus tables & be the short order cook, I settled down into running the snack bar during the 11 pm to 7 am time slot. Since the airport was “dead” midnight to 5 am (except for those who worked there) I had lots of time to study. But that didn't last long. The manager of the gift shops in the airport was impressed with my work ethics (I kept a very clean & organized snack bar) and he hired me away to run the stocking & warehousing of all the items sold in these gift shops.

When I graduated with my Bachelors Degree in Electronic Engineering at age 21, I was hired by a seismic survey company which specialized in oil exploration, and ran the computer equipment in a truck used to collect this information from four to six 40,000 pound “vibrating” trucks supplying the energy put into the ground. For five years I worked in 6 different states out west, working 12-14 hour days, seven days a week, for weeks (and sometimes months) at a time. Then the oil glut of 1985 hit, and I decided it was time to look elsewhere for work, and so moved back in with my parents (who doesn't these days!) at the wonderful age of 26.

Did I mention I read comic books during all these jobs? So while again in Jackson I met the owner of a comic book store who just opened up 3 months before my return. He needed someone to set up his store and run it for awhile as he finished his last year in the asphalt business, and as I had both the knowledge of the product and the experience in sales, stocking, & set-up, he thought it would be a great idea to hire me.

I spent almost a year doing just that, and during that time I met a gentlemen who was impressed with my abilities and suggested I set up a store for him in Akron Ohio, and I could be a silent partner and look for work elsewhere after our store was up and running. So I said yes and we opened on May 7th 1987. And a funny thing happened. My partner was terrible at business, but I found that I liked what I was doing, and even better I liked Akron, and thought that it would be a great city to settle down in. So I bought out my partner after five months, said goodbye to my degree in electronics and kept the store, and have been here ever since!

Thanks to Lee & Jasper McCutchen, whose business was right next store to mine, I got involved fairly quickly with the Kenmore Board of Trade, now called the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce. Because of the Kenmore Connection, I learned how to sell advertising, and I think you will agree with me that with the life experiences I listed above that I have learned a lot about many subjects in the business world.

I might not always pick a subject that is related to your business, but I hope you will continue to let me speak.

Thanks for listening!

John Buntin Jr, President
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KCOC's Next "Meet & Greet" will be at US Bank!

The Kenmore Chamber of Commerce's May "Meet & Greet" event will be held at **US Bank**, 3100 Manchester Road, on Thursday May 18th! Branch Manager **Aimee Steele** WILL NOT teach you how to rob a bank, but she does have some interesting facts to share about bank vaults. This evening networking meeting will include refreshments, drinks, and fun conversation with fellow business members. Many door prizes will also be given away. It will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, and no RSVP is necessary. We hope to see you there!



KBOT FLASHBACK



10 Years Ago - May 2007

- ⊕ **Scott Smith**, President
- ⊕ Four guest speakers involved with the future Kenmore Boulevard Redevelopment Project spoke at the May lunch meeting.

15 Years Ago - May 2002

- ⊕ **Jeff Scott**, President
- ⊕ **Jim Conley** of the Akron Police Department Crime Prevention Unit spoke at this May lunch meeting.

20 Years Ago - May 1997

- ⊕ **Rich Masterson**, President
- ⊕ **Rebecca Wilson** of the Akron-Summit County Public Library explained how 15 libraries will be rebuilt or renovated within the next 5 years, including Kenmore's.
- ⊕ A new KBOT committee has been formed, called the Business Development Committee.

25 Years Ago - May 1992

- ⊕ **Mel Kent**, President
- ⊕ No information available.

30 Years Ago - May 1987

- ⊕ **Dennis Bloomer**, President
- ⊕ Five Kenmore High School students were given \$100 scholarships, raised from last year's 1st Annual 5K-10K Run.

35 Years Ago - May 1982

- ⊕ **Kermit Bair**, President
- ⊕ The KBOT Ladies Night will be held May 20th this year at *Anthe's Restaurant* on Manchester Road.

Marie & Scott Smith of Smith's House of Carpet (in photo below) each won a \$25 gift certificate at the April "Meet & Greet" at *The Rialto Theatre*.



Jim Garner of The Polish Shop (right in photo above) speaks at the "Meet & Greet". **Tim Crawford of Crawford Nationwide Insurance** (center) and **Kathy Hoppe of the Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance** (right) also sponsored the event.



The 18th Kenmore Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday April 8th. Kenmore Chamber members **Tom Lesiczka, Dave Culbertson, and John Buntin Jr** were present to help.



KCOC member **Leroy Green of Metro Dental** lent a hand in the 3rd Annual Summit Lake Clean-Up on Saturday April 22nd.