Auctioneer

APRIL 2016

Online negativity: How and when to respond



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Spanky Assiter NAA President

National Auctioneers **Association President** Spanky Assiter, CAI, AARE, has a long history with the NAA since joining the Association in 1985. Now a life member. Assiter won the NAA IAC title in 1991 - the same year he won the Texas State Champion Auctioneer crown. His first tenure with the NAA Board of Directors, as a Director, came in 1994.

In the summer of 2007, Assiter's global impact on the auction industry was recognized when he became one of the youngest inductees into the NAA's Hall of Fame and TAA Hall of Fame.

He is Chairman and Founder of Assiter Auctioneers in Canyon, Texas, where he makes his home with his family.

2016 Conference and **Show: Make it Happen!**

began attending NAA conventions in the late 1980s. My first one was in California, and I went to Florida the next year. I missed the first IAC competition that NAA held, but when I came back and began competing. I was hooked.

Winning the International Auctioneers Championship changed my career. It changed because winning introduced me to companies who were willing to hire me based on the skills I displayed in this contest. But, that's not all I received from this event. I met people there important people to me then and now. These people have helped me grow my business. These people have helped me grow in my business, and these people have helped me grow as an individual. I am who I am today, in part, because of these people.

The 67th International Auctioneers Conference and Show will start Tuesday, July 18, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Registration opened last month, and, already, we are seeing excited people. They know that when they come to this event, they are going to leave with better business skills and more connections than when they started the week.

Many people say they can't afford to come. This year, the National Auctioneers Foundation will grant four scholarships to individuals (see page 26 for more information). There are many other ways that might make it affordable:

- 1) NAA accepts payment plans. You can divide your registration into thirds!
- 2) Can you drive to Grand Rapids?
- 3) We want you to stay in the Headquarters hotel, but there is an option - we have secured some rooms for you at Courtyard by Marriott - that is \$20/night less expensive.

- 4) Are you a part of a loyalty program for a hotel or airline? Check out to see if you can use "points" to offset part of your expenses.
- 5) Share a room. Look for a friend to go with you and share expenses.

There are lots of ways to make this work. But, it won't fall into your lap - you need to (as my friend Mike Jones, CAI, GPPA, from Texas says) "Make It Happen!"

Go to conferenceandshow.com today and register! I know you will be glad you did!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for helping celebrate National Auctioneers Week.

Many of you joined us on social media and helped make our friends and family aware of this awesome profession and our role in it through the #AuctionsWork and #NAAPro campaigns.

As you read in last month's issue of *Auctioneer*, we believe this type of viral marketing will promote our work in ways we have never been able to do before. But, it will continue to work only if you help us. Please keep telling everyone that #AuctionsWork, especially when managed an #NAAPro! ❖









COVER: How to handle online negativity

When someone makes a rude or even wrong comment about us or our business, we want to respond, immediately. There's a right way and wrong way to engage those people.

FEATURES & NEWS

2016 NAA election

The NAA Nominating Committee has announced its endorsements for July's election.

26 states represented at NAA **State Leadership Conference**

Leaders exchanged info and ideas in Kansas City.

How to build your media list There are budget-friendly ways to build a list. But, what do you do with it after that?

10 ways to lessen work stress Battling fires, making everything an immediate priority ... what else stresses you? Let's look.

'CAI: Next' quick-hits attendees The experience was like trying to drink the Mississippi River through a straw.

How to make your hashtag 36 successful

You have a new hashtag, but how do you get the public to see it? We have a trick or two for you.

#NAACS16 education courses to take 'deeper dives'

> Attendees have asked for classes to go deeper into topics. That wish will be granted in Grand Rapids.

Is content marketing ripping its jeans?

A study says the strategy is stuffing content channels past effectiveness despite more options.

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BUSINESS PRACTICES

With estate authority, it's state by state

> With regard to estates, death generally does not automatically create an estate or transfer property.

FACES OF NAA

The complete package Young, bold, and wanting to make a difference, Sara Adams is finding ways to influence the industry.

Be a friend to the media

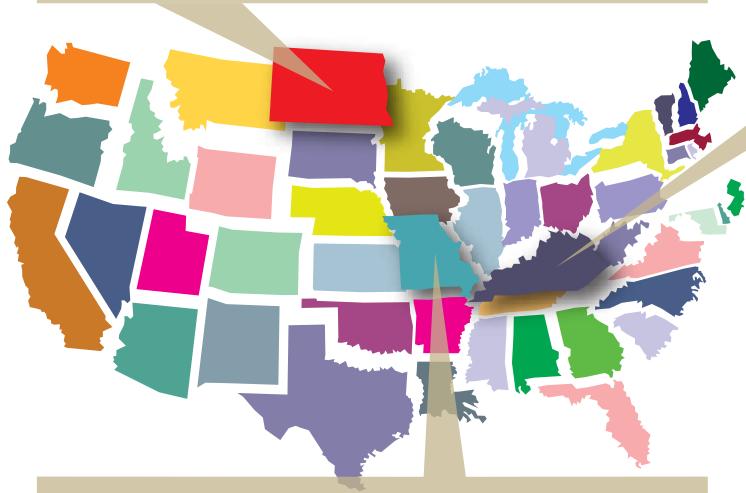
Many media professionals are overworked and uncertain about their own futures. Help them by making their experience with you an easy one.

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State watch

NORTH DAKOTA

Nearly 80 attended the North Dakota Auctioneers Association's annual convention, held Feb. 4-6, and watched Mitchell Siemers top a field of 13 to win the state's bid-calling championship. Results of the annual electioN: Directors – Mike Ostrem; Glenn Trautman II; Jay Temchack.



MISSOURI

Nearly 80 members of the Missouri Professional Auctioneers Association met in St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 19-21. The strong group soaked in presentations on real estate, from vendors, and from NAA Director Scott Shuman, CAI.

Eight competitors emerged from a field of 17 as preliminary winners in the state's bid-calling championship. Among the group were NAA members Jeff Pittman; Andrew Shetler; Toney Thornhill, CAI, BAS; Jeff Garber; and Chad Shepard.

KENTUCKY

The 59th Annual KAA convention entertained 106 registrants in Louisville. NAA Leadership was well-represented as President Spanky Assiter, CAI, AARE; Treasurer Devin Ford, CAI, CES; and Director David Whitley, CAI, CES, all were present as featured speakers. NAA member Junior Staggs earned the 2016 Kentucky Bid Calling Championship title and will represent the KAA at the NAA International Auctioneer Championship this July in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

NAA members took home other deserved honors as Cliff-Ed Irvin was inducted into the KAA Hall of Fame, William Kurtz, CAI, received the Lifetime Achievement Award; and, Steve Cherry, CAI, CES, took home Auctioneer of the Year.

Results of the annual election: President – Tim Haley, CAI, CES; President-Elect – David Meade; Vice President – Russell Mills; (new) Directors – Amy Whistle, CAI; Shawn Willard, CAI; Paul Playforth, CAI, AARE, CES; Chris Wilson, CAI, CES.

Prior to the conference, 18 attendees graduated from the NAA CES designation course.

Do you have information about your state you'd like to share? Contact memberservices@auctioneers.org









2016 NAA Election

The NAA Nominating Committee has announced its endorsements for 2016.

By NAA Staff

he NAA Nominating Committee has concluded its work for the 2016 election and endorses a total of four candidates for three NAA Board of Directors positions – Vice President and two Directors (three candidates).

According to the NAA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee may endorse up to two candidates per position.

The following candidates will be running for election to the 2016-2017 NAA Board of Directors at #NAACS16 in Grand Rapids this July: Vice President: Scott Shuman, CAI; Director: Trisha Brauer, CAI, BAS; Scott King, CAI, AARE, ATS; Denise Rinaldi; and Jason Winter, CAI, AARE, ATS, CES.

The election will be held at the annual meeting on July 21, 2016, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Absentee ballots will be available on May 2, 2016, for members only, at auctioneers.org. Ballots must be received in the NAA office by the end of business Friday, July 1, in a sealed envelope with the member's name and member number on the outside of the envelope. Individuals who vote by absentee ballot and then decide they wish to vote in person may request their ballot be returned prior to the closing of the polls on July 21.

Nominating Committee members: Tom Saturley, CAI, Chair, NAA Past President; Spanky Assiter, CAI, AARE, NAA President; Mike Jones,, CAI, BAS, GPPA, Foundation Vice President; Peter Gehres, CAI, CES, EI Trustees Vice-chair; Bill Sheridan, CAI, AARE, GPPA, NAA Past President, NAA Hall of Fame, Michigan Auctioneers Association Past President. ❖



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There's one fantastic way to respond to online reviews, and it isn't defending yourself or your business against trolls.

By James Myers, contributor

onsumers have many options for sharing their opinions about their interaction with businesses today, and it can be a good thing – or a really bad thing – for business owners, including auction professionals, if the opinions being shared are negative and go unanswered.

No longer is word of mouth the predominant medium for consumers to use in talking up or talking down the way you handled your last auction or how your employees treated clients and/or potential clients; there is now a seemingly inexhaustible list of digital mediums where opinions are easily shared. Therefore, Auctioneers need to take a proactive approach that marketers refer to as "reputation management."

Unfortunately, the Internet has given rise to a dreadful segment of the online population known as "trolls." These are people who look







While trolling can be amusing or even fun at times from a distance, knowing how to handle such instances when your own business is involved is vital. In short, engage those individuals away from your social or public feeds.

for any opportunity to post inflammatory comments in an effort to incite a reaction. They are generally fairly easy to spot, and responding to them should be avoided, at least in a public forum.

Brian Sparker, head of content marketing at ReviewTrackers, a company that assists clients in tracking online comments and reviews, said worrying about trolls shouldn't be a priority. For instance, he points out that around 67 percent of reviews on Yelp, a crowd-sourced review site, are positive with four and five star ratings being the norm. Sparker said that statistic is consistent with other sites his company monitors.

"Sleuth it out yourself," said Sparker of qualifying reviews from potential trolls. "Ask for their phone number and say, 'I'd like to talk to you about what happened.' Follow up in a good customer service way."

There are also consumers who will run to their computer or mobile device to immediately lash out after they've been sold a subpar product or believe they've been mistreated. These are reviews that can hurt your business if you don't respond appropriately. However, Sparker said the biggest mistakes brands make is when they try to defend their company or their actions.

"It spirals out of control," Sparker said of the interaction that isn't handled appropriately. "(The conversation) is online and in a public forum and it's not recommended. Apologize and take the conversation offline because it's not a good idea to converse with an angry customer in a public forum."

While Sparker is a proponent of dealing with angry customers in a less public manner, he said it is also important to update the status of the issue for current and future viewers of the thread.

"Follow up after the issue has been resolved to deter negative feedback later on," he said, adding that the follow up can be the difference between making a sale or provoking further negative commentary that hurts your brand.

In some cases, the reviewer is overreacting, misstating facts

or fabricating facts to bolster their situation. In other cases, they have valid complaints that deserve an explanation and an apology. Both situations deserve your attention.

Instead of jumping into a defensive mode when criticism lands at your front door, look at it as a way to improve your business while also following through on your reputation management plan.

What you can do

Consider these tips as you work out your online review response strategy:

Respond promptly, but only if you can do so without emotion. It's natural to be upset/mad/infuriated by a critical opinion that anyone visiting the site can see. Resist the urge to make the response until you can do so without emotion, because writing your response while angry/hurt will probably escalate the situation.

Some reviews are factually incorrect and should be responded to quickly. In a professional manner, write a point-by-point response that lays out all the reasons the review is incorrect, and don't make it personal.

Never create a fake account or a new persona to defend your business. Getting caught doing this can seriously affect your credibility.

Be knowledgeable of the platform through which you are interacting. For instance, Reddit has a culture all its own, leaving new users to feel like a bit of an outsider. Jumping into a thread in a group you're not familiar with can prove ineffective at best and damaging to your brand at worst.

Never lie. Responding to a review with deception will attract more detractors and ultimately cause more damage than what originally existed. Honesty is always the best course of action.

Yelp offers business page owners the opportunity to respond to

negative reviews through email, which is a good option for sensitive issues that need to be handled offline. However, once the issue is settled, update the status in the public forum.

Don't ignore bad reviews that have merit. Even the seemingly insignificant bad reviews can get legs and go to places that will do your business no good. Enter the conversation, get it on track, and work toward resolution.

Be empathetic and apologetic (if necessary) in your response to the specific issues where the client is unhappy. This will ensure that you're not taking a defensive tone and that you're an actual concerned human being, not a business owner simply running damage control.

Offer a solution to the problem. Start by researching the issue that prompted the negative review, respond with your findings, and offer a solution.

Use technology to help monitor your online reputation. There are a number of vendors offering technology that helps you gain insights into what is being said online about your company. Examples include Bright Local, ReviewTrackers, Chat Meter, and Vendasta, to name a few.

When should you respond?

There is some debate about how often a business should respond to reviews. One school of thought is that you're better off picking your battles while others believe responding to every review follows best practices. Sparker is firmly in the camp of the latter.

"There are a lot of benefits to responding and not a lot of benefits for ignoring bad reviews," he said. "Following up shows you have good customer support. It can change a lot of viewpoints."

User reviews are increasingly important, according to a survey by Econsultancy, a marketing research organization. The survey found that consumer reviews are trusted about 12x more than company descriptions of their products/services. Responding to online reviews might seem like a marketing task unrelated to the "real" work that Auctioneers spend the majority of their day focused upon, but the digital medium of communication isn't going away.

It can be an overwhelming task, especially for Auctioneers that have thus far avoided any social media site, including the ubiquitous Facebook, which is why it might be a good idea to bring in third party to help you with your reputation management strategy. Or, talk to fellow Auctioneers about how they approach online reviews. ❖

Consumer reviews are trusted about 12x more than company descriptions of their products/services.





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A stellar group of state leaders from across the nation were all smiles during the NAA State Leadership Conference in Kansas City.

26 states represented at NAA's State Leadership Conference

State leaders from over half the country learned through sessions and from each other in Kansas City.

By NAA Staff

r. Leonard M. Young's questions hung in the air above more than 60 state and National Auctioneers Association leaders last month in Kansas City, Missouri.

Each true-or-false question, built to demonstrate a person's knowledge level of true parliamentary procedure, drew a hesitant, mixed bag of replies and set the stage for Dr. Young, Parliamentarian, to kick off a deep, two-day learning session, March 7-8, for an auction industry leadership group representing 26 states.

Mixing in humor and interesting facts along the way, Dr. Young guided the room through several definitions and procedural topics as described in "Robert's Rules of Order." For example, he explained the reason that names are not used when being recognized to speak in Board settings is to keep things impersonal and on-task.

"It's not about you. It's about what's best for the assembly," Dr. Young said.

He also said it is best in assemblies to use a standing vote versus voices (it's harder to hear a majority because "No" votes tend to be louder in general) or even raising hands, which eliminates the possibility of someone using two arms to vote. "It's one body versus two arms," Dr. Young said.

Hosted by the NAA and headlined by Dr. Young's two-hour keynote session, the State Leadership Conference, in its 13th edition, marked substantial growth in attendance and engagement as attendees also soaked in sessions highlighting business planning for state associations, round-table discussions, a quick-hit "what's happening in NAA", and promotions.

In the promotions segment, NAA Promotions Committee Chair and NAA Board Director Tim Mast, CAI, AARE, unveiled full details of the #AuctionsWork and #NAAPro social media campaign that began during National Auctioneers Week. It was a key time to fill in state influencers and make sure they were prepared and ready to help deliver the campaign's message that auctions work, especially when managed by an NAA auction professional. �



What attendees said about SLC

"I feel this conference is critical for states that want to learn all the tools the NAA offers to help them run their orgs and engage their membership. Plus, they can learn from the experiences of the other associations- what is working and what isn't."

"As someone aspiring to state leadership it was a wonderfully eye opening experience. It was great to see how auction professionals from all aspects of the industry and association positions were able to network and learn from each other. This a great event for associations who are either looking to improve their reach and hold on existing members or those who understand the need to stay ahead of the trends and challenges that will be facing our members and our industry."

"Best conference yet. I really appreciated the content from the Dr. Young - really nuts-and-bolts valuable unlike more motivational topics from years past." Dr. Leonard M. Young, Parliamentarian, explains true meeting procedure to the SLC audience. One of the biggest lessons from Dr. Young came when he explained why titles are used to recognize speakers during a meeting as opposed to a person's name: "It's not about you. It's about what's best for the assembly."









Kurt Bachman Attorney and licensed Auctioneer from LaGrange, Ind. He can be reached at (260) 463-4949 or krbachman@ beersmallers.com.

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With estate authority, it's state by state

With regard to estates, death generally does not automatically create an estate or transfer property to someone else.

Question: How should an Auctioneer verify the seller's authority to sell items at an auction when the seller is an estate or a trust?

Answer: The situation comes up often, An individual comes to an Auctioneer to sell real or personal property at auction that was owned by someone who has recently died. Sometimes it is after he or she talked to an attorney and have everything in order, but sometimes it is before an estate has been opened.

he laws relating to estates and trusts vary greatly from state to state, so Auctioneers must use caution. If an Auctioneer regularly handles sales for estates or trusts, he or she should contact an attorney to become familiar with the requirements of the state's law. There are some general steps that can be considered, however.

With regard to estates, when someone passes away, it generally does not automatically create an estate or transfer property to someone else. There are exceptions such as paid on death (POD) accounts, transfer on death (TOD), and jointly owned property with rights of survivorship. If a husband and wife own their home jointly with rights of survivorship, for example, and the husband passes away, then the wife will automatically take full ownership of the home.

There are things that should generally be done, however, even in this situation. For example, a title company may require an affidavit of

survivorship from wife providing information about the death of her husband.

In Indiana, for example, there are three different types of estates. These three types of estates are the following: (1) small estates (for estates with a fair market value of less than \$50,000); (2) unsupervised estates (where the court has little oversight and involvement); and (3) supervised estates (where the court monitors things and oversees the distribution). For unsupervised estates, the personal representative generally has the authority to sell the property.

As part of the Auctioneer's due diligence, he or she can ask for copies of the order appointing an individual as the personal representative and the personal representative's letter. For supervised estates, the court will have to approve and authorize the personal representative to sell the property. In this situation, an Auctioneer can obtain a copy of the order authorizing the sale.

So, when an Auctioneer is contacted by someone

Asking questions like these will allow you to gather the information to determine what actions have been taken and help you verify whether you the individual you are speaking with has authority to sell the items.

whose parent or spouse recently passed away to sell items, there are questions an Auctioneer should ask (see sidebar).

Asking questions like these will allow you to gather the information to determine what actions have been taken and help you verify whether you the individual you are speaking with has authority to sell the items.

What issues and questions should Auctioneers think about when someone comes to them to sell property owned by a trust? Generally, Auctioneers should obtain a copy of the trust or the trust certificate to prove the existence of the trust and determine the identity of the trustee(s). Is there just one trustee or more than one? If it is more than one individual, all of the trustees should sign the auction contract.

To the extent possible, try to verify whether the property has been transferred to the trust. How was it transferred? For real estate, there should be a deed. For automobiles the trust would be referenced on the certificate of title. Is there some documentation that shows the asset was transferred to the trust? When in doubt, check with the attorney who drafted the trust instrument and examine the documents to confirm whether the property was transferred to the trust, whether the trustee has authority to sell the property, and who needs to sign the auction contract. �

Who has authority? Find out using these questions.

- What property do you want sold?
- Who owned the property?
- How was it owned?
- When did the decedent pass away?
- May I have a copy of the death certificate?
- Have you spoke with an attorney? If so, who?
- Has an estate been opened?
- If so, when was the estate opened?
- What type (such as the supervised or unsupervised) of estate?
- Who was appointed as the personal representative?
- May I have a copy of the personal representative letters?
- Is there an inventory of the estate?
- Is there a court order authorizing the sale of the property?



By Carl Carter, APR, ATS

Carl Carter is President of NewMediaRules Communications. which has provided public relations and marketing communications services to auction companies throughout the U.S. since 1994.

Be a friend to media

Many media professionals are overworked and uncertain about their own futures, so help them by making their experience with you an easy one.

he first time I saw the *Miami Herald*'s fabulous offices on Biscayne Bay, I was riding to an appointment with an auction professional client who had an interview there.

I'd had my nose buried in an early-generation GPS gadget and almost missed it, when the client pointed at the famous location.

"Think that might be it?" he asked, pointing to the massive structure jutting out over the bay. After the interview, as we were leaving, he added, "I bet that's gone in a few years."

His prediction was right on target: Three years ago, owner McClatchy Company sold the building and moved the journalists to a much smaller location in Doral, Florida.

It's a story that's being repeated all over the country, as financially strapped newspapers try to raise cash by selling their real estate. The Cleveland Plain Dealer did it. So did The Birmingham News and the Newark Star-Ledger. Tribune Media just told stock analysts it plans to get more aggressive in selling its buildings, including the Tribune Tower in Chicago and Times Mirror Square in Los Angeles. Digital Media put 51 newspaper offices on the market a couple of years ago.

You get the idea.

But, why am I bothering you with this stuff? Because it tells us a lot about how to promote auctions through the people who used to work in these places. Auction press releases can be very effective, but we need to understand the other forces at work.

What happens after you hit send

So, you've sent a press release to a reporter. Here's what she's up against. She's seen half her editors disappear in the past few years – especially the more experienced ones. A while back, somebody told her to empty her desk and take home the pictures of her kids and pups, because she isn't allowed her own personal desk any more.

So, she now reports to an office being rented over a department store out in the suburbs. She carries a laptop in her backpack, and if she's lucky she may be allowed a locker to keep some files in. She settles at one of the empty, lifeless community work stations and gets a report that her four pieces of content (they rarely talk about stories any more) yesterday didn't get their quota of clicks. That's bad news, because she's now paid based on clicks.

And, she's not even sure she'll get to stay there long. Some newspapers are suggesting reporters work from a local coffee shop with free Wi-Fi.

Things aren't much better across town at the local TV station. Local TV stations are still holding their own, but most have only a handful of reporters, and their salaries average about \$31,000. They may be on TV every day, but they probably make a fraction of what you do. And, like newspaper reporters, they're being pressured to do several stories a day - and work the social media to generate clicks.

If you're hoping for them to spend the day touring the property you're selling, you may have a pretty big challenge. The property needs to be convenient to the station, because they can't devote much time to a story. Your best hope is usually a "one man band" – a camera person without the reporter. That usually works, though. Just do everything you can to keep the journalist's visit short. If he or she has to wait around, their assignment editor may tell them to move on to the next story.

But, things aren't hopeless. One overlooked opportunity is the local business journal. These remain fairly healthy, because most of them never gave away their news for free. As a result, they still have subscribers helping pay the bills. The staffs aren't huge, but if you have a good business angle to your story, your chances are pretty good here.

Give the news a no-nonsense straight-news angle, and get to the point right away. The business journals usually have a link on

their sites that will let you submit your story. Impersonal as this may seem, it tends to increase your chances. But, if you happen to know somebody on the staff well enough to send a personal email, by all means do it. But, only do it once and don't hold a grudge if your story isn't picked up.

Why is that last part important?

Because with all the changes that media have gone through recent years, one constant remains: Reporters and editors hate being pressured, nagged, or threatened. Tell your best story. Make it easy for them, and offer it up. Beyond that, it's in the reporter's court. And, if you press too hard, you may not be welcome next time. ��



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Ambassador Spotlight

Name:

Col. John John Genovese, ATS, BAS

Who I represent:

Malama Auctions & Appraisals LLC

Where I'm from: Lihue, Hawai'i

What about your membership in NAA do you value most?

I always tell people the best part of being a member of the NAA is the CRAMPS: Comradery, Referrals, Advice, Motivation, Purpose & Sincerity.

My membership is by far the most valuable business asset I have.





How to build your media list

There are budget-friendly ways to build a media list. But, what do you with it after that?

By James Myers, contributor

In the marketing world, getting a media organization to publish or air information about your business or an upcoming auction is considered "earned media."

etting the word out about your next auction is important, but equally important is impressing the value of your overall brand on the public.

If that sentence sounds like it came from a marketing professional, it's because we're talking about marketing your business, so your clients have more interested buyers showing up at your auctions.

In the marketing world, getting a media organization to publish or air information about your business or an upcoming auction is considered "earned media." It's earned because instead of paying for advertising, the media outlet(s) consider the information you're sharing with them to be of interest to the general public, and it becomes news.

However, you have to know to whom to send your information, and you need to build up a media distribution list that makes it quick and easy to send your information. A media distribution list is simply a compilation of the contact information for the media in your city, county, state or across the entire nation, and it may include journalists in print, radio, online and television.

Start those relationships

Regardless of your opinion of the media, it's important to remember that building relationships with them can lead to more business for you. For example, if the media outlet is ever doing a news piece about the auction industry and they want to interview an auction professional, they will think of you. Being quoted in the article or interviewed for television or radio gets your name out there, and it can pull in more business for your company.

Thanks to the Internet, building a media distribution list is fairly easy today. Search engines are your friends when it comes to finding the right media in the right places and the contact information for each of them. However, it can be a huge time-consuming task, which is why paying for a list becomes attractive.

To be more specific about which media should be on your list, consider these: radio stations, television stations, regional and local newspapers (daily or otherwise), local newsletters, and area magazines, including those that only have an online presence. Also, if you have the opportunity to include information in a supplemental insert, take advantage of it because the circulation rate for these can be fairly high.

Easymedialist.com

If you don't have the time or resources to build your own list, you can pay for one.

A resource to consider for Auctioneers with a limited budget is easymedialist.com. Click on "USA city and state local media lists," then find your state or major city and click on it.

For instance, if you click on Missouri, you'll find that you can get a list of 331 media outlets for \$227.38. If you want to focus on a major city instead of a statewide list, you also have that option. For instance, the list for Cleveland, Ohio, includes contact information for 29 media outlets that you can purchase for \$41.48.

The information you get from easymedialist.com includes the name of the editor for the publication, name of the news director or assignment editor if it's a radio or television station. It also includes relevant email addresses, phone numbers, mailing addresses and website addresses.

Keep in mind that contact information in the media industry can change without much warning, which means you'll have to update the information on at least a yearly basis if not more frequently.

What do media want to know?

The media will jump on stories that are unique and are of interest to the general public. They will also take submissions as small news items, such as acquisitions/expansions, promotions, achievements, etc.

Most media outlets make it a point to cover events related to social services. If your company is active with community involvement, whether it's charities, fundraisers, or if you're volunteering to help organize a big local event – the media will often take notice.

Finally, profile pieces are also a target. If you've got an employee working under special circumstances, reaches a milestone, wins an award, anything that you think is interesting, it's something the media could be willing to include as a personality profile piece. �

More on how to communicate with the media ...

receiving information for article requests message to them.

The Public Relations Student Society of America, a great resource for tips on how to communicate with media professionals, offers the following information that can help

- 1) Be Concise. Say as much as you can in the least amount of words.
- 2) Put your most important information first. Remember, journalists might not get past the first paragraph if it is dull.
- 3) Once you've established the who, what, the second paragraph with additional
- 4) Keep the blocks of text (paragraphs) short. People are intimidated by large blocks of text and are more likely to skip
- release with a quote from someone who

jargon or current buzzwords in your quote

6) In the final paragraph, add links that are relevant, including your website's home

delivery of news releases. However, to ensure that you're not going to end up in the junk mail folder, don't send your release as an attachment. Just write it out or copy and

Media organizations will filter emails that have attachments because that is the instead of special HTML formatting. Sending

For more information on how to write winning press releases, visit auctioneers. org/naa-newsroom and check out "The Press Release: How to build and distribute a winner." *



What do you feel are the important qualifications of an NAA board member?

- Honesty, integrity, team player and values family
- Four decades of auction-day experience and 36-year veteran auctioneer
- Twenty years of board of director experience serving multiple organizations
- Thirty-two year member of the NAA
- Understands the challenges of running a family auction business
- Extensive strategic business planning experience
- CAI Business Plan Review Panelist and Class III Instructor
- NAA Membership Task Force and AARE Specialty committee member
- Over three decades of auction sales experience and one of the industry's top listing agents
- Proven leadership and vision for opportunities and threats to auctioneers and our industry
- Holds CAI, AARE and ATS designations
- Presenter and panelists at C&S, CAI, NAA Summits and state associations
- Excellent listener, communicator, and is friendly and approachable

While many with these qualifications would be slowing down or already retired, Scott is just hitting his prime and he's not worried about getting his hands dirty either.

Help get Scott in the NAA leadership. Please vote and support Scott King for the NAA Board of Directors.

For more information on his desire and qualifications, please visit:

WWW.VOTESCOTTKING.COM

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10 ways to lessen work stress



uctioneering and stress often go hand in hand, and, unfortunately, stress triggers aren't going away any time soon.

"Workers seem more and more stressed every day," says Melissa Heisler, stress reduction expert and author of "From Type A to Type Me."

She ties this conclusion to a few factors. Technology has created the expectation of an immediate response at all times, for one, she says. She also points to short-term thinking and planning.

"We feel everything is an urgent priority needing instant attention," she says.

Plus, she sees the do-more-with-less mentality increasing responsibilities and expectations.

"This has created a culture of inefficient multi-tasking," she says.

In an effort to assist auction professionals in their efforts to reduce work-related stress, Chicago-based Heisler as well as Chris Steinlage, a business coach with Aspire Business Development in Overland Park, Kansas, offered the following tips.

Fess Up

Just as addicts are encouraged to do so, overly stressed professionals need to first admit they have a problem, Steinlage says. "You have to come clean and get everything out in the open," he says. "If you don't admit you need to make changes, you will be in denial and stuck where you are."

Use Your Ability to Exercise, Breathe and Laugh

Humans have proven, natural stress relievers at their disposal, but we must make efforts to use them, Steinlage says. He encourages professionals to be intentional about exercise – schedule it and



stick to it. Awareness of breathing can also work wonders. "When you feel stress coming on, remember to step away from what you're doing and take a deep breath," he says. And as the saying goes, laughter is the best medicine. Steinlage says this can be as simple as making an effort to be around funny people or turning on a comedy show.

Write SMART Goals

"People often have a hard time writing good, quality goals," Steinlage says. Luckily, there's an acronym for that: SMART – Specific Measurable Attainable Results-Oriented Time-Based. For instance, if you want to lose weight, you could write that you'll lose 10 pounds (specific), weigh yourself weekly (measurable) by reducing your calorie intake and upping exercise to drop a pound a week (attainable) to look good in that swimsuit (results-oriented) by summer (time-based).

Document Every Single Thing You Do

Steinlage encourages professionals to write down exactly, minute by minute, how they spend their time for four days. "When you see how you are spending your time, you can more easily recognize areas of unproductivity," he says. "Then, you can identify how you should be spending your time and intentionally block out time for specific projects." Also, when you see the proof of how you spend your time, you may find the motivation for a crucial yet difficult task: saying "no."

Find support

Identify peers with similar experiences and then talk through your challenges together, Steinlage says. "It's important to know that you are not alone," he says. "If you are having a problem, there's a good chance someone else in a similar position is also feeling that stress." Regular communication within a group is key. For instance, Steinlage recommends a monthly conference call with a handful of colleagues.

Stop Fighting Fires

Heisler says professionals face "fires" every day by way of, for example, an irate client, unexpected hiccup or other calamity. "Instead of rushing out and trying to dowse the fire, determine if it is really important. Many times fires are distractors from our true work," she says. Then, try to get to the root cause. Often, she says, a fire started kindling elsewhere. Address the cause to extinguish the fire.

Manage Your Electronics

"Do not be a prisoner of your electronics," Heisler warns.
"Control how you use them versus reacting to them in the moment." This means turning off alerts for email, text and social media and carving out time slots to check notifications. She advises: To help others manage their expectations of your reaction time, add an automated response to your email, such as "I will get to your email within 24 hours."

Manage Communications

When you read email, Heisler says to open a message only once and immediately act. Then, pick one of the four following actions:

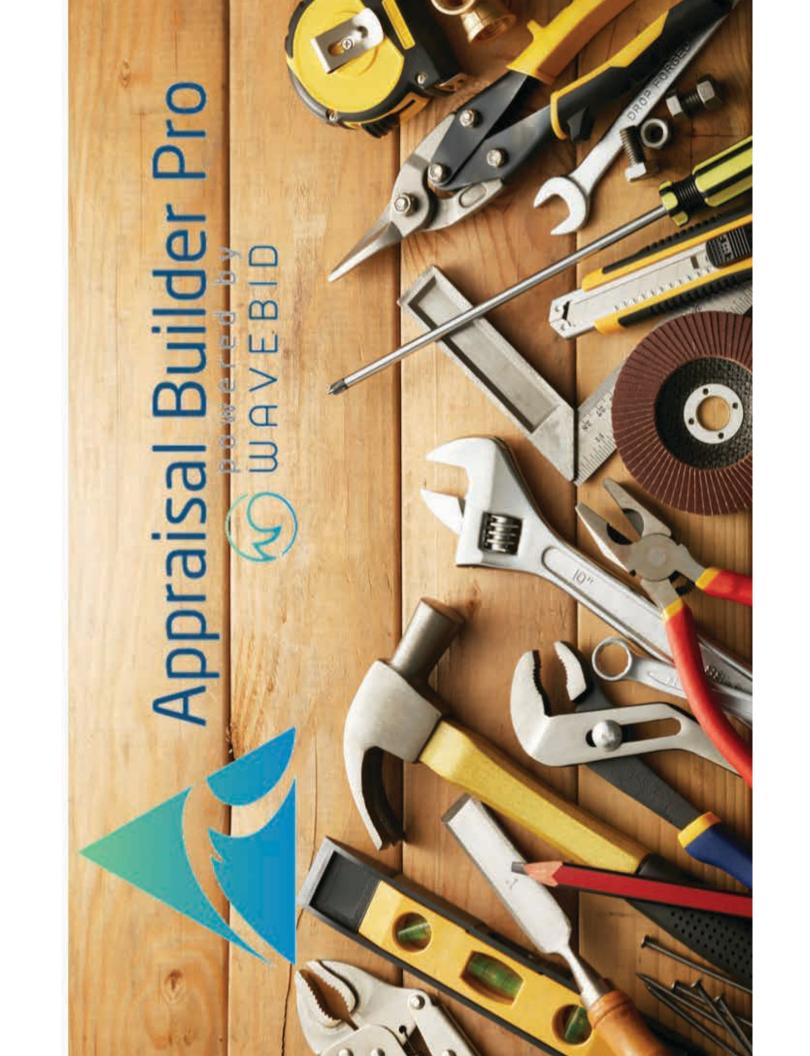
- **Do:** Respond and promptly complete the task.
- **Delegate:** Heisler says to ask, Is this the highest and best use of time? Is there someone else who can handle this? Is there an automated system to handle this type of email?
- Delay: If the message does not need to be handled right now, but it does need to be done by you, add a reminder to revisit it.
- **Delete:** Ask yourself if a note needs to be addressed. "If you find you are constantly deleting emails from certain sources, you may want to unsubscribe from the list or remove yourself from the project," Heisler says.

Change Your Relationship with Time

"When I was working my 9 to 5 job, I would wake up in the morning and immediately go through my daily to-do list," Heisler says. "The result was feeling behind the eight-ball before I even left bed." Instead, before you get out of bed, say: I have more than enough time today to accomplish everything I need to do. "Just making that statement changes your outlook on the day," she says.

Simplify and Focus

Often, stress comes from creating unrealistic expectations, Heisler says. Manage what you expect to accomplish by having a list of up to three absolute must-do's for the day. "I determine what I am going to focus on for the day by having a realistic list of projects I want to accomplish for the week," she says. "Remember to focus only on your daily to-do's. If you focus on the week's goals, it can be overwhelming." •



'CAI: Next' floods attendees with quick-hit information

Trying to absorb every presentation was like trying to drink the Mississippi River through a straw.

By Curtis Kitchen, NAA Director of Publications and Trade Show





s she stared out over the crowd of nearly 100 attendees to NAA's CAI: Next, Pam McKissick's words gushed forth.

Stately in both appearance and presentation, her measured stream of consciousness flowed and overtook the room of nearly 100 auction professionals as it went. Listeners were swept up into McKissick's quick current for 20 minutes and tried to hang on as she detailed 10 questions an auction professional should ask when deciding to work with a potential client.

She wasted zero words as she smartly and colorfully decorated her points with decades of experience-rich insight and examples.

Fast and incredible, it all felt like trying to drink the rolling Mississippi River through a straw. But, just when it felt as though it all might be too much can't-miss information too fast, it was over.

That was the attack plan to this edition of Next with more than 25 presentations and group exercises in two days: to move with the light-footed precision and power of the great Mohammed Ali. Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.

The different format – coming on the 40th anniversary of the Certified Auctioneers Institute – punched itself into "more" – more topics, more discussions, more ideas, and more opportunities for "AHA" moments.

One hour's content revealed: how to improve online auction loadouts; building a fantastic customer experience ("Our competition is not other auction companies; it is the experience our customers have when they go other places," said presenter Tim Keller); and having to realize that, sometimes, auctions themselves aren't news.

Another hour included: trendspotting; McKissick's 10 questions; how to handle an auction that becomes a monster; and, the importance of outsourcing internal tasks. That still left understanding Google's mobile search; big data; innovations; how to help a benefit client choose the right items for an event ("Reverse the thought process. Don't figure out what they want to sell. Figure out what they want to buy," said presenter Kurt Johnson, CAI, BAS) and being a problem-solver as an Auctioneer, and lots more.

Feedback from attendees largely applauded the quick-hit format quantity and quality.

"I liked the layout for this year," said BillieJo Conner, CAI. "[The format] definitely promotes engagement and keeps the attention of those in the audience."

Paying attention to the wide range of information opened opportunities for learning something new, even if not directly related 100 percent of the time.

"This was my third time coming, and even though a couple of sessions were not applicable to my business, I picked up nuggets that I can use," said Dick Whittington, CAI, MPPA.

Overall, the entire experience left many wishing Next took place more often than every five years, with a few comments suggesting the shorter-style presentations be considered for NAA's Annual International Auctioneers Conference and Show.

CAI continues to shine

"I am a second generation [auction professional] to come to CAI. I have heard good things my entire life about going to CAI but still never realized how amazing it really would be."

Nearly 150 students made up CAI classes I, II, and III (shown top to bottom) in 2016. "I definitely feel I can call anyone in the class if I have a question and know there will be future deals made with my classmates," one student said.















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(Top) All sessions of CAI: Next were recorded, with many of them expected to be used across different NAA content outlets in the future. (Bottom) Auction industry stalwart Pam McKissick, CAI, wowed attendees with her fast-paced wealth of knowledge as she explained 10 questions you should ask when interviewing a potential client.

That quote summed up a good portion of respondents who this year answered the question: "What did you think CAI would be like before participating in CAI?"

Auction professionals who take the plunge into CAI's waters never really know what to expect. Standing on a campus, immersing yourself in young-student culture for the first time in years or even decades; that can be more than a little intimidating. And, even for those who have heard about CAI in the past, it can lead to the kinds of reserved thoughts above.

After all, just how awesome could it actually be? School is school. Networking is networking. Business is business.

But, if the experience was just so-so, why is CAI so revered within the industry? Why do alums continue to flock back with every Next, hoping that it will happen more often than it does?

"I didn't know quite how close some of us would bond as classmates and overall as entire class – it's truly like family," one respondent answered when asked how their perception had changed now that they have attended CAI. "I definitely feel I can call anyone in the class if I have a question and know there will be future deals made with my classmates.

Support the kids of St. Jude by participating in Auction for Hope.

In 2014, Leland started having headaches. His parents were concerned but not alarmed, because migraines run in the family. But then more symptoms appeared. Leland's grandmother noticed he was holding his left arm funny. His mother, Marisa, noticed his smile was off kilter in a photograph. A series of tests soon revealed Leland suffered from an aggressive brain cancer known as an atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor, or simply ATRT.

At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®, Leland's treatment has included surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. "St. Jude is amazing," said Marisa. "Not just all the leaps and bounds they're taking medically, and how many children they save, but how they don't just treat his diagnosis. Kids can be kids here, and I think that helps a lot with their healing."

Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since it opened 50 years ago. We won't stop until no child dies from cancer.

Leland loves to make people laugh. He says silly things and never lets anything get him down. "He's strong and amazing," Marisa said. "I draw my strength from Leland, because he amazes me every day." Some of Leland's favorite things are tacos, baseball, kittens and the beach.







(Left) Peer-to-peer teaching and "AHA!" moments are a regular occurrence at CAI. (Right) Sara Adams is recognized as one of the Larry McCool Scholarship winners (read more about her on page 38).

"The instruction I have received thus far has exceeded my expectations (some classes more relevant than others as far as where I am at this point in my career), but all classes have had value."

The value of this year's experience – the 40th edition – wasn't lost on one auction industry veteran, who indicated on their survey that they had been in the business for 15+ years.

"[I thought it was] money invested to get 3 letters. Boy, was I wrong," the survey comment read. "It's a life-changing investment that you can't put a dollar value on."

For more information on how you can start your CAI journey in 2017, email Lois Zielinski at lzielinski@auctioneers.org. ��





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How to make your hashtag successful

How do you get the public to see your hashtag?

By Curtis Kitchen, NAA Director of Publications and Trade Show

here was a time when a hashtag was little more than a playing field where x's and o's could mingle.

They took turns strategically entering an increasingly crowded environment in hopes they could find their peers, form a group, and align themselves in a bonded way that would identify their user as a winning thought leader.

In that light, it is fun to wonder if the simple child's game of tic-tac-toe wasn't always just a fancy bit of social media foreshadowing.

Since first appearing in 2007, the hashtag bulled its way to the top of the social media icon list. Why? It provides a user, every user, with the instant ability to search through waves of social interactions and plug into a conversation centered on a specific keyword. Those who choose to post and include the hashtag then immediately become part of the conversation.

But, what about when you come up with a hashtag for your business or personal brand? How do you get your hashtag noticed by a public that didn't even know it was looking for your hashtag?

Here are three good ways you can help boost your hashtag to the masses.

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This chart shows the Top 100 Instagram hashtags, according to Websta - an Instagram web viewer and tracker. Attaching popular tags such as these to your own posts expands your potential reach as the viewing public searches for those popular tags.

1. Build a free hashtag tree

The good news is that literally every single word, phrase, or sentence can be hashtagged – and most of them have been by now. The better news is that you don't need to guess which words or tags are popular because there are many sites that already track these sorts of things.

You can search for one that suits you best, but Hashtagify.me is a free hashtag tool that seems to serve basic interests pretty well. On that site, you can search any tag you would like, and it will provide an instant map that shows the best connected hashtags for you to use in your posts along with your tag.

2. Be a social listener

Most of the biggest social media platforms now have various ways to instantly find what's trending. Facebook has a search bar at the top. Instagram (see sidebar: "Gone in an "Insta?")is built so that when you start adding hashtags, you can see exactly how

many times the tag has been used. Twitter tag rankings are everywhere if you search.

This is all great if you're looking for the broadest topics to hitch to your tag. But, if your goal is to target your post a bit more specifically, then you need to improve your social listening. On the social media pages or profiles you follow, what tags are used most often? What tags seem to spur the most engagement? Use those tags with yours.

3. Build solid, friendly posts

Even if social media can seem pretty unruly at times, there are definite sets of etiquette to consider as some platforms are tag friendlier than others.

Do tags go in the front? (They can.) At the end? (Probably best.) In the middle? (Does it flow?) How many tags are too many? (Depends on the platform.) Is shorter better than longer? (Always.) Can I put more than one tag in a post? (Yes, but it has to make sense.) Will people hate me if I hashtag everything in a post? (More than you know.)

In general, it's best to state your point and put your hashtag at the end. The more confident (and coherent) you become in your posting skills, the more flexible you can be with this and start seeding hashtags through your posts.

How many tags you should use is entirely dependent upon the platform. Twitter usually gives a normal post room for one or two tags. According to an infographic from surepayroll.com, Facebook feedback says a post's engagement rate is by far best with one or two tags, and is nearly cut in half when six or more tags are used. The outlier here is Instagram, which has shown engagement rates to be highest with posts containing 11 or more tags. (Weirdly, the other highest engagement rates were at an average of two, five, and nine tags, with a dip at four, seven and 10 tags.)

Remember: It's about you

Don't forget two important pieces as you grow in your hashtag comfort.

The first thing is that this whole adding hashtags business is to strengthen your own tag and brand. Be choosy in the company you keep instead of simply attaching yourself to anything that happens to be popular. There are a ton of seemingly innocent tags out there that, when executed, may not suitable for work. An example: singer Susan Boyle was to host an album party in

2012. The tag included the words "Susan", "album", and "party." Innocent, right? The resulting tag: #susanalbumparty. Oi.

Lastly, sometimes, hashtag hijacking has a sinister and/or snarky side that can derail things quickly. McDonald's had the issue with #McDstories, as did Walgreens with #IloveWalgreens in a promoted post. Unfortunately, it's impossible to guarantee your tag won't be used mischievously. However, try to avoid obvious pitfalls with word choice and usage, and you should be good to go. ❖



GONE IN AN "INSTA"?

Recently, Instagram announced that it would change its algorithm so that posts would no longer populate newsfeeds based on chronological order. Instead, it will now serve those posts based on popularity and quality of a post – a structure very similar to how Facebook and Twitter now operate.

This change (as most changes are, in general) was met with public anguish. Some people howled that throwing posts and tags up every few minutes or hours should be a guarantee that those posts would be seen. That's no longer the case, thankfully.

Instead, it means quality posts – posts built to actually communicate or be aesthetically pleasing – will get top billing and have a better chance to be seen instead of leaving it up to timed chance to be viewed.

So, has the "insta" been removed from the platform's equation? Technically, yes, but only because it means the worst posts will hardly ever be served and the best will get longer looks. But, if it improves the overall user experience for both marketers and consumers, so be it.



The complete package

One of auction's young, modern muses is artfully crafting a career filled with philanthropy, community, and auctioneering.

By Nancy Hull Rigdon, contributor

ara Adams weaves together art, philanthropy, community and auctioneering.

Adams, ATS, GPPA, is a 24-year-old second-generation auction professional who achieved a bachelor's degree in fine arts – her specialty was portraiture – and aspires to build community through auctioneering.

Her varied interests continually merge. For example, she says, "The most important thing art school taught me was how to start something and finish it."

That lesson comes into play at her family business, Adams Auctioneers/Appraisers, in Norwich, Connecticut, where she oversees liquidation auctions from initial organization and procuring to auction setup and writing the seller's check.

An in-the-works project has her excited about the future. She's involved in a company initiative to build a new, self-sustaining facility – think solar panels – down the street from the current auction building.

The building, in the depressed neighborhood will be a place where individuals and businesses will donate their items, from home décor to industrial kitchen equipment. Then, the items will be auctioned with all proceeds flowing into the local nonprofit United Community & Family Services (UCSF), which provides healthcare and community services to the surrounding area.

"My father has always stressed philanthropy and always said that even if what you give is not much, the most you can give is your time," says Adams, who is the daughter of Paula and Robert Adams, CES, GPPA. "This is all about helping the community." As an Auctioneer, Adams hopes to expand into fine art and also would like to eventually work with her artist friends by helping to sell their work. Now, she's enjoying the rewards of business liquidations.

"I recently got to write out a settlement check to a woman who had lost everything for twice the amount we initially had quoted her. To be able to do that is really amazing," she says.

She's also seeing increased attendance at her company's live auctions.

"I really do think the recent success of live auctions is partly because we're seeing a resurgence in the need for community," she says. "I see friendships and relations being made, and it's nice to witness that on the ladder."

Adams also is actively involved in the auction industry at the state level, for now.

She's an elected board member of the Massachusetts Auctioneers Association, and within the NAA, in addition to earning her GPPA and ATS designations, she recently attended the NAA State Leadership Conference and is part of an effort to create a New England coalition. The next chapter in her NAA involvement is

CAI, as she began the three-year program this year.

"I have been hearing about CAI from my family since I was a little kid. It was always like college – something I knew I'd do when I was older," she says.

She considers herself fortunate to benefit from the camaraderie and collaborative spirit within the NAA. For instance, when she needs advice, industry experts like Tim Luke, BAS, MPPA, and Rich Schur, CAI, BAS, MPPA, are a phone call away.

Looking ahead, she can see the end.

"In my visions of the future, I know what I'm wearing, and I see what I'm doing, but I don't know exactly how I got there."

That's where the advice Mike Jones, CAI, AARE, recently gave her comes into play. He told her to take bite size chunks – one thing at a time.

Regardless of the journey, Adams is certain of the overarching priorities that will guide her.

"I want to associate myself with fine art, community and giving," she says. �



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#NAACS16 courses to offer "deeper dives"

Attendees have asked for classes to go deeper into topics. That will happen in Grand Rapids.

By Nancy Hull Rigdon, contributor

he educational lineup at the NAA's 67th International Auctioneers Conference & Show revolves around depth.

"Our theme is trying to go deeper into topics," says Aaron Ensminger, NAA Director of Education.

In previous years, an educational session has run 90 minutes at most. However, at this summer's Conference & Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the length of sessions will increase to two hours.

"Attendees have asked for 'deeper dives' for years. Doing longer and more intensive sessions fits perfectly with one of our goals, which is to try and provide more sessions for advanced auction professionals," Ensminger says. "It's an experiment that we're interested in watching."

As a result of the change, attendees have an even better opportunity to walk away from educational sessions armed with more applicable knowledge than they have in the past.

"Our presenters will be taking advantage of the change, going more in-depth than we have in recent years," Ensminger says.

Outside of session length, the offerings will encourage auction professionals to think outside the box.

"Expect to attend some sessions that will really challenge your thinking and conventional wisdom," Ensminger says.

As just one example, he points to a session led by John Schultz, AMM, titled "In God We Trust . . . All Others Bring Data."

Schultz, the Chief Marketing and Technology Officer for Grafe Auction Company in Chatfield, Minnesota, is known within the auction industry for achieving marketing success through non-traditional means. In recent years, he has grown auctions by acting on data to ditch traditional advertising routes in favor of emerging options, including digital advertising, such as Facebook ads.

He's an Auction Marketing Management (AMM) instructor who often shares his own best practices in areas including digital marketing, social media, brand development, marketing tools, data collection and analytics implementation.





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"This session will demonstrate the importance of hard numbers in your marketing and testing your assumptions, and it will show you how you can do something with all that pretty data you've collected," Ensminger says.

CES to be offered at #NAACS16

Once again, the NAA will offer a designation class during Conference & Show.

"This is a highlight that can't be overlooked," Ensminger says.

This year, the education schedule at Conference & Show includes a Certified Estate Specialist (CES) class. This allows those attending Conference & Show the unique opportunity to work toward a designation without making a trip solely for the credentials.

The CES designation is designed to prepare auction professionals to run a successful Estate Specialist business. Attendees learn

marketing, skills for working with clients including families in crisis, advanced networking skills and auction methods.

As Ensminger points out, CES highlights concepts that apply to every Auctioneer: prospecting, legal issues and people skills.

"Whether you're starting out in estates or you've been doing them for a long time, these are skills you can always hone," he says. "And even if you're just thinking about estates, these skills can help in every auction you take on."

Those who currently hold the CES designation can audit the class for \$75. Those who have held the designation previously, but are not currently, can reinstate their designation and then audit the class for the same price.

"Everyone [who holds a current CES designation] can stop in for a session or three and see why people are calling CES one of the strongest designations NAA offers," Ensminger says. •



A 2016 study says the popular strategy is stuffing content channels past effectiveness - despite a growing number of publishing options.

By Curtis Kitchen, NAA Director of Publications and Trade Show

lip through your channel guide listings, dig through your smart device's app center, or browse niche magazines and there seems to be no end to the "new."

Rabbits have nothing on how fast content channels produce offspring these days, and it often leaves brands feeling frazzled or left behind as they scramble to meet their audiences at every available contact point. (Because, like, growing market shares and protecting social turf and stuff.)

And, it's not that there are more places than ever to engage consumers and clients, but the next prevailing thought for many marketers is "More! Give them more!" So, they do, according to a study conducted by TrackMaven – a digital marketing solutions provider that analyzed 12 months of marketing activities for 22,957 brands. The study, "The Content Marketing Paradox Revisited," stretched across all major industries and included 50 million pieces of content on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and blogs. The entire output measured 75.7 billion interactions.

In 2015, the amount of content showed a steady climb through the year, reaching a peak of nearly 90 posts per brand per social network in October. Engagement, however, did almost a reverse mirror image drop at the exact same time, showing an engagement ratio (average interactions per post per 1,000 followers) dip to around 2.2 in October after peaking near 2.7 in May.

What does that mean? As marketers tried in vain to outsplash competitors for a slice of consumers' attention, those consumers were off looking for calmer waters through those new apps and other content channels not yet over-muddied by thirsty brands.

In essence, marketers are being told to calm down and shove off unless they play by a couple of rules.

Social networks are helping lay out those rules, thankfully, through specific call-to-action buttons, or limited text in ads (Facebook is particularly strict), as most brands would never figure out for themselves that post quality over quantity has to matter; that user experience has to matter. Users want to be talked with, not shouted at, and only when they want to engage.

In any case, TrackMaven poses a few of its own takeaways, saying that quality matters (we all should agree on this) and that it might be time for brands to pay for the right to push their content on social networks. This second point bears watching as monetization, despite the rosiest of viewpoints, is and will always be the goal.

Yesterday's free is today's latest IPO is tomorrow's having to answer to shareholders, and as social networks that find some footing decide to fight for their own lives, they will be forced to make self-preserving decisions. For marketers, it means even the most savvy of us will need to understand that what might work today for free won't be nearly as effective once money starts to talk (oh, hey there, new Instagram algorithm, you latest example, you!)

If you're one of those who has prided his or herself on being able to establish your brand's social footholds despite barely spending a few dollars here and there (those folks exist), it seems reasonable to think that as long as you continue to search for the next wave of social engagement channels, excel at playing by the latest set of consumer-based rules, and use talent to produce quality, engagement-inducing content, you'll continue your successes.

The rest will just keep overstuffing their feeds until the jeans finally rip.❖

Modern, contemporary western paintings bring strong prices



MONROVIA, Calif. – On Feb. 23, seats were filled with buyers angling to bid on modern and contemporary works of art from the Estate of Phoebe Hearst Cooke, and registration for phone bidding lines were closed early due to the high volume of inquiries.

Energy was high, with a large number of sales going to buyers bidding via one of the three available online platforms (Liveauctioneers.com, Invaluable.com and Bidsquare.com) or by telephone. Illustrating the upward trend in the volume of remote bidders, a solid third of lots were sold to online bidders.

Modern and Contemporary western paintings and bronzes brought strong prices throughout the evening, with a number of the evening's top lots.

A wonderful example from Wyoming painter Tucker Smith (b. 1940) depicting a cowboy herding cattle in a rolling verdant landscape, titled "Gathering the Quarter Circle Five", easily outstripped its \$10,000 to \$15,000 estimate when telephone

bidders clashed with buyers in the audience. The painting realized \$26,400, with a telephone bidder proving successful. A peaceful nocturnal composition depicting a seated cowboy and his horse awash in blue-toned moonlight by Chicago, Illinois-based Bill Anton was offered for \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Titled "Good Company", the painting opened high thanks to multiple absentee bids, but ultimately sold to a floor buyer for \$22,800. Late in the sale, a sweet portrait of a saddled burro pulled at quite a few heartstrings; John Moyers' (b. 1958 Santa Fe, NM) "Patience is a Virtue" earned just over the high estimate, bringing \$6,600 (est.: \$4,000/6,000).

The auction featured approximately 60 lots of western and equine-themed bronzes, and prices did not disappoint. The first lot of the sale, Gerald Balciar's (b. 1942 Parker, CO) "Canyon Princess", a patinated sculpture of a mountain lion descending a nearly sheer rock face sold within estimate, bringing \$2,700 (est.: \$2,000/3,000). Later in the catalogue, a large-scale bronze by western sculptor Edward James Fraughton (b. 1939 Salt Lake City, UT) was sold for a very respectable \$11,400 (est.: \$8,000/12,000).

Another notable fine art highlight, this one from a private Laguna Beach collection, was Michael Coleman's (b. 1946 Provo, UT) striking "Omach-Ku-Kyalo, Four Shots". Set as the sun's last light rakes over an unseen hillside, the painting depicts two Native American hunters looking over their fallen quarry: a large grizzly bear. The work was conservatively estimated to earn \$3,000 to \$4,000 at the block, and was one of the night's most contested lots, realizing \$13,200.

While fine art highlights were numerous, the evening's top-lot status went to an unassuming-looking second phase Navajo chief's blanket, which was brought to the block with a \$10,000 to \$15,000 estimate. While the blanket had a number of condition issues, its red bands were dyed with desirable cochineal, and interest quietly built in the days before the sale. After the lot opened, telephone bidders slowly dropped out as the hammer price steadily climbed. In the end, a dedicated online buyer proved the victor of the bidding war, paying a stunning \$90,000 for the blanket.

Dovetailing nicely with the western themes exhibited in the fine art and bronzes on offer at Moran's February 23rd auction, a group of Molesworth-style furniture by the Cody, Wyoming-based Marc Taggart & Co. flew to exceptional selling prices. Two club chairs with burl legs brought \$4,500 and \$4,800, respectively (each est.: \$1,000/2,000), while a fun three-drawer dresser decorated to its face with a routed wood cowboy portrait earned a stunning \$3,600 (est.: \$300/500). Also in the western genre, a group of miniature tack crafted from precious metals by Tucson, AZ maker Bill Heisman, including two pairs of spurs and a headstall with braided hide reins, was brought to the block with an estimate of \$1,000 to \$1,500; the group earned \$4,200. �





9,000+ firearms help fire \$7.3 million auction event

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. - With 9,000+ firearms, more than 4,400 lots, and 22,000 sealed bids, the 2016 February Regional Firearms Auction was the largest event to date in Rock Island Auction Company's history.

The sealed bids were only those received through the RIAC website and didn't include participation via live bids, telephone bidders, or the sealed and live bids on third-party sites such as Invaluable and Proxibid.

When the dust finally settled from this lengthy and firearmpacked weekend, the company had another new record on its hands: a realized total of \$7.3 million. The weekend's strong participation helped break a previous company record on Day 3, meaning everything sold on the final day of auction was icing on top of an already impressive cake.

Day 1 took place on a Thursday for this auction, and despite not being part of the weekend, it took off with a bang! The bids were flying in from all corners of the room and the items' estimates were the immediate casualties.

Winchesters were whisked away, Colts were captured, and Smith & Wessons were scooped up en masse. Even by midday, the

excitement had not abated, with jump bids being hollered out in the auction, even for lots containing machine gun parts that typically do not enjoy such raucous enthusiasm.

Speaking of machine guns, many of the Class III items listed in this sale as "unserviceable" outperformed their estimates in dramatic fashion! Lot 547 housed a Steyr Schwartzlose Model 07/12 mounted on its tripod, that demolished a humble \$5,000 estimate to sell for \$14,950. Likewise, lot 546 was a DEWAT German MP3008 submachine gun – one of the "last ditch" weapons of the Third Reich – that retreated from its \$4,000 estimate before achieving \$12,650.

Day 2 also saw incredible bids in both quantity and size. Civil War items were hotly contested, guns embellished in every way imaginable brought premium prices, and rare Henry and Winchester rifles continued to be offered so frequently that President Kevin Hogan began reminding those in attendance, "Don't be fooled by the availability of these guns at this auction. We might get 1-2 of these a year, and right now we're making something rare appear very available."

Colt revolvers were strong contenders on the day with lot 2290's Model 1871-1872 Open Top with an eagle carved grip that made quick work of its \$1,500 estimate by bringing \$5,750, while the tried and true, antique Single Action Army in lot 2607 teamed up with a stunning tooled holster rig to best its \$1,800 estimate with a \$4,025 sale price. European military arms were also an extremely hot ticket! Sniper rifles and standard long arms from numerous nations drew dozens of bids, never more clearly than in lot 2640, which contained SVT-38 and SVT-40 semiautomatic Soviet rifles. This remarkable pair drew 70 bids before the auction even started and drove the winning bid up to \$4,600.

Day 3 was led by a high number of strong performing Winchesters and pre-Winchesters, but there were more than enough surprises to keep bidders guessing. One of those surprises was a framed UMC "bullet board" in lot 4007 that surpassed its \$2,500 estimate en route to its \$6,900 payday. Lot 4117's Sharps Model 1869 sporting rifle knocked down its \$1,800





estimate, and was brought to a new home for \$6,900, while an attractive engraved and gold inlaid Smith & Wesson Russian Model in lot 4595 outshone its \$1,700 estimate to bang the gavel at \$5,750.

Day 4 was a day for the diehards. It had been a long weekend already, but dedicated collectors had stuck around for a chance at the fantastic variety available on the final day at auction. Their perseverance was well-rewarded several times, as seen in lot 6134 with its two Civil war revolvers that whooped a \$1,000 estimate to realize an overachieving \$5,750. Lot 6822 was arguably the smallest of all lots with its scarce miniature flintlock pistol made by miniature master Stanley Blashak. Estimated at \$850, its winning price was far from diminutive at \$5,175. German handguns also got in on the act, like in lot 6287 when two scarce semi-autos bested a \$1,200 estimate to ring the bell at \$4,025. ❖



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Utah estate sold for \$4.2 million

A record number of qualified bidders vied to live in luxury with a home theatre and full-swing golf room amid the world's ski and outdoor recreation capital.



PARK CITY, Utah – A record number of qualified bidders pushed the auction price of a sophisticated mountain retreat nestled among the ski and film scene in Park City, Utah, to \$4.2 million when Heritage Luxury Real Estate Auctions offered the prime estate March 1.

With access to world-class skiing and the world's indie-film scene, the no reserve auction of 105 White Pine Canyon Road marks the firm's most successful luxury estate auction to date.

"There is no doubt we reach qualified, motivated buyers who are ready to bid millions for the exclusive properties listed through Heritage Auctions," said Nate Schar, Director of Heritage Luxury Real Estate Auctions. "A record, 10 qualified and fully-vetted bidders stood ready to cast a bid for this property and the result rocked the Park City, Utah, real estate community."

The custom-designed, ski-in/ski-out home, is a comfortable showcase of exceptional features and finishes, including an impressive five bedrooms, eight baths, an elevator and a heated three-car garage. The home's unique ski-in/ski-out atmosphere, is made convenience with a fully heated driveway and walkways. Just steps away from the Alpenglow Ski Run, this coveted location comes alive with exclusive access to mountain vistas, challenging trails, and year-round recreation. Groves of mature aspen and pine trees envelop the 6+ acres of private property, with views of the mountains, valley and ski runs from every angle.

"Resort real estate is tricky at times and our market is made up of a good amount of luxury second homes," said Michael J. Mazzone, a Park City resident for 23 years and broker on record for the auction. "[Heritage Luxury Real Estate Auctions] could not have been more transparent and professional throughout the process. The marketing that Heritage did for this home is like nothing I have ever seen in my career. Even if it was something I could match financially, I do not believe it would reach the audience that equals a qualified Heritage client.

"I am proud to be the Broker of record for this transaction and I hope I can assist in many more transactions in The Park City market with Heritage Auctions by my side," Mazzone said.

Using non-traditional marketing methods and connecting with Heritage Auctions' over 950,000+ online bidder members, interest in the exceptional property reached as far as the Middle East and across North America, Schar said. The home's dedicated website received more than 18,500 visits and staff hosted more than 30 previews. Come auction day, a great room-full of eager and willing bidders – relaxing near one of the mansion's five fireplaces – were ready to raise their paddles to own the 7,900-square foot, 6-acre estate.

At home within The Colony, this premiere, gated development that was recently purchased by Vail Resorts, and newly merged Park City resort, creating exceptionally planned community that takes advantage of an exquisite location to create a one-of-a-kind lifestyle for the residents.

"We remain steadfast in our dedication to balancing our clients' needs with market conditions and then thinking outside the box to reach bidders who have never before considered a luxury real estate auction," Schar said. "The Park City, Utah, estate was a perfect example of how we reach high income and high net worth individuals as well as close the transaction within 60 days." •

Comic books and art reign supreme in New York

The event also saw a pair of sneakers signed and worn by NBA legend Michael Jordan sold for \$12,000.



LYNBROOK, N.Y. - An original color art page by French artist, cartoonist and writer Moebius (1938-2012) sold for \$56,500, original cover art from the legendary comic book artist Joe Kubert (1926-2012) fetched top dollar in Part 1 of his massive comic collection, and sneakers signed by Michael Jordan and worn by him during the 1991 championship playoff series realized \$12,000.

They were just part of a major auction featuring sports items, comics, comic art, animation, Star Wars toys and collectibles and more, held Feb. 27 by Philip Weiss Auctions, in the firm's gallery at 74 Merrick Road in Lynbrook, N.Y. Over 600 lots came up for bid in an auction that grossed just under \$500,000. Internet bidding was facilitated by LiveAuctioneers.com and Proxibid.com.

Between the online bidding (which was also available through the Philip Weiss Auctions website at www.weissauctions.com) and people in the room, the auction attracted 800-1,000 registered bidders.

"There was also very lively phone bidding, especially for the Joe Kubert items," Philip Weiss said.

Moebius (real name: Jean Henri Gaston Giraud) was a French artist who worked in the Franco-Belgian bandes dessinees tradition. He used the pseudonym Moebius (and to a lesser extent Gir), for the Blueberry series, which he created with writer Jean-Michel Charlier. It featured one of the first anti-heroes in Western comics. He was esteemed by Stan Lee, Federico Fellini and others.

The Moebius work sold was a direct color art page, drawn for Metal Hurlant in 1977 for The Ballade. Joe Kubert was a renowned American comic book artist, art teacher and founder of The Kubert School. He is best known for his work on many DC Comics characters and was inducted into the Jack Kirby Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame in 1998.

A choice selection of lots comprised Part 1 of Kubert's gigantic collection (the remainder will be spread out over a series of future auctions, also to be held by Philip Weiss Auctions). The top lots from his collection in the Feb. 27 sale included signed original cover art for Hawkman #103, which changed hands for \$15,800, and Hawk Son of Tomahawk #140, which finished at \$5,450.

The pair of black Michael Jordan game-worn sneakers wasn't in new condition (they were game-worn, after all), but the star's signature had been declared genuine (the lot came with a certificate of authenticity) and the

back-story was compelling: Jordan wore the sneakers during the 1991 NBA championship playoff series against the L.A. Lakers, while a member of the Chicago Bulls.

What would a Philip Weiss Auctions sale be without original Peanuts comic art, drawn by the iconic American illustrator Charles Schulz (1922-2000)? A daily Peanuts strip, signed and dated March 2, 1964, topped out at \$15,800. Schulz became one of the wealthiest men in America by using his childhood insecurities and failures as material for his beloved Peanuts comic strips.

The hundreds of comic books in the auction included rare examples from the heralded Big Apple collection. An example was a pedigree copy of All Select #10 that soared to \$8,850. A fine group of movie production cels also came up for bid, including a Peter, Chief and Tiger Lily production cel from the classic Walt Disney film Peter Pan, which went to a determined bidder for \$3,450.

A wonderful Star Wars collection included a set of 12 back mint on card figures. An unpunched Hans Solo carded figure sold for \$3,560, and a 1977 Star Wars Early Bird blasted off to \$11,300.

Also in the sale were Golden and Silver age comics, All Star comics and key issues. Sports items featured sports and non-sports cards, autographed jersey, equipment cards, signed bats and more. •



\$3,450





Auctioneer began as an auction fan

dward S. Burns, 82, of Monmouth, passed away Monday, March 21, 2016, at Monmouth Nursing Home, Monmouth.

He was born on August 8, 1933, in Sumner Township, Warren County, IL, the son of Albert Dell and Caroline Amelia (Scott) Burns. Ed attended Cedar Creek and Duck Creek Grade Schools, and Little York High School. He graduated from Reppert School of Auctioneering in Decatur, Indiana, in 1957.

Ed married Sarah A. Melton on December 24, 1950, in Burlington, Ia., she survives.

After marriage, Ed started farming on the Cook place in Sumner Township, and then moved to the Reasoner Farm in Spring Grove Township. Ed was an avid auction goer and decided to become an Auctioneer. He obtained his real estate license in 1958. Ed moved his family to a farm in Monmouth Township in 1958, where he resided until he retired in 2007.

Ed raised livestock, mostly cattle and horses, along with his auction and real estate business. In 1960, he brought the first livestock trailers into this area. He had his work cut out for him, convincing livestock farmers how much more convenient they were than trucks with stock racks. However, they did catch

on. In 1976, he expanded by opening Edward S. Burns and Sons Trailer Sales on Route 67 North of Monmouth. Ed was a member of the Illinois Auctioneers Association and National Auctioneers Association.

Surviving Ed is his wife, Sarah Burns of Monmouth, two daughters, Connie (Robert) Loving of Cameron, IL and Sarah "Sally" Crose of Galesburg, IL; three sons; Charles (Sheree) Burns of Alexis, IL, D. Herb (Jennifer) Burns of Alexis, IL and Scott E. Burns of Strafford, MO; twelve grandchildren, Amy Cokel of Madison, WI, Melinda (Derek) Perry of Cameron, IL, Austin Loving of Cameron, Chandler (Ellie) Burns of Alexis, IL, Chase (Jackie) Burns of North Henderson, IL, Blake (Krista) Burns of Alexis, Carrie Elliott of Kappa, IL, Warren Crose of Galesburg, Cameron Crose of Springfield, MO, Sarah Cheyenne (Nick) Bettlach of Strafford, MO, Bailey (Dalton Becraft) Burns of Marshfield, MO and Shelby Burns of Strafford. Also surviving are two step grandchildren, Amy (Jeff) McWhorter of Aledo, IL and Tony Loving of Belleville, IL, nineteen great grandchildren, three sisters; Ruth (Paul) Fredrickson of Galesburg, Dorothy (Lynn) Long of Monmouth, Iliene (Brent) Ogilvie of Alexis, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Leonard Dell Burns, and grandson Alexander J. Cokel. ❖





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Second Row: Rich Schur, Instructor, Monument, CO; Darvin Nix, Big Cabin, OK; Phillip Woolls, Sour Lake, TX; Pastor Jerry Mathews, Cleveland, TX; Kasey Calvin, Waller, TX; Bill Snyder, Colleyville, TX; John B. Jones, Plano, TX; Dennis Brink, Joshua, TX; Paul Skrivanek, Spring, TX; John Gregory, Thomasville, GA; Harold Murdock, Burkburnett, TX; J.C. McCann, Ponder, TX; Ace Endres, Oologah, OK; Nick Blackmon, Holdenville, OK; Lori Jones, School Administrator; Mike Jones, School Director;

Third Row: David Dilbeck, Houston, TX; Michael Stewart, Houston, TX; Augustus Priest, Austin, TX; Jon Sadler, Leonard, TX; Lee Carpenter, Houston, TX; Gary Hubbell, Hotchkiss, CO; Trent Bilberry, Elida, NM; Colby Priest, San Marco, TX; Brad Francis, Borger, TX; Wyatt Spencer, Corning, CA; Conner Mathews, Cleveland, TX; Brian Woodrum, Edgewood, TX; Darren Mendez, Leonard, TX.



Western College of Auctioneering

WCA, Class 238 - (Bottom to Top, L to R): First Row: Dan Dohner, Salt Lake, UT., Padraic, Murtagh, Mullingar, Ireland, Sara Husby, Sacramento, CA., Debbie Thomason, Merlin, OR., Holley Salisbury, Mayfair, SK., Marilyn Burns, Instructor, Logan West, San Antonio, TX., Dan Ankarlo, Denver, CO.

Second Row: Nick Bennett, WCA President, Karl Anderson, Bertha MN., Austin Emmerson, Burlington, ND., Harry Boulade, Alturas, CA., Dan Nygaard, Bellevue, WA., Ben Stiegelmeier, Selby, S.D., Josh Kuenster, Glenhaven, WI., Jake Gertsch, Shepherd, MT., Brett Meyers, Fargo, ND.

Third Row: Mickey Spencer, Edmonton, AB., Matt Manley, Florence, MT., Randy Kilback, Mandan, ND., Gregg Matney, Lusk, WY., Garry Gross, Ponoka AB., Duane Koffing, Carmel, SK., Sam O'Rourke, Porcupine, SD., Rick Klatt, Woodland Hills, CA.

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Preston King



I am thrilled to be a new member of NAA. I joined NAA to be able to network with other professional **Auctioneers** around the country. I also joined NAA to help drive the auction industry through politics and representation around the country.

Preston King *Jonesboro, AR*

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Rodger Williams



At age 65, I am starting a new adventure as an Auctioneer! The NAA education archives as well as the continuing education will be invaluable in getting me started on the right foot. My current plan is to specialize as a Benefit Auctioneer and/ or contract **Auctioneer** when I complete my apprenticeship in 2017. "

Rodger Williams
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Grand Rapids, Michigan • DeVos Place Convention Center • July 19-23, 2016
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AARE • July 17-19 AMM • July 17-19 BAS • July 17-19

CES • July 20-23 (comes with a comp registration without meals)

USPAP (15 Hour) • July 18-19 USPAP (7 Hour) • July 23 Train the Trainer • July 19

Interpersonal Communications for Auction Professionals • July 18-19

Internet Auction Methods • July 19

Benefit Auction Summit

San Diego, California • Embassy Suites San Diego Bay • August 28-30, 2016

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San Antonio, Texas • Emily Moran Hotel • November 6-8, 2016

NAA Designation Academy

Las Vegas, Nevada • TBD • December 4-10, 2016



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IN THE RING

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"(The conversation) is online and in a public forum and it's not recommended. Apologize and take the conversation offline because it's not a good idea to converse with an angry customer in a public forum."

Brian Sparker, head of content marketing, ReviewTrackers - on handling bad review or angry customers online

PAGE

"This was my third time coming, and even though a couple of sessions were not applicable to my business, I picked up nuggets that I can use."

Dick Whittington, CAI, MPPA Whittington & Associates

Wilkesboro, North Carolina

PAGE

"Attendees have asked for 'deeper dives' for years. Doing longer and more intensive sessions fits perfectly with one of our goals, which is to try and provide more sessions for advanced auction professionals. It's an experiment that we're interested

Aaron Ensminger, NAA Director of Education - on the level of education expected at Conference and Show in 2016.

AROUND the **BLOCK**

- Barrett-Jackson, The World's Greatest Collector Car Auctions®, and Proxibid have announced a partnership whereby **Proxibid will be the exclusive provider** of online bidding solutions for all Barrett-Jackson auctions moving forward.
- Auction House Portal, a startup company and reverse auction service provider to the global auction industry, has announced the launch of www.auctionhouseportal.com to directly connect luxury asset consignors to auction houses worldwide.
- NAA member Don Rose's business, Don Rose Realty and Auctions, looks to be in great hands according to a recent, local feature story on his daughter, Taylor. The piece examined how the company's online auction offering has evolved along with Taylor's real estate and auction education since graduating high school in 2013.

"I've learned a lot from dad by going to his auctions. It's exciting and fun," Taylor told the Sentinel-Tribune. "I've always wanted to work with my family. We all get along very well."



MEMBERS' CORNER





The Certified Auctioneers Institute is the most revered continuing education environment in the auction industry. But, that doesn't mean students have to leave their personalities at home! As classes I, II, and III (top to bottom) all show here, while the heavy focus is on becoming the best NAA auction professional a person can be, it doesn't mean you can't take a moment or three to enjoy the CAI ride! For more information about CAI, email Izielinski@auctioneers.org.

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Coming up in May...

Knowing who your leaders are is vital! The NAA Nominating Committee announced candidates in March, and we want you to be as informed as possible about the candidates for NAA Board positions. So, we'll have a Q&A session with each candidate so that you can get to know who each person is and begin deciding who you will use your vote for in July.



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