

Let's Aim High and Act Accordingly



By T. Patrick Hurley

It's no surprise that we all expect more, and 2006 will be no exception. Most expect the economy to hold steady, deals to flow, hard work to pay off, people to notice, and maybe even a little luck to come our way.

You know the drill. It applies to all of us. Desirable growth rarely happens on its own. Change usually requires some discomfort, and it's true that we can always do at least a little better. Expectations are high for ACG in each city and system-wide, and that is how it should be.

There is much to be excited about in 2006 — the array and variety of more than 600 monthly meetings, splinter functions, InterGrowth, Capital Connections, regional conferences, jointly hosted events, and other occasions. Every one of those gatherings will be judged by high, self-imposed standards.

Hundreds of your fellow members commit enormous personal time to making those events sparkle and be highly valuable to colleagues close to home or visiting from other chapters. You are probably one of those contributors and well aware of how powerful the collective energy of ACG can be.

Please make an effort this year to devote some mind space to helping your chapter be well connected to ACG as a whole. That will improve the odds of strengthening and leveraging the association's value to the benefit of all members.

Dan Varroney has earned the respect of chapter leadership as our CEO. He has a vision that is supported by the main board, which is now controlled by chapter representatives from the five regions across North America and Europe. Let's all join in that support and each do all that we can to take ACG to the next level.

We all appreciate how ACG fits into our own plans. There are also many ways that we can fit into ACG's plans and reap additional benefits. Invite more of your colleagues to participate in chapter activities. Take a risk and invite someone you might not ordinarily think would be a natural for ACG to accompany you to an event or two.

Announce your firm's accomplishments through advertisements in this magazine. Share your copy of *Mergers & Acquisitions* with someone who would help balance membership in your chapter and promote diversity. Reflect on whether you have a topic for an article in this publication and call headquarters to run it up the flagpole.

Throw your name into the hat as available to join a system-wide committee that would benefit from your expertise and involvement. There is a wealth of information in the Chapter Leadership area of the website, and new blood is always welcome.

Embrace the current initiatives to enhance the ACG technology platform and regular communi-

cations. Ask your chapter leaders to be aware of these and other priority items and to keep the chapter informed of developments.

Of course we are all busy, and there is never enough time for all the demands on our time. Just the same, we all make choices about how best to use our precious time and other resources. ACG is a good choice.

Dan Varroney is a strong leader and a fully accountable CEO. He has a capable and dedicated staff. Transparency is assured for decision-making and financial discipline. We will not be resource-constrained if we selectively leverage the strength of ACG as a local *and* global association.

There is plenty to do, and rich rewards to be gained from the effort. I encourage you to think big and take action in your own way.

Thank you very much.

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