

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Larry Kennedy - Walla Engineering



Larry arrived in Albuquerque at a junior high school age (that tells you it was quite awhile ago since those schools have been reorganized and renamed to 'mid-schools'). He then attended Highland High and Eldorado High, before attending T.V.I. (another age indicator since that institution has been named C.N.M. for a long time, too). Mr. Kennedy then graduated from UNM and headed into his drawing and designing architect career. He has progressed from pencil/eraser work on vellum-to mylar drawings-to computer technology. And he seems to have adapted pretty well. Walla is a Civil and Structural Engineering company. Their good reputation and their collection of busy clients have allowed them to keep a steady work load, even during the recent weak economy. Walla does quite a bit of work for Walgreens and Starbucks. They did engineering for the new Caliber Shooting Range on the west side. And among other things, are currently working on a 4000 square foot, metal structure with large mezzanine, Sports Plex. The job at Caliber's included an interesting variance from the 'normal' work. The ballistic and reflective trajectory aspect of that design, made for some interesting research and education. On that job, Larry apparently learned more about projectile paths and directing bullets away from potential injury than he ever learned on his political campaign. A different category of entertainment for the Walla group comes from the variety of 'hidden treasures' within the Winrock Shopping Center project; unmarked, and just waiting for the unsuspecting contractor's bulldozer. The large jobs are beneficial, but Larry will also do work for smaller clients. He does prefer to become involved at the very beginning, though. Not just after the retaining wall has been built and someone named Jerry finds out that he needs an engineer's approval in order to avoid negative action by city inspectors. Mr. Kennedy also has other components to his world. Political adventures; State Fair involvement; and a somewhat unique marriage. He and his wonderful wife married in 1981...but the flow of our universe, and the new math being what it is, things get skewed. When asked how long they have been happily married, both Larry and his wife will likely respond, "about 20 years". The Kennedy children are also doing well while pursuing their own lofty careers. One as a flight attendant at Frontier Airlines. The other as a commercial pilot, after finishing his degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The political dip in the pool may not have been as successful as Larry intended, but he definitely had the correct thought to personally try to change things that are not going in the right direction. His campaign for office didn't fail, it directed him toward an otherwise unused path to different forms of success. Like an adventure in which Larry is the State Fair Commission Chairman. Probably even more glamorous than it sounds. The commission has a responsibility to maintain aging and deteriorating facilities ; put on a safe and enjoyable Fair event; appease usually dissatisfied political oversight entities, which are often not willing to provide sufficient funding, but are more than willing to provide 'constructive' criticism....and the commissioners still do a pretty good job. The 2015 New Mexico State Fair is expected to again be a quite enjoyable event. How can it not — considering a new carnival contractor; the debut of the world's largest portable roller coaster; and the new State Fair Cream Ale? If you would like behind the scenes insight about operations of the Fair; or good advice about running for political office in New Mexico; or how to successfully retain / retrieve a marriage; or better yet, if you want some quality engineering (remember--before the project is too far along) give amazing Larry Kennedy a call 505-881-3008.

- ◆ A hearty EAGA Welcome to our newest member:
Heritage Hotels & Resorts Representative is Jeffrey Sakamoto Category: Hospitality
- ◆ Congratulations to Keleher & McLeod as they celebrate their 100th year of operation. When Tom's father hung out the shingle in 1915, it was the beginning of a law firm which has maintained its integrity, professionalism and sense of community involvement for a century. Quite an accomplishment! Good wishes to Tom, his brothers and the rest of the Keleher & McLeod family for continued success in the future.

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Business Leads:

None written down today

Reciprocity:

Thank you to Damian Lusch - Rich Ford for the great service when I purchased a new Ford F-150. Great rebates; fast service; and fantastic truck.

Thank you to Lionel Specter - Zeon Signs for the great service and repair department work on several shopping center signs.

Congratulations to the Keleher & McLeod Law Firm for 100 years of service to the Albuquerque community. William, Michael and Tom Keleher are outstanding men in our community.

- John Menicucci

- ◆ **EAGA Open House Event—August 25th at Rader Awning.** Dan and his team will provide an interesting time. Directions and details at Tuesday's breakfast.
- ◆ **The Jim Fanning Memorial Trap Shoot will be September 25th at the Albuquerque Trap Club.** Time, directions and other information will be provided in early September.
- ◆ **TJ Maloy still has a few tickets left for the Shotgun-Raffle.** The cost is \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Contact TJ [505-250-2382], or bring your cash to the meeting on Tuesday if you want one of the tickets. Raffle will be soon. In time for winner to have the shotgun ready for the Trap Shoot.
- ◆ **There will not be a meeting on September 8th so that we can celebrate the Labor Day Holiday.**
- ◆ **Timely words of wisdom from Jack:**
 - The difference between the Pope and the boss, the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.
 - My mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash and it is gone.
 - The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.
 - My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can.

Badge Board Greeters

Aug 18th David Bernitsky - Bernitsky Vision
Aug 25th Phil Kenny - Trucks Unique
Sept 1st Jeff Sakamoto - Heritage Hotels & Resorts
Sept 8th No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday
Sept 15th
Sept 22nd
Sept 29th

Upcoming Speakers

Aug 18th Dave Giddens - Law Office of George "Dave" Giddens
Aug 25th Troy Otero - Groundhog Excavating
Sept 1st John Menicucci - Berger Briggs Real Estate
Sept 8th No Meeting - Labor Day Holiday
Sept 15th
Sept 22nd
Sept 29th