

# EAGA Business Builder

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



It should be expected that there is an interesting story behind the adventure in which an Employee Benefits Attorney from Toledo, Ohio became a gun shop owner in Los Ranchos, New Mexico. Probably the most amazing part of the story is that Mr. Abramson has been able to successfully outrun his checkered past. Mark grew up in Ohio. His father was a doctor and often received alcoholic beverages as Christmas gifts from his patients. Over time the gifts accumulated, and at some point, the

enterprising young Mark discovered that the varsity football team would be grateful to have some of the beverages; and a progression of events took him to deliver more of the alcohol to a scout troop that was at a camp conveniently within walking distance of Mark's home (he didn't have a driver's license yet, otherwise it may have been a Thunder Road sequel). That last delivery event did get him invited out of his Boy Scout troop though. No other similar adventures were mentioned during the presentation, so it can be assumed that Mark has progressed away from the delinquent phase of his childhood. As a matter of fact, Mr. Abramson, has a rather positive reputation these days. He has been training trainers of firearms safety for quite awhile. He is pretty good at that, and is regularly invited back to educate the folks that will be working with participants at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch. He also participates in educating trainers at other facilities; like Gerber Scout Reservation in Michigan and Peaceful Valley Camp near Denver. Mark was not all that involved in guns when growing up. He would have the occasional shooting experience at summer Boy Scout Camp, but not much more than that. After he was married, had a family and earned his law degree, Mark was back in Toledo. At that time the city was governed by the eccentric mayor Carty Finkbeiner (the one that suggested they move deaf people to live by the airport so that there would not be so many complaints about the noise). Mayor Finkbeiner also thought that the city's budget would be better with less policemen. Mark figured that scenario was worrisome and it would be a good time to have a gun around the house. He also knew that he and his family should be adequately trained in all the aspects of owning a gun: learning how to shoot; how to properly maintain the weapon; and how to keep the gun, and the folks in the house, secure and safe. As time progressed, Mr. Abramson was invited back into the scouts to assist with various camp functions. His personal knowledge and experiences gave him a desire to create a place where Boy Scouts, and youngsters in general, could not just shoot a few hours a year, but could learn about acting responsibly; being responsible; and learn the skill of shooting. He and associates started such a program for scouts, but, for Mark, it was the beginning of an ongoing adventure, too. He has continued to learn; train and acquire certifications to increase his own knowledge and capabilities. His goal now is to provide a place for people to understand firearms; create good memories; and learn that guns are safe and fun, when handled responsibly. The gun shop is a good tool for furthering the cause. As for getting to Albuquerque from Toledo— Mark, and his wife Mindy, were researching places to live after he retired. Mark thought Pennsylvania would be good; Mindy was not sold on that at all. They could agree, however, that the new location should be a place west of the Rockies; it should have four definite seasons—none of them extreme; and should have as many blue sky days as there were gray sky days in Toledo. They 'stopped by' (another story for another day) Albuquerque to visit a friend who took them on a 4:00AM visit to the Balloon Fiesta. That set the deal, and here they are. If you would like to learn more about guns, you should contact Mark at 505-345-4276. Be ready to learn about firearms, safety and proper care and security for guns. Mark will keep us informed regarding his new location when the gun shop moves in a few months. Maybe there will be a couple of teaching range lanes associated with the new place. Possibly there will be a christening of the new building, using one of the remaining bottles of booze from the now very old Toledo stash.

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## Business Leads:

Rio Bravo Brewery is looking for two tap room locations. Any part of the community. Final determination based on analysis of surrounding demographics and other pertinent tap room criteria. If you know of a potentially suitable 1,800 to 2,500 sq ft location, please contact Randy Baker 505-228-8353.

Randy Baker—DRB Electric

## Reciprocity:

None written

### ◆ NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 4th

- ◆ Congratulations to our newest Board Member—Lou Rodges - Retriever Merchant Solutions
- ◆ Last call for EAGA Summer Bash sign up. Party is Saturday, July 8th, at the home of Phil & Theresa Houser; 1508 Alfredo Garcia, Los Ranchos. There is no charge for EAGA members and spouse/significant other. Adult guests are welcome at \$35 each. If you are not already signed up, please do so by Tuesday, June 28th. If you have specific questions, please contact committee co-chairmen Pat Maloy or Dan Mowery. At Tuesday's meeting, we will provide a map and directions to the party. Google Maps and Uber / Taxi can provide directions as well.
- ◆ First Announcement of a potential representative change:
  - HUB International
  - New Primary Representative: Kit Turpen
  - Category: InsuranceIf you have an objection to this representative change, or if you have any information that you feel should be considered during the decision process, please contact Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper, (jdzipper@comcast.net or 505-259-5959), as soon as possible.

## Badge Board Greeters

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| June 27th | Garrett Hennessy—TLC Plumbing          |
| July 4th  | No Meeting—4th of July Holiday         |
| July 11th | Mark Bidwell—Rio Grande Title Company  |
| July 18th | Rick Reese—Blue Ristra                 |
| July 25th | Kevin Lorenzen—Aflac                   |
| Aug 1st   | Mike Melloy—Petroglyph Animal Hospital |
| Aug 8th   | Scott Peck—MP Group                    |

## Upcoming Speakers

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| June 27th | Damian Pascetti—Pascetti Steel   |
| July 4th  | No Meeting—4th of July Holiday   |
| July 11th | Scott Gorman—Gorman Industries   |
| July 18th | Soren Thomsen—Tema Furniture     |
| July 25th | Tom McMahon—Sunquest Advertising |

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