

“Sometimes even old dogs can learn new tricks”

What seems like a life time ago, past President Greg Christian switched to online auctions, stopped his weekly live auction, and sold his chairs to never go back to holding live in-house auctions.

When Covid hit, we were stopped in our tracks with live auctions. At the time, I was not ready to quit the business that I loved. Enter, now board member, Ray Caruso, with an offer I did not realize would keep Peg and I as busy as I wanted with the opportunity to continue helping folks as in the past but online. Like most set in his German ways, I did not jump at the chance to change. Enter past President Andy Imholte. Andy makes a personal call to me and says, “Have you considered Ray’s offer?” Now Andy happens to be our graphic designer AND oldest son, who has an amazing view of the world and knows a great offer. He said, decide if you want to stay active or not, like right now. I got off the phone with him and called Ray and found an amazing man that not only sees down the road, but across the country. Thank you, Ray and Andy, for your help and push to change. Your kindness exceeds what I deserve. And now the rest of the story.

Forty Three years ago was my first conference, back then called a convention. I was blown away by the education and sharing of the MSAA. The kindness of Pat Ediger, who raised his number when I lost where the bid was selling at the fun auction (I do know it was not his bid but he saved me), and to the president’s banquet sitting with Wayne Pike, Don Babbitt, Donny Wangen, and several others on Saturday night. I asked them, how do I get auctions from the well-established auctioneers in my area. Don replied, “Ya just got to out live ‘em”. Fast forward 40 years, I just outlived one of them however not his son. Now let me share something more. I have been trying to get them to come to a MSAA conference. Over the last three years with Covid they too had a struggle not doing online auctions. That has changed. This month they had their first online only auction. I thought I was set in my ways, I also thought they were too. As Greg once said, “Welcome to the dark side”. The MSAA is also changing. More members doing online auctions. A new website for the MSAA. A new president and representative

of District 10B. And a much lighter side too. Join us at conference in January and see for yourselves.

- Col Frank Imholte, MSAA EVP