The Incredible Power of Vision and Our Founding Fathers

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

-Peter Drucker

By Terry Hill
Terry is Club Vice President of Speakers at Denton County Pachyderm Club in Texas.

A positive vision is very simply a mental representation, or image in your mind’s eye, of your ideal future. Think of a vision like a light house that keeps you on course leading you on your journey to your hearts destination. Without a vision you become like a rudder-less ship without aim. A vision can also unleash enormous power, it is powerful because it acts as a compass to help you make your decisions easier and brings greater meaning to your life. A great vision propels people to be extraordinary.¹

Think of the great visionaries in history, people that have achieved greatness in the world, people like Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan and JFK. All great men and women of history have been guided by great visions. They were ordinary people who had the courage to dream big dreams, their visions encouraged them to take action and keep them on course. There is no question that a powerful vision brings out the greatness in people. It does this by projecting an upbeat mental image of the future, replacing fears and uncertainty with confidence, thus drawing you to what you want to achieve. Not having a vision on the other hand repels you from what you want to achieve replacing it with negative emotions such as fear and stress. Modern scientific research has confirmed that a lack of vision results in a negative impact on daily life. Andrew MacLeod Professor of clinical psychology at the University of London conducted research where his team interviewed people who survived suicide attempts to understand their motivations. Their surprising discovery was, it’s the lack of a positive vision, not the presence of a negative vision that drives people to attempt suicide. Many other research studies support MacLeod’s findings.² The lack of the anticipation of a positive event can be very damaging. It’s easy to see why it is important to have a positive vision of the future and the potential consequences of not having one.

America’s founding fathers are long gone but they understood the power of vision; their ideas of freedom, liberty and prosperity live on and have influenced the whole world. It is said that our country is on the wrong path in a sea of uncertainty and division. Perhaps all we need do is remember what the founding fathers stood for, perhaps the right blueprint for our country has been right here all along and we have strayed away from it. So what is your vision? For the country, for your career, for your life? What lights you up and puts energy in your life? Have you strayed away from what really makes you flourish?

On this day let us remember the words and deeds of the great men who founded our Nation and the powerful vision that they envisioned for all. Let us see them as role models to help us create visions that will truly lead us to human flourishing for us and our loved ones in the future.

¹. Moeller, Steve, Endorphinomics The Science of Human Flourishing. pp. 219-221
². Ibid pp. 218
THE BOARD PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

By John Wiemann, National President

It is amazing how things can change in two years. Remember after the November 2012 election when all of us were shocked and disappointed that President Obama was re-elected and the U.S. Senate remained under the Democrat Party control? In fact, many Republicans and conservatives were so disappointed with our candidates and the election results that many of them simply removed themselves from the party and any affiliated organization. Furthermore, the National Pachyderm’s membership declined by thirty percent in 2013 along with other Republican and conservative clubs across the country. In a nutshell, many grassroots conservatives and Republican supporters were so angered at the Republican Party and its leadership that they stayed home in protest in 2012.

Fast forward to this year to see a different picture with the November election results. It appears that a majority of American citizens have realized the Democratic Party and their leaders are providing poor leadership and allowing our country to spiral out of control. Everywhere you look we have serious problems! After the 2012 election it was obvious to most of us that our party and country desperately needed new leaders. The time for complaining and wishing for things to get better are over and now is the time to start practicing what we as Pachyderms believe, “Good Government requires Active Citizens.” While most Pachyderm members are active citizens in our respective communities, now is the time for all of us to step up our involvement and recruit our family and friends to join our cause. This can be achieved in a variety of ways. First, every member should be recruiting new members to join your local club. Second, attend every Pachyderm and Republican Party meeting possible. Third, pick one or two local government entities (i.e., school board, city government, fire district etc.) to follow closely and report back to your local club or circle of friends. Fourth, help recruit qualified individuals to run for public office. Fifth, support financially and physically any conservative Republican candidate that is running for office. Lastly, consider running for public office yourself.

In February of this year, I stepped up and filed to run for Missouri State Representative. Fortunately, with a lot of planning, hard work and support from my family, friends and many volunteers, I was able to win both a primary and general election. My decision to be an active citizen continues; however, my role has changed. As a newly elected official my first priority will be to serve my constituents. Second, but equally important, I will continue to help the Pachyderm Club along with the Republican Party to support good conservative candidates who wish to serve our great nation. As I reach the end of my time serving as National President for this great organization, I would encourage you to consider accepting a new leadership role in your local Pachyderm club or community. On behalf of the National Pachyderms, thanks for all you do, and I wish you and your family a happy and joyous New Year.

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Want to show your Pachyderm Pride?

Visit the online Pachyderm Store at store.pachyderms.org and check out our shirts, hats, awards, name badges, literature and gifts.
REMEMBERING COL. SAM ROBERTS

Col. Sam Roberts was a former National Pachyderm Board Member, Tough Tusk recipient and Founding member of the Five Valley’s Pachyderm Club.

MISSOULA – Colonel Sam Alfred Roberts, USAF (Ret), 95, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula surrounded by his loving family. To view full obituary, please visit http://missoulian.com/news/local/obituaries/sam-alfred-roberts/article_3a271958-4ca5-11e4-98b0-b7f3fadc18ec.html.

Below is a portion of an article written by Rob Chaney of the Missoulian. For the full article, including Col. Sam’s military stories please visit, http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/hometowns/western-montana-lives-col-sam-roberts-from-flying-bombing-raids/article_0ecfca6e-5265-11e4-9f03-ebc920eafe6c.html.

By Rob Chaney
Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs turned to Roberts when he was organizing Montana’s first Pachyderm Clubs in the 1980s. The clubs were an educational offshoot of the Republican Party Central Committee. Roberts started the Missoula chapter in 1988 and went on to be a state and national leader of the program.

“He brought his enthusiasm, and he was a man of strongly held beliefs – a very honorable and gentle soul,” Briggs said. “And he brought a great deal of organizational skill to the table. We went from one club to 11 clubs in a few years.”

Missoula Pachyderm Club co-founder Thelma Baker added that Roberts took special care to bring students to the club’s weekly luncheons, and paid for their meals.

“He was very good at working with youth,” Baker said. “And you’d always better wear a flag. He had extra ones in his pocket. And you better have it straight. He’d come right up to you and say ‘We have to straighten that out.’”

But the man who looked like he probably slept at attention hid a rapier wit under his parade dress. Pachyderm Clubs have an annual award called the “Tough Tusk” they give esteemed members. On a visit to Missoula for a club ceremony, Briggs realized he’d forgotten to bring his when Roberts came charging across the room.

“I thought, oh my God, I must be in trouble,” Briggs recalled. “I thought he was going to berate the heck out of me. I wasn’t in uniform, didn’t have my tusk on. It took several minutes before he started to crack a smile, then he started to laugh and took his tusk off and put it around my neck to wear that night.”

Briggs said Roberts would never accept the return of the tusk. Briggs went on to earn two more, including a national-level award which he presented to Roberts to replace his old one.

“I still have the original Tough Tusk that Sam was awarded,” Briggs said. “The one that I always wear is the one that Sam gave me.”

While the National Pachyderm Federation does not require local clubs to say a prayer during their meetings. For those clubs that elect to do so, enclosed is a basic prayer that may be used to give praise to God.

Pachyderm Prayer

God of all goodness, through the breaking of bread together,
you strengthen the bonds that unite us.

May our lips praise you, and our lives proclaim your goodness,
our work give you honor and our voice celebrate you forever.

Amen.
Glacier Country Pachyderms (MT) Refresh Republicans at Local Air Show

Glacier Country Pachyderms sponsored a tent on the flight line for the Mountain Madness Air Show featuring the USAF Thunderbirds. The tent was used for friends to get in out of the sun (and at times rain!) and for GOP candidates to display their information. It was a welcome addition to the hospitality of the event. The Club supplied bottled water with Pachyderm labels (shown below). The water that was not used at the Air Show was used at the local GOP Headquarters where a number of volunteers worked who were not familiar with Pachyderms; so it was a great marketing tool!

Pictured above is the Glacier Country Pachyderm Club’s tent and signs featuring Phil Mitchell, Candidate for County Commissioner who won his election by a wide margin, Steve Daines who is the first Republican US Senator to hold the seat in over 100 years and Ryan Zinke who prevailed in the race for Montana’s lone Congressional seat. Zinke (Former Commander of Seal Team Six) and Mitchell are members of the Glacier Country Pachyderm Club.

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Jefferson County Pachyderms converged at the Schroeder Sod Farm on Sunday, October 10th and with the help of Captain America installed a large display of Candidate signs as well as Pachyderms (in front of each sign). Thanks to Linda Schroeder and all the club members who helped with the display.
It is our belief that most of the corrupting influences in American politics could be erased and the government generally made more responsive by one basic improvement. That is, simply for more good citizens to participate in politics. “We get the government we deserve, not the one we wish for,” remains a guide star for a free people. We offer a meaningful movement of political Clubs as the most practical means by which broad citizen participation may be achieved.