

Presidential Ponderings - July 2024

In last month's Ponderings, I talked about some of the things that I will not miss once I retire in January of 2025. To complete that thought process, this month I intend to list those things that I really will miss when I retire. Again, in no particular order of importance, here are the things that I know I will miss after retiring:

1. A regular paycheck! For the last 42 years, I have been getting paid every other Friday. The technology has changed, as we no longer hand out paper checks, but the principal remained the same. Every two weeks the checking account was replenished so that I could feed and house my family. That will end as I look to the monthly direct deposit from Social Security to offset my expenses.
2. The unpredictability of Londonderry Village. With nearly 850 residents and staff on the campus, I have learned that anything can happen and probably will! This might include power failures, resident-resident romances, weather emergencies, resident escapes (or elopements as the Health Department calls them!), 9-1-1 emergencies, smoke alarms, unexpected staff resignations, residents and/or family members who don't pay their bills, pickleball injuries, pandemics, staff romances, Internet outages, etc... I think you get the picture!
3. Relationships with residents and staff. With 850 staff and residents, there is no way for me to know everybody personally. But I do know a fair amount of folks, and I have always felt privileged to be a part of their lives. After 20 years, there are some residents and staff that I know really well, and we have been together through both bad and good times. Several of those folks helped me through a difficult time in my life when my first marriage ended in divorce. And they were with me a few years later in the joy of my re marriage. I will miss that support.
4. The "perks" of being the CEO! Not what you think...there are no company cars and no lavish company-paid vacations! The biggest perk of being the LV CEO is that the Board grants me a certain amount of discretion, financially, in helping people. I have approved financial assistance and housing for staff members going through difficult times (e.g., house burned down) and I have approved some applicants who lived very worthy lives (e.g., missionaries) but did not have all of the assets needed to get into a place like Londonderry Village. Being able to lift people up in their times of need is a huge "perk".

*Thanks for Listening,
Jeff Shireman, President*

