



Walk in My Shoes

We are beginning this new section here at our website. A section we hope will be enjoyed and will also turn into a new fresh way to help our member businesses market their businesses in a whole new way.

For most of us, we aren't the least bit impressed with what we do or who we are, we just go about our days following our routine and doing our jobs. I also believe most of us would be surprised by how curious many people are about what we do and, besides, it's all about reality these days right?

This first segment will be about me and in the weeks to come - we will have much more interesting people! Bank executives, paper mill managers and/or machine operators, elected officials, marketing gurus, chocolate makers and the list will go on! I'm excited and curious to learn about our fellow members and their day-to-day lives.

So, welcome to "Walk in My Shoes" -

First, a warning, my shoes are most likely pointed toe spike heels of 3" and taller. They take some getting used to, but like most things that become habits, after a while you just don't notice anymore and you go about life. Come with me as the day begins with a meeting.

Yes, a meeting. I meet for a living. I used to only-half-jokingly say that if I could get paid by the meeting, I'd be a rich person. There are so many things to be accomplished, so many things to be done and to get them done we need to work together. So, I walk myself to meet. Okay, so usually I'm walk-jogging to meet, but the principle is the same!

Some days are back-to-back-to-back meetings while others are full of completing the myriad

details needing to be done as a result of the meeting I was just in and preparing for the next. I am continually amazed at how much our organization gets done with a very small staff. Thank God for volunteers!

Other days my shoes take me into my office where I plant them under my desk and they see me pivoting from computer to phone addressing the issues large and small that come up while running an organization. The paperwork is unending! I'm still waiting on my paperless society they promised we'd have by now (along with my flying car), but until then, I comfort myself with the knowledge that the Chamber is doing what we can to support the paper industry!!

The Chamber is rather an unusual place in the widely-varied people who contact us and the questions they ask. I'm convinced the 411 operators have a pop-up on their screen that appears when they don't know the answer to a question and it prompts them to "send them to the Chamber!" So, they do. The Chamber is often mistaken for the Better Business Bureau, or a department of government, or the repository of all information about everything and anything within a community. We try to have a handle on as much as we can, but I'm continually surprised at all the things we don't know that we didn't know we didn't know. Many days my shoes dash from place-to-place finding answers for people who call us with questions.

I have a confession to make that won't surprise any one who knows me. I'm usually late. Not because of a lack of time management skills or because I'm distracted, but because there are so many things to do and I'm forever saying, "I have time for just one more quick thing." I think I'll have it carved on my marker when I'm gone. (not tombstone, just a marker by a porch swing where I'll be hanging out reading) I make every effort to be on time and stay on time, but - well, I'm working on it! But, usually, I'm not walking in these shoes, I'm running!

Most days, I'm working with our interns and staff completing projects, working on events, and brain-storming for solutions.

One of the most interesting things I find myself walking into is when a problem or issue is brought to the organization along with a potential solution. Chambers are a unique crossroads between business, government, individuals and organizations. We have no particular trade affiliation and no ideological one. Our role is to be the middle ground where many different people, from many different viewpoints come together to make our community an even better place to live, work and enjoy.

Walk with me - walk with us - let's see where we can go!

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