

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



Leave a message at the BEEP I like to think I am reasonably well-spoken. I like to think lots of things. If you've read my column you know I make up words and use punctuation more for decoration than functionality. So what? Artistic license! I have a large vocabulary, back off!

I've always tended toward the verbose or as I believe many have said, "Kent, quit talking"! More than likely it was "shut up" but I was being polite to myself. I know that many kids get rewarded for good grades when they are in school. Oh I got good grades but I only got my reward was if the box on the report card "needs to control talking" was not checked. Vive le difference!

So, I'm talkative and like to communicate...why is it that I can't leave an intelligible voice mail? Of course, most of the time I am one of those people who the recording cuts off because I talked too long. Even if I tell myself just ask for a call back when that beep sounds I might end up talking about World War I when I all I wanted to know was what time do you want to meet for dinner?

I either start talking non-stop or I go blank. I then sound like English is my second language. Some of my friends have called back asking if I had a stroke or something it was so garbled. What makes matters worse is I realize once I'm into the message how dumb I sound which only

makes things worse.

I once was leaving a message for someone giving them their user name and password for one of our on-line services. Gave them username then explained that the password was this number combination and your last name...I said "your last name is spelled XXXXX". Really? You just told them how to spell their OWN last name. Of course, I realized what I had just done and began to laugh hysterically which was left on the message too.

I also remember calling someone for an article and leaving a message about their daughter who is an only child. I proceed to tell them I'd like to know more about their daughter then proceeded to tell them her name. "You know your daughter". Thankfully, they knew me and found it quite amusing.

I think there must be something in that BEEP that puts a shock into my brain. Okay, it puts a shock into the hamster on the wheel in my head who takes a short break from running. I have had friends, in name only, save my messages and play them back to me. There is no need for that kind of behavior. It upsets the hamster. BEEP!

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



Spring Cleaning - You Gotta Start Somewhere

I started my cleaning yesterday, beginning with my sock drawer. Since my children like to borrow my socks, whether I know it or not, I have had to resort to hiding my favorite socks in my underwear drawer, so there are actually very few socks in my sock drawer now.

In the drawer, though, I found 3 flashlights, 4 Christmas presents I forgot to give to family members, 2 brand new tubes of lip balm, 9 used AA batteries, 7 assorted pocket knives, 8 packs of gum, 1 porcupine quill, 17 greeting cards that I received throughout the year, 5 bottles of nail polish, a green rabbit's foot, a battery charger for a camera I no longer have, 4 old cell phones, 2 dog sweaters, a back scratcher, 9 tubes of assorted creams and ointments, a duck call, a highlighter, a scarf, a candle, 2 screwdrivers, a computer disk, a Nintendo DS game, a keychain, a handheld fan, a Christmas ornament, a Barbie doll head, a broken pair

of scissors, a plastic grasshopper, and 31 cents in change. Oh, and a few Milk Duds lightly coated with fibrous membranes that appeared to be a Kleenex.

I'm sure there is a good reason why every one of those items ended up in my sock drawer, but right now, well - I got nothing. I'm just glad that at least once a year I can give it a thorough cleaning and can find appropriate places for all of those items.

That is one of the keys to organization: a place for everything; and everything in its place. Sometimes that place is the garbage can.

Now I am about as creative as they come, and resourceful to a fault. I'm a middle-kid, so hand-me-downs, making-do, and re-new and re-use are all terms that I am quite comfortable with. But even I know that I can't keep everything, no matter how useful it can be. I know I have a tendency to hold onto things but I also love the clean and simple look of a minimalistic lifestyle. So whenever I need a little push

to get refocused into purging and decluttering my house, I watch an episode of Hoarders on T.V. and I'm ready to throw everything out!

With spring comes life, excitement, and change. Inside your house you should also feel a difference. Spring cleaning doesn't have a monumental task to dread. Start small, with one drawer at a time, then move to a table, then to a book shelf.

Birds don't build and feather their nests all in one day. They take time to do it right placing each stick carefully in place, weaving it into those around it. So have a happy spring.

DEADLINES

Classified Friday @ 4pm
News-Friday @ noon
Ads- Friday @ noon

Heritage School Board cont'd from pg. 1

association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member.

(13) Conciliation of complaints of discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, when closed meetings are authorized by the law or ordinance prescribing fair housing practices and creating a commission or administrative agency for their enforcement.

(14) Informant sources, the hiring or assignment of undercover personnel or equipment, or ongoing, prior or future criminal investigations, when discussed by a public body with criminal investigatory responsibilities.

(15) Professional ethics or performance when considered by an advisory body appointed to advise a licensing or regulatory agency on matters germane to the advisory body's field of competence. (16) Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.

(17) The recruitment, credentialing, discipline or formal peer review of physicians or other health care professionals for a hospital, or other institution providing medical care, that is operated by the public body.

(18) Deliberations for decisions of the Prisoner Review Board.

(19) Review or discussion of applications received under the Experimental Organ

Transplantation Procedures Act.

(20) The classification and discussion of matters classified as confidential or continued confidential by the State Government Suggestion Award Board.

(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

(22) Deliberations for decisions of the State Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Review Board.

(23) The operation by a municipality of a municipal utility or the operation of a municipal power agency or municipal natural gas agency when the discussion involves

(i) contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas or (ii) the results or conclusions of load forecast studies.

(24) Meetings of a residential health care facility resident sexual assault and death review team or the Executive Council under the Abuse Prevention Review Team Act.

(25) Meetings of an independent team of experts under Brian's Law.

(26) Meetings of a mortality review team appointed under the Department of Juvenile Justice Mortality Review Team Act.

(27) (Blank).

(28) Correspondence and records (i) that may not be

disclosed under Section 11-9 of the Public Aid Code or (ii) that pertain to appeals under Section 11-8 of the Public Aid Code.

(29) Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America.

(30) Those meetings or portions of meetings of a fatality review team or the Illinois Fatality Review Team Advisory Council during which a review of the death of an eligible adult in which abuse or neglect is suspected, alleged, or substantiated is conducted pursuant to Section 15 of the Adult Protective Services Act.

(31) Meetings and deliberations for decisions of the Concealed Carry Licensing Review Board under the Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

(32) Meetings between the Regional Transportation Authority Board and its Service Boards when the discussion involves review by the Regional Transportation Authority Board of employment contracts under Section 28d of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act and Sections 3A.18 and 3B.26 of the Regional Transportation Authority Act.

(d) Definitions. For purposes of this Section: "Employee" means a person employed by a public body whose relationship with the public body constitutes an employer-employee relationship under the usual common law rules, and who is not an independent contractor. "Public office" means a position created by or under the Constitution or laws of this State, the occupant of which is charged with the exercise of some portion of the sovereign power of this State. The term "public office" shall include members of the public body, but it shall not include organizational positions filled by members thereof, whether established by law or by a public body itself, that exist to assist the body in the conduct of its business. "Quasi-judicative body" means an administrative body charged by law or ordinance with the responsibility to conduct hearings, receive evidence or testimony and make determinations based thereon, but does not include local electoral boards when such bodies are considering petition challenges.

(e) Final action. No final action may be taken at a closed meeting. Final action shall be preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter being considered and other information that will inform the public of the business being conducted.

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1807 County Road 1000N
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