



Table Talk

Consultants Roundtable Monthly Newsletter – Jeff Freers, Editor

JIM PERKINS 1924-2008

As you may or may not know, Jim Perkins, Consultants Roundtable member and former Secretary and TABLE TALK editor passed away Friday, February 8. Jim had just recently, in December, resigned from his position in order to recover from a recent stroke. Unfortunately, the Roundtable and the entire Michiana community lost this valuable and talented member last Friday. Jim's talents were extensive and varied and he touched our community through the Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement, education, several businesses and Rotary International, just to mention a few of his interests and activities.

What follows is a brief tribute to Jim written by Jim Dominello, one of the founders of Consultants Roundtable

Jim Perkins was one of the early members of the Consultants Roundtable. When he joined us in the early 1990s, the group was called the Michiana Entrepreneurs and met regularly in Elkhart. When we got "evicted" from the hotel in downtown Elkhart, because it was closed down, Jim Perkins arranged meetings at the Riviera Restaurant near Town & Country Shopping Center. When that burned down a couple years later, Jim was the one who set up the fine arrangements we now have at Honker's. Jim also took on the responsibility for a newsletter that he named "Table Talk". He filled the role of Secretary of the organization, beginning in 1999, and never failed to be timely in the execution of his duties. Best of all, Jim Perkins was connected to the Michiana community and was instrumental in providing us with interesting speakers for our program meetings.

"Jim was one of the pillars that kept this organization running smoothly, and was a great ambassador for our organization. He will be missed by all."

Jim Dominello.

NOTES OF ANNUAL MEETING - Consultants Roundtable PROGRAM - DON VANDER HEY D.A. - ANNUAL TAX UPDATE AND REVIEW January 15, 2008

Chairman Bill Brennan opened the first meeting of 2008 and requested the annual Treasurers report from Jim Dominello. Gross receipts for 2007, which all came from members dues, were \$1,370.00. Expenditures for the year were \$1,305.33. There was a balance of \$427.61 in the treasury as of December 31.

Bill Brennan, Chairman; Jim Dominello, Treasurer; and Tom Dobson, Discussion Chairman were all re-elected to their positions. Jeff Freers was elected to the position of Secretary / Newsletter Editor vacated by Jim Perkins due to health issues.

The remainder of the meeting was filled by member Don Vander Hey E.A., who presented his annual tax update and review. His review included the tax rate changes for 2007 and 2008 and then he gave an update on the tax law changes going into effect this year.

The major pieces of legislation passed in '07 included The Small Business Work and Opportunity Tax Act, The Tax Increase Prevention Act (Alternative Minimum Tax "patch") and The Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act. A Q&A and discussion session followed, with Don fielding questions regarding specific applications of those

changes.

DISCUSSION MEETING - February 5, 2008

Ed De Jaegher led the monthly discussion session by presenting an update of Junior Achievement, an organization where many members of the roundtable have either served as advisors or students over the years. Ed is currently a volunteer in the Michiana organization, which covers a five county area in Indiana and Southwestern Michigan.

JA has evolved over the past 20 years from an exclusively after-school program for high school aged students into a school enrichment program promoting free enterprise, economic literacy, and workforce readiness for students K-12. Volunteers from area businesses conduct individual programs ranging from basic economics and global marketplaces to job success skills.

These weekly programs typically run 45 minutes each, for a 5-7 week period.

Understandably, there is always a need for competent and knowledgeable volunteers.

In addition to "in-school" programs, there are still after-school activities for students of all ages, including Internet business "games" and an Internet based business simulation competition for high school students.

Experience has taught that the use of games is an effective and interactive method to teach business and economics to students of all ages. When presented in the middle schools, they can even help keep students engaged and lower dropout rates. All JA programs are correlated to Indiana academic standards.

For more information about JA Michiana or how to become a volunteer, log on to their website at www.michiana.ja.org or contact Ed at edejaegher@michiana.org.

Editor's note: When I agreed to be nominated for this position, it was with the sincere hope that it would only be for an "interim" term, until Jim could return and resume the position that he essentially created. With his passing, I am only happy to attempt to fill those gigantic shoes. One part of TABLE TALK that was particularly endearing, and so essentially Jim, were the pertinent or topical quotes that Jim would include at the end. With no apologies, I will attempt to continue that tradition. As far as Jim's bowties, I will let those rest with him. I have to believe he would understand. Jeff

"It's about ten times the size of the Bible - and unlike the Bible it has no good news."
- Don Rickles on the IRS Tax Code

"Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is quite as satisfying as a tax refund."
- F.J. Raymond

Jeff Freers

Secretary/TABLE TALK Editor