

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Larry Kennedy—Walla Engineering

Mr. Kennedy is a Denver born, almost native of Albuquerque. He has been in Albuquerque since he was about 12 years old, and that is certainly long enough to have formed a definite answer to the New Mexico question. He prefers green. During his growing up years, Larry made a cameo appearance at Highland High School before attending El Dorado High for his junior and senior years. Next, it was on to the University of New Mexico to be an architect. Early in that pursuit, Larry figured out that about the only thing he could draw was the blinds. Maybe being an architect wouldn't be the best option for Mr. Kennedy's professional career, so he figured out a different way to get into the construction world. He left UNM and went to TVI, where he earned a drafting certification; then an Associates Degree in Structural Engineering in 1982. Based on calculations, Mr. Kennedy was married in 1980 and he has now been married to the same wonderful lady for 25 years. Their family includes two, now grown, children. Their daughter went to school to become a Cosmetologist. However, she didn't remain in that career for very many hours before deciding that something else would be better. Applying to Frontier Airlines to be a stewardess—she was immediately accepted. Still in that same career today, she now works for Southwest Airlines. The Kennedy's son graduated from Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics, and Science Academy (a charter high school) before for earning a degree and a Commercial Pilot's License from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. It is safe to say that both youngsters are doing well and will definitely be working in high places. Larry has worked his way into a pretty successful career as well. After earning his engineering degree, he went to work for a local company. One night when he and his future partner were working yet another late night, they decided that having their own business would be a beneficial thing, so, in 1998, they left that company and started Walla Engineering. The Jewish Community Center was their first big job and another of their early jobs gave them the enviable distinction of being heavily involved in construction of the 'Darth Vader' office building. That is actually not the official name of the facility. It was designed to have a Nambe Ware look, but apparently the general public has a bigger familiarity with suspense movies than it does of true art, and that is reflected in the building's nickname. Over the years, Walla has grown to have a staff of 5, and Larry says that is a comfortably sufficient number to maintain. Throughout their existence, the company has managed to keep a reasonable level of work. Sometimes a little heavy, sometimes just right, but they have always had an answer to the "What's the next project?" question. Even during the 2008 economic downturn, Walla's reputation allowed them to keep sufficient work coming in. They currently have in the queue, or have recently completed, jobs in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. The Dallas area is a pretty active place for new and remodeling construction. In Albuquerque, the next phases of the Winrock Town Center project are ramping up. The rest of the old shopping center has been removed; New Mexico Orthopedics is finishing their addition; and additional building is now in the plans. Some of the future projects there will include a three story office building, a hotel, residential facilities and other business and office space. In addition to the engineering hat that Larry wears, he also puts on a couple of others from time to time. One of them identifies him as a member of the Governing Council of SAMS Academy (that STEM centered charter high school referenced earlier). Another hat, recently retired for at least a few years, was that of a New Mexico State Fair Commissioner. Larry served in that capacity for eight years, ending right before the last State Fair, when he was notified that his services would not be part of the new Lujan-Grisham administration's plans. Interestingly enough, Mr. Kennedy wasn't ever confirmed as a State Fair Commissioner. He was reappointed every year, but the legislators never found the time, or desire, to approve, or reject his appointment. Anyway...if you have a need for the services of a Structural, or Civil, Engineer, give Mr. Kennedy a call at 505-881-3008. FYI - He would prefer that you call him before your project has been started (unlike some unnamed EAGA member past projects he has been asked to recover). Larry would also be able to provide you with some insightful knowledge about our state's dis-functional operations; and he will be able to confirm that the math is not as bad as you thought when reading above about how long he has been married to the same wonderful lady. They were married for 16 years before getting a divorce. Nine years ago they were remarried, so have now been married for 25 of the 39 years since their first wedding.

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Business Leads:

- ABQ Oriental Rugs is going in at 5901 Wyoming NE.
- BCBG MAXAZRIA is closing their business at 2260 Q St., ABQ Uptown.

- Lionel Specter—Zeon Signs

Reciprocity:

- Thank you to Chuck Mitchell—Ethridge Tire for helping with 3 of our family cars. Great service and awesome staff.

- Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America

Looking for some fun, and free, cognitive stimulation? Here you have a few quick brain teasers to exercise your attention and your working memory—the ability to keep information in your mind while working on integrating, processing it. Given them a try...they are not as easy as they seem.

1. Say the days of the week backwards, then in alphabetical order.
2. Say the months of the year in alphabetical order. Easy? Try saying them in reverse alphabetical order.
3. Find the sum of your date of birth, mm/dd/yyyy.
4. Name two objects for every letter in your first name. Work up to five objects, trying to use different items each time.
5. Look around wherever you are and, within two minutes, try to find 5 red things that will fit in your pockets, and 5 blue objects that are too big to fit.

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Badge Board Greeters

Feb 4th	Rion Marcus—New Mexico Chiropractic Center
Feb 11th	Michael Johnson—Shockwave Defense
Feb 18th	Frank McAllister—Color New Mexico
Feb 25th	Soren Thomsen—TEMA Furniture
Mar 3rd	Gary Sanchez—Sanchez Dental Associates
Mar 10th	Tim Baca—Kangen Water Center
Mar 17th	Steve Grant—Downtown Historic Bed & Breakfast
Mar 24th	Bruce Hoover—Business Environments

Upcoming Speakers

Feb 4th	Michael Johnson—Shockwave Defense
Feb 11th	Roger Linn—i9 Sports
Feb 18th	Gary Sanchez—Sanchez Dental Associates
Feb 25th	Mark Abramson—Los Ranchos Gun Shop
Mar 3rd	Round table Discussions
Mar 10th	Nestor Romero—The Payroll Company
Mar 17th	Randy Baker—DRB Electric
Mar 24th	

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