

EAGA Business Builder

October 13, 2020

Newest tactic. "If you will not fight me on this kind of mild (to some) change in the regs, I will maybe not make others worse." Bet our economy loses again.

Today's speaker was Kit Turpen—Berger Briggs Insurance



Mr. Turpen has lived in Albuquerque almost all of his life. Actually, all of his life, except for a couple of important years in the middle. The south east part of the city, near Kirtland Air Force Base, was the area of operation during his younger days. It was an enjoyable, comfortable and nice place to grow up back in those days. Quite a bit different than the 'war zone' of today. Kit attended Whittier Elementary School, then Wilson Middle School, before making a short appearance at the infamous Highland High School. Most likely not anything at all to do with the Freshman year at Highland High, but the family then moved to Durango, Colorado. Kit finished high school in that community, then decided to travel with a friend to Phoenix where they auditioned for parts in the Up With People troupe. He made the cut. Kit indicated that he was selected because the Up With People group was not as concerned with finding talented kids as they were with finding young people that would convey good will and be positive ambassadors for their generation. Kit does have the positive attitude and a great outlook on the world, but his opening for today's EAGA presentation showed that he has the talent too. (Kit opened by singing a portion of the song "Oh What A Beautiful Mornin"...and the aged youngster still has that talent). Kit's tour with Up With People took him to many interesting places. They performed in a lot of different venues, mostly small ice skating rink type places, along the west coast of the US, then into Canada. Next the plans took them to South America for 5 weeks each in Venezuela and Panama, then 4 weeks in Mexico, before coming back into the southern parts of the USA. Kit was fascinated with the countries that they visited. Venezuela was the 'old Venezuela', that enjoyed a vibrant economy and was a desirable place to live and visit. That was before socialism took over and changed everything—not in a positive way. While touring Panama, Kit, and his touring cohorts, earned the weird distinction of having been declared illegal aliens for a couple of days. Panama had a law that anyone staying in the country for more than 30 days was declared an illegal alien. That required having to go through a rather complicated set requirements before they could leave. It didn't matter that the group was in the country as the guests of Panama's First Lady. It sounds like some clandestine sort of meetings with a couple of Panamanian agencies allowed the troupe to make their escape. Costa Rica and Mexico were also enjoyable, but without the legal hassles. The Up With People members didn't stay in hotels. Each community arranged for local families to host the performers, and those always friendly encounters, were a great part of the fascination for Kit. When his Up With People tour concluded, Kit quickly moved on to another adventure. He headed off to Ft Lewis College. The main reason for going there was that he heard he could spend a lot of time skiing, so long as he occasionally attended classes as well. I'm sure that he earned his degree while at Ft. Lewis, but that would be of lesser importance than his other accomplishments while there. The most special thing that he earned while in college was the heart of a dancer whom he met while they were performing in the school's production of "Oklahoma". They were both performers (he was a singer) and their encounter is lasting a lifetime. Kit and Toni are about to celebrate their 40th anniversary. Of the many accomplishments that Kit has enjoyed during his life, those for which he is most proud are his marriage, and having helped raise three great children. The Turpen's eldest daughter is, to a degree, following in the footsteps of Mom and Dad. She is into musical theatre. Sometimes (when the pandemic rules permit) she works at a Santa Fe Cantina where they have singing wait staff. She and her Sandia Labs engineer husband live in the Dr. Suess-ish looking tiny home on the family property in south Albuquerque. Kit's son, Tad, is a Computational Linguist (that means he has a Masters Degree and creates voice-recognition algorithms). He recently moved from Boston to Austin, and the two grand children (2yrs and 6 months old) are now closer to the Grandparents. But Austin is still painfully far away during this government regulated pandemic quarantine world. The Turpen's youngest daughter is living in Atlanta and working for Jackson Healthcare. That company provides staffing and HR relate services for hospitals and other medical industry businesses. She is now a Project Manager, and who knows, with all the remote working opportunities available these days, she and her husband may move back to the Albuquerque area sometime soon. As for Kit...what is that a-little-bit-older-now singer doing these days? Well, for 40 years he has been an insurance agent. He earned his license in 1980 and since then has acquired experience and an expertise in all aspects of the insurance world. For awhile, he owned his own agency, but sold it a few years ago. Now he works for the Berger Briggs Insurance. That company was started back in 1937. Three years ago, two of the founders' grandsons, and one of the salesmen, got together and purchased the company. It is an entity totally separate, and not related, to the Berger Briggs Real Estate and Property Management company. Mr. Turpen really enjoys the insurance company's local ownership, and their philosophy of providing their clients with services that have that 'local touch'. In his presentation today, Kit gave us a little insight into the history of Worker's Compensation Insurance. The first references to that type of coverage date back to 2050 BC when a Samarian King provided compensation for lost body parts. Similarly, in 1754 BC, there were 282 laws that dealt with such losses. And Pirates also had their own schedule noting compensation for things like 600 Pieces-of-Eight for a lost arm; and 50 weeks of wages for a lost finger. [Captain Hook must have been living off his insurance benefits—with the lost leg, the missing eye and a hook in place of his missing hand.] In 1911, Wisconsin was first to introduce Worker's Comp policies in the USA. That coverage is now required for any business with more than 3 employees. Kit recommends that, even if you fit the exemption, you should still purchase the insurance. It is inexpensive, particularly when compared with the potential financial loss if you don't have it. Payment to the injured employee is still required whether the company has less than four employees, or not. That means disability pay for up to 700 weeks; rehabilitation costs; and death expenses. Those mount up quickly. But Worker's Comp is only one of the many policy options that Kit has in his Property and Casualty Insurance bag. If you are interested in checking to see if your insurance coverage is appropriate, or if you want to discuss acquiring additional insurance for your company, give Kit a call at 505-247-0444. He has the knowledge, the experience and the desire to provide your company with the best options for your situation. He can also provide insight on what it takes to constantly have a positive attitude, a great outlook on life and a wish to make the world a better place. He noted that his preference would be to have in-person meetings instead of the virtual type. The physically present meetings have more laughter and friendship. This current coronavirus restriction laden world is really crimping our ability to engage in right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Conversation with Kit definitely brightens your day—whether or not you can convince him to sing a little.

Reciprocity:

In the 23 years that Jerry Becker has been in the club I have used Steamatic for almost every service they provide. Jerry's all lady crew just did a great job of cleaning my dryer duct. It has a couple of bends and when drying takes much longer than it should, I know it's time to call Steamatic.

- Jack Zipper

◆ Here is an excerpt from Mario's email to the membership last Thursday:

"Good afternoon. I am happy to announce that the EAGA board of directors has approved to meet for breakfast every Tuesday morning at 7am, at Rio Bravo Brewing. As usual, we will not meet the week of Thanksgiving and the last 2 Tuesdays in December.

With this being said, we do need speakers for the next 5 weeks and the first 3 weeks in December. Please contact myself (Mario) or John Mead to get on the schedule. "

- ◆ Upcoming speakers:
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| October 20th | |
| October 27th | |
| November 3rd | Terry White—Sunwest Trust |
| November 10th | |
| November 17th | |

- ◆ Obviously, we need speakers for our meetings on October 20th and 27th; and November 10th and 17th. Please contact Mario, or President John Mead, as soon as possible if you can take one of the slots. The presentation need not be a huge production. Our members are interested in finding out about you and your history; or your company, or maybe some particular process you have been using to help your company to not only survive, but to be in a position for an even greater success when all the coronavirus crap has subsided.
- ◆ Our next meeting, Tuesday, October 20th will again be at Rio Bravo Brewing. The meeting will be indoors and all the standard protocols will be in place. There should not be any guests invited to this meeting. Social distancing requirements will be maintained and masks will be required until you have been seated and are eating your breakfast. Food will be plentiful, but is not self-serve. Rio Bravo staff will be available to serve you both food and drinks. It is an excellent opportunity to visit with fellow members in a face to face (mask to mask until seated with food) scenario. On display will be the great camaraderie, laughter and friendship that Kit spoke about. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez
Phone: 505-239-0259 email: eagaed@gmail.com
8100 Wyoming Blvd NE; Suite M-4 #35 Albuquerque, NM 87113