

## Happy April 1<sup>st</sup>

### Congratulations

**“If it is to be – it is up to me!”**

**ALP** = Advanced Leadership Program  
**CLP** = CommScope Leadership Program  
**ELD** = Enterprise Leadership Development - CommScope  
**EMP** = Executive Management Program  
**IMP** = In-house Management Programs  
**MCG** = Managing Change Workshop  
**NEG** = Negotiation Program - CommScope  
**PSP** = Professional Sales Program

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## 2013 – 2014 - Seminars Executive Management Program

### Class 44

- ▶ **Week 1 – May 13 – 17, 2013** ◀
- Week 2 – Sep. 09 – 13, 2013
- Week 3 – Dec. 16 – 20, 2013
- Week 4 – Mar. 17 – 21, 2014
- Week 5 – Jul. 14 – 18, 2014

### Class 45

- ▶ **Week 1 – Aug. 26 – 30, 2013** ◀
- Week 2 – Nov. 18 – 22, 2013
- Week 3 – Mar. 10 – 14, 2014
- Week 4 – Jul. 21 – 25, 2014
- Week 5 – Oct. 06 – 10, 2014

## 2014

### Class 46

- ▶ **Week 1 – Feb. 10 – 14, 2014** ◀
- Week 2 – May 19 – 23, 2014
- Week 3 – Aug. 11 - 15, 2014
- Week 4 – Nov. 17 - 21, 2014
- Week 5 – Feb. 16 – 10, 2015

### Class 47

- ▶ **Week 1 – Jun. 16 – 20, 2014** ◀
- Week 2 – Sep. 15 – 19, 2014
- Week 3 – Dec. 08 – 12, 2014
- Week 4 – Mar. 16 – 20, 2015
- Week 5 – Oct. 06 – 10, 2014

*(To enroll participants in any class or to obtain detailed information please contact Tom Stevens at [inmco@mindspring.com](mailto:inmco@mindspring.com) or call 865-458-3429.)*

## Chronological Calendar – 2013 - 2014

- PSP 13/2 – APR 29 – MAY 03
- EMP 43/2 • MAY 06 – 10
- ▶ **EMP 44/1 • MAY 13 – 17** ◀
- EMP 41/4 • MAY 20 – 24
- EMP 42/3 • JUN 10 – 14
- EMP 41/5 – AUG 12 – 16
- EMP 43/3 – AUG 19 – 23
- EMP 45/1 – AUG 26 – 30
- EMP 44/2 – SEP 09 – 13
- EMP 42/4 – SEP 16 – 20
- PSP 13/3 – SEP 23 – 27
- EMP 43/4 – NOV 11 – 15
- EMP 45/2 – NOV 18 – 22
- PSP 13/4 & EMP 42/5 – DEC 09 – 13
- EMP 44/3 – DEC 16 – 20

## 2014

- EMP 46/1 – JAN 10 – 14
- EMP 43/5 – JAN 17 – 21
- EMP 45/3 – MAR 10 – 14

## Steven's Ponderings

Now that I have retired, I have time to ponder many deep and philosophical imponderable stuff. I find myself wondering –

- Why, when you drop a small object on the floor it rolls to the furthest corner from you and under the largest piece of furniture.
- Why, when you are leaving the house does the phone always ring?
- Why, when the dentist begins to drill does your nose itch?
- Why, are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If flying is so safe, why do they call airports terminals?
- Why do supermarkets make their sick customers walk to the back of the store to get their prescriptions filled while healthy customers can buy cigarettes at the front?
- Why do people order double cheeseburgers and large fries and then a diet coke?
- Why does the sun lighten our hair and darken our skin?
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- Why don't you ever see the headline – "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- Why is abbreviated such a long word?
- Why is it that doctors and lawyers call what they do practice?
- Why isn't there mouse flavored cat food?
- Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- You know that indestructible black box used in airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that material?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the person who invests your money called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?
- Why do croutons come in airtight packages – aren't they stale bread to begin with?
- What hair color do they put on the driver's license of bald people?
- Mothers in the US feed their babies with little spoons and forks. Do mothers in China use toothpicks?
- Why do bank presidents leave their bank vault doors open and chain their pens to the counter?
- "Happy April 1<sup>st</sup>." Ole Retired Tom

## John's Jottings

Tell me about your options. You have them, don't you? You are considering doing something, making a decision. You review your options. How many do you have? How do you evaluate the risk of each? How many are satisfactory?

When you face a decision, do you always want more options? Do you wait, and wait, until your options change or improve? How do you tell when it is time to quit waiting?

Analyzing options, waiting for options, etc. is frequently a delightful way to procrastinate. Procrastinating is human. We want more information, we want to know all the facts. We delay because we think (hope) that tomorrow may present better choices. We procrastinate.

Procrastinators miss opportunities. Opportunities pass them by because they are waiting to see if a better one comes along tomorrow.

Imagine I go to my sailboat, rig the sails, and then sit in the cockpit with the lines attached to the cleats on the deck. You come along and see me sitting in the cockpit with the tiller in my hand but no other action. You ask, "What's up?" I say, "I'm considering my options." Should I go up river or down river? Or should I go across the river? If I wait another hour perhaps, the wind will be better. So, I wait.

Two or three hours later, you come back by and notice I haven't moved an inch. The winds flap the sails, the waves rock the boat, but I'm still "considering my options."

Is that similar to the way you handle some of your decisions? Still tied to the dock when you could be out sailing the ocean of business? Are you too afraid to make a decision and too embarrassed to admit it? So you say, "I am evaluating my options."

Advice - take a reasonable time to list and evaluate your options. Then, as the leader you are, make a decision and get moving. If it turns out that the future unfolds differently and you made the wrong decision, admit it - make a course correction and keep sailing!

Leaders are not politically correct procrastinators. They make decisions on a timely basis and are accountable for the results. They admit their mistakes, make corrections, and keep going.

As the leader you are, lead! Make that decision - move ahead.

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"You can correct the wrong decision – you cannot do anything with a non-decision." Anonymous

## The Coyote – Two Scenarios

The Governor of California is jogging with his dog. A coyote jumps out and attacks the Governor's dog, then bites the Governor.

1. The Governor starts to intervene, but reflects upon the movie "Bambi" and realizes he should stop because the coyote is only doing what is natural.
2. He calls Animal Control. Animal Control captures the coyote and bills the State \$200 for testing the coyote for disease and \$500 for relocating it.
3. He calls a veterinarian. The vet collects the dead dog and bills the State \$200 testing it for disease.
4. The Governor goes to a hospital and spends \$3,500 being checked for disease from the coyote and on getting his wound bandaged.
5. The running trail is shut down for 6 months while Fish & Game conduct a \$100,000 survey to make sure the area is now free of dangerous animals.
6. The Governor spends \$50,000 in state funds implementing a "coyote awareness program" for area residents.
7. The State Legislature spends \$2 million studying how to better treat rabies and how to permanently eradicate the disease throughout the world.
8. The Governor's security agent is fired for not stopping the attack. The State spends \$150,000 to hire and train a new agent with additional special training in the nature of coyotes.
9. PETA protests the coyote's relocation and files a \$5 million suit against the State, which is ongoing and will take \$3 million to defend.

The Governor of Texas is jogging with his dog. A Coyote jumps out and attacks his dog.

1. The Governor shoots the coyote with his State-issued pistol and keeps jogging. The Governor spends \$0.50 on a .45 ACP hollow point cartridge. The buzzards eat the dead coyote. And that is why California is broke and Texas is not.

### Did You Know?

The legs of an elephant all bend forward in the same direction. This is why the elephant can rise easily from the ground. No other quadruped is so made. Horses rise from the ground with their two front legs first. The cow rises from the ground with its two rear legs first. Each watermelon has an even number of stripes. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of grain has an even number of grains.

Every bunch of bananas has an even number of bananas on its lower row. It then alternates between an odd and even number of bananas on each row and each row decreases by one banana. The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather. Interesting!

### Once In A Lifetime

South African astronomer Dr. Lirpa Loof has announced that at 3:03 pm on April 1 a "once-in-a-lifetime" astronomical event will occur. The planet Pluto will pass behind Jupiter, temporarily causing a gravitational alignment that will lessen the Earth's own gravity. Dr. Loof said that if you jumped in the air at the precise moment - (3:03 - pm) – this planetary alignment occurs, you will experience a floating sensation. It will be 92 years before this planetary alignment will again reoccur. The Greenwich Observatory verified Dr. Loof's calculations. Worth a try. Don't forget to jump at 3:03!

### News Media

A Harley Biker was riding by the zoo in Washington, DC when he saw a little girl leaning into a lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabbed the girl's jacket and tried to pull her into the cage. The biker jumped off his Harley, ran to the cage, and hit the lion on the nose.

The lion jumped back, let go of the little girl, and the biker took her to her terrified parents. A reporter watched the whole event. The reporter approached the Harley rider and said, "Sir, that was the bravest thing I've ever seen a man do." The biker replied, "It was nothing, really, the lion was behind bars. I just saw this little kid in danger and did what was right."

The reporter said, "Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist and tomorrow's paper will have this story on the front page. So, what do you do for a living and what is your political affiliation?" The biker replied, "I'm a U.S. Marine and a Conservative."

The following morning the biker bought a paper and read, on the front page, "U.S. MARINE ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND STEALS HIS LUNCH."

"If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old." "If you want to read America's foremost humor publication - subscribe to the Congressional Record." "The person who thinks they know it all has simply stopped thinking," "The occupational disease of politicians is SPENDICITIS." Will Rogers