

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's presentation was by Mark Abramson - Los Ranchos Gun Shop



Mr. Abramson was born in Ft. Bragg, NC and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. He has been a Business/Employee Benefits attorney for over 30 years. That means that it has been a long time since he's learned how to spell ERISA, but even today, he can still tell you what the letters stand for. Mark is licensed to practice law in Washington, DC, Michigan, Ohio and now New Mexico. But he is more than just a lawyer - He has always been quite involved in communities where he has lived. Jewish Community; United Way; Boy Scouts; Chamber of Commerce Board Member and Education Chairman for a Chamber of Commerce, among others. Mark's philosophy is that business owners should take

every opportunity to serve the people of their community. Everyone in that community is important to the success of the business. Just after the turn of the century (in 2001), Mark and his wife, Mindy, decided to begin looking for a place to settle down and decided New Mexico may be a good place for that. They apparently did know that New Mexico is in the United States, but neither of them had ever been to here before...well, maybe a few steps through the Four Corners Monument. They did take a couple of opportunities to tour some parts of New Mexico and visit friends in Albuquerque before making the final commitment. In 2013 the Abramsons purchased a home in Albuquerque, and in March 2014 moved here to live. At that point, Mark was still actively practicing law in his old stomping grounds, and it required a large amount of travel to Ohio and Michigan. That life was hectic and he became tired of sitting in, or hustling through, airports on his way to a connecting flight to/from somewhere else. So Mark surmised that if he was going to cut back on the distant work and become at least semi-retired, he would have to come up with something else to occupy his semi-spare time. How about buying a business? Isn't that what most people would do? But which business? Let's see...if someone has figured out that they want to retire in a place they have never even visited; if they are an attorney that grew up in Toledo, got a law degree in Washington, DC and practiced law in Michigan and Ohio; and wants to almost retire from the lawyer life; it's a no brainer...buy a gun shop. And make sure it is one that even most of the locals don't know exists. It is likely that Mark put a bit more thought into the decision, and it is apparent that there was some detailed investigation and research too. He has only been here for about 2 years, but already knows the competition, and the history of his new shop, and a good amount about New Mexico's gun laws. Mark is no stranger to guns, but almost all of his experience and education in the firearm world has been developed in just the past 6 years. Seems that, in 2010, Toledo's then Mayor Finkbeiner's initiatives to decrease the city's police force, encouraged Mark to begin learning about guns for personal use. From that point, Mr. Abramson has become educated in various aspects of the firearm realm...gun operation and safe use; conceal carry laws; state regulations, etc. Mark also figures that the best use of one's knowledge is to give it to someone else. He started a shooting sports program with the intent of providing Toledo area youngsters with an opportunity to properly learn about firearms. An illogical logic of nature—the more knowledge that is shared, the more there is to share. Mark has become a training counselor and teaches other firearms instructors - and the wisdom moves on. It is getting easier to understand that Mark's purchase of a gun shop was not as random or as 'weird' as earlier comments in this bulletin have suggested. Mr. Abramson sees his new business as an opportunity to provide customers with the knowledge, training and attitude that then provides them an opportunity to go out with family and friends and shoot safely. As a gun shop owner, Mark feels that he is in a great position to provide customers with the understanding of how a firearm operates; how to properly maintain it; how to use it safely; to be confident that they know and understand the rules of gun ownership. He also continues to train the trainers and is currently looking forward to an upcoming trip to Philmont Scout Ranch. He will spend a few days out in nature, training some of the Ranch's staff and enjoying a few hours of shooting. If you would like some probably free answers to questions about specific firearms; about gun safety; or about any other firearm related matter, give Mark a call 505-345-4276. If you would like legal advice...that probably cannot be legally provided for free...even from a part time lawyer. To get directions to the Los Ranchos Gun Shop, look it up on Google. It's still too soon for the locals to reliably provide you with directions. Give that a little more time.

♦ Welcome to our newest member: Sun Quest Marketing Representative - Tom MacMahon

♦ In June, we will hold elections for a new Board of Director member. Qualifications to run include being an EAGA member for at least one year and having a current good standing status. If you are interested in running for the position, or if you want to nominate another member, please contact Robert Biernacki, Mario Hernandez or Nick Minetos.

- ◆ First announcement of a prospective new member:
Sandia Office Supply
Representative: John Nicolaides
Category: Office Supply
Sponsor: Jeff Sakamoto

- ◆ Second announcement of a prospective new member:
Bella Dream Homes, LLC
Representative: Danny Clements
Category: Home Builder
Sponsor: Mark Tobiassen

- ◆ Second announcement of a prospective new member:
Vigilant Security Management
Representative: Manny Corrales
Category: On Post Guards & Special Events
Sponsor: Philip Houser

- ◆ Second announcement of a prospective new member:
The Community Lighthouse
Representative: Brandon Sayler
Category: Mental Health
Sponsor: Mark Tobiassen

If you have an objection to any of these companies becoming a member, or if you have any information that you feel should be considered during the application review process, please contact Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper, (jdzipper@comcast.net - 505-259-5959), as soon as possible.

- ◆ EAGA Summer Bash will be July 9th at the Maloy estate (same location as last year). More details as we get closer to the date. There is still time to join the Bash Committee. A great opportunity to get to know other members; and in all likelihood you will have a chance to gather some beneficial blackmail material on at least one of our fun-loving folks. Contact Dan Mowery or Pat Maloy to become involved.

- ◆ Important and thought provoking (or maybe not) information from a couple of our members:
From Lionel Specter: Medical information update:
For all those over 75, or nearing that age, you should realize that Senior Citizens are the leading carrier of AIDS: Hearing Aids, Band Aids, Roll Aids, Walking Aids, Medical Aids, Government Aids and last but not least - Monetary Aid to their kids. Also, the leading carrier of HIV - (Hair is Vanishing).
From Jack Zipper: Thinking challenges to keep an old mind sharp:
 1. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?
 2. How much dirt is in a hole that measures 2 feet by 3 feet by 4 feet?
 3. What was the President's name in 1975?
 4. If you were running a race and passed the person in second place, what place would you be in now?

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez
Phone: 505-239-0259 email: hernmar129@yahoo.com
Postal mail: 8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #345; Albuquerque, NM 87113

Business Leads:

None noted today

Reciprocity:

Thank you to Troy Otero - Groundhog Construction Services for some concrete demolition.

Thank you to Aaron Rodgers for the new electric service—Brilliant Work !

Mike Berezniak - Albuquerque Pipe & Pump Supply

Information from Troy regarding the proposed mandatory sick-leave requirement for Albuquerque employers:

Proposed Initiative:

There is a Mandated Sick Leave Initiative petition circulating to acquire signatures so that this initiative can be a ballot question in the November election here in Albuquerque. Below is the language that is on the petition.

“PROPOSING TO ENACT THE ALBUQUERQUE HEALTHY WORKFORCE ORDINANCE SUCH THAT, BEGINNING 90 DAYS AFTER ENACTMENT: FIRST, REQUIRING ALBUQUERQUE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE EARNED SICK LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO WORK AT LEAST 56 HOURS IN THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE AT THE RATE OF ONE HOUR OF LEAVE PER 30 HOURS WORKED. SECOND, EMPLOYEES MAY USE SICK LEAVE FOR THEIR OWN OR A FAMILY MEMBER’S ILLNESS, INJURY, OR MEDICAL CARE, OR FOR ABSENCES RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR STALKING. THIRD, EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES WITH 40 OR MORE EMPLOYEES MAY USE UP TO 56 HOURS OF ACCRUED SICK LEAVE EACH YEAR, AND EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES WITH FEWER THAN 40 EMPLOYEES MAY USE UP TO 40 HOURS OF ACCRUED SICK LEAVE PER YEAR. THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT, A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION, AND DAMAGES AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.”

Results of a recent ABC Survey:

1. If this initiative were enacted, would it cause a big increase, small increase or none at all to your company? *Answer: - Big increase – 60% of respondents*
 2. The supporters of this initiative state that this will reduce the number of sick employees at your company. How big of a problem is this currently? *Answer: Not at all serious – 69% of respondents*
 3. Do you anticipate that if this initiative becomes law this will increase unscheduled employee absences? *Yes – 78% of respondents*
 4. If this initiative becomes law, will you have to increase prices to offset the cost of the law? *Yes – 78.2% of respondents*
- If this initiative becomes law, would you reduce staff to offset costs of the law? *Yes-46% of respondents – No – 30% of respondents – unsure – 24% of respondents*

The results of this survey tells us that this initiative would cause a large increase in costs to our members, increase the number of unscheduled employee absences, cause prices to be increased and result in substantial staff reductions in order to absorb the costs of this law.

Badge Board Greeters

- May 24th Lou Rogers - Retriever Merchant Services
- May 31st No Meeting—Memorial Day holiday
- June 7th
- June 14th
- June 21st

Upcoming Speakers

- May 24th Lt. Col Nicholas Dipoma 512 RQS/CC
- May 31st No Meeting—Memorial Day holiday
- June 7th
- June 14th Tom MacMahon - Sun Quest Marketing
- June 21st Jack Thompson - Legacy Mortgage
- June 28th Chez Steel - Century Bank

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