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Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Issue: # 080

August 31, 2014

Greetings!

It's remarkable to ponder the reality of time marching on. Some things seem to stay the same, and some things seem to change and evolve with startling rapidity. I still collect the garbage cans and return them to their appointed spot each weeknight after the trash has been collected, a habit I've been carrying out ever since I became a home owner many years ago. Yet I am getting older with each passing week, and thus, my needs, circumstances and situations change with the passing of time. You undoubtedly recognize the sameness, and the changes, in your own life.



One thing that won't change as long as I am alive is the great pleasure I take in sending out this publication to you.

OK, let's get started.

Warm regards,

Ara Norwood

Self-Development Manager As Referee

Managers have a lot of hats they wear: resource allocator, recruiter, evaluator, direction-setter, to name a few.

But one role that often escapes our attention is referee.

Picture a referee in any sport - let's go with boxing. A good referee in boxing is adept at closely observing the action going on between the contestants, making sure

everyone is given due process, and that no one is unduly favored. The referee must ensure fairness, and must determine



objectively, regardless of any personal predispositions - which must be kept in check.

Likewise, during a team meeting, a manager must be capable of performing the following with finesse:

- Clarifying the issues
- Soliciting input
- Making sure all are heard
- Circling back to team members who were interrupted earlier in the meeting and have seemingly shut down
- Pointing out the merits of specific points offered by specific members
- Breaking any deadlocks by making decisions.

The manager who does this will have the respect of his people, the way a referee has the respect of the two boxers.

The Elephant In The Room On Being Non-Partisan

Many of my readers (and students) presume I'm a staunch Republican.

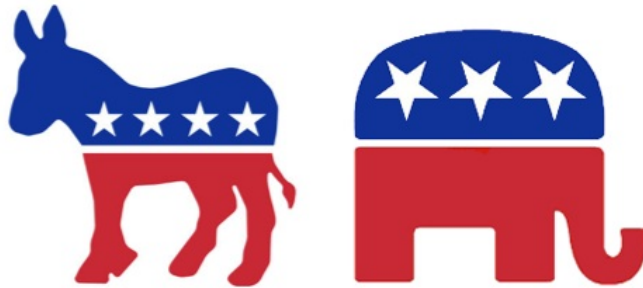
I am not.

Neither am I a Democrat.

I am not a member of any political party, though I tend to vote Republican because Republicans usually come closest to aligning with the conservative values I espouse.

The reason I am not a member of any political party is because I believe parties are more harmful than helpful. Granted, parties clarify choices. But parties also produce much in the

way of
contention -
us versus
them - and
in so doing,
waste a lot
of time



bad-mouthing the other team rather than getting any real work done.

Most who know me well would correctly presume I would not likely ever vote for a Democrat due to the simple fact that the Democratic Party has been taken over by the Left, which has transformed that party into something that is not aligned with traditional American values.

And it's a fact - the values and ideology of the Left are at odds with the values and ideology of The Founders. George Washington, were he alive, would consider today's Leftists as being guilty of treason and deserving of the horse whip.

Having said that, I will now shock many of my readers by admitting something unexpected: it is possible, though not likely, that I could vote for Hillary Clinton for President of the United States if certain conditions existed.

First, however, let me say that if I did vote for Mrs. Clinton, it would have nothing whatsoever to do with her gender. I could not be less interested in the gender of the President of the United States, and I would not vote for her so that we would have, at long last, a female in the Oval Office, just as I would not vote for a black man to be

president simply because he is black. I could not care less about the color of the president's skin.

But here is the possible, though unlikely, scenario by which I might vote for Mrs. Clinton:

If Mrs. Clinton convinces me that she is hawkish on terror, that she has the backbone to take the fight to the terrorists and confront the world's greatest present evil (something Mr. Obama has not demonstrated consistently) and if the Republicans put forth a candidate who seems weak and inept, then, Mrs. Clinton might have my vote.

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

From Ara's Journal

On Teaching

A new semester commenced this past week - my 23rd consecutive semester. I always do a Q&A with my students on the first day of class. And in one particular class, the first question, coming from a driven and very bright young man, concerned why I teach.

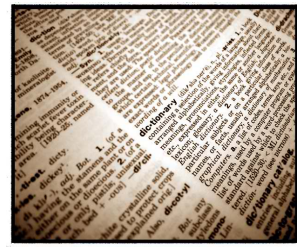


Teaching in a formal classroom setting represents a small part of my professional work. But I consider it very important. And here is why I teach:

- I teach because it gives me an opportunity to make an impact on young, unformed minds.
- I teach because I believe I can light a fire under the students who I am privileged to instruct.
- I teach because I am excited about learning and believe my enthusiasm can be transferred to the students.
- I teach because I am talented at the craft of teaching and believe my students are deserving of a solid learning experience.
- I teach because I often learn the most when I do.

The World of Words

Verity



Verity, n.

Pronunciation: 'veritē

Meaning: A verity is a truth, perhaps a true principle or true belief.

Usage:

- *The deepest questions of life concern the eternal verities.*
- *It is a verity that death is inevitable for all. Taxes are a close second.*
- *I am not interested in opinions; I am after the deeper verities of the matter.*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com).

For more information on my work, follow me on Twitter ("Ara Norwood"), or on Facebook (keyword "Leadership Development Systems") or via my website: www.aranorwood.com

Sincerely,

Ara Norwood
Leadership Development Systems