



CORNY'S CORNER

Giving Back

Corny Galdones, August 2005

Where we are today stems from the nurture and care from various parties lending time, knowledge and support with us. Our debt to them is priceless, our gratitude boundless. Our ultimate tribute is to carry on their legacy by giving back in kind to others.

Some of us vanish when it comes to giving back. Others sit back. Gads, by doing their own thing, they may even have a life! The dedicated among us bearing the brunt of the burden can only hope for one. Thank goodness for these folks. Else, officials would soon become an endangered species.

For those who don't know how to get involved or are new in the limelight, here's a Giving Back 101 primer. If management is your goal, prove your competence and commitment. Be careful for what you wish. Ambitious, quality leaders willing to work for peanuts are in demand. If no one comes calling, start out on your own. Every effort counts.

We once admired and patterned ourselves after role models. We've become one. On the sly, those of less stature will study us as icons at work or play. What we say and do will be gospel. Shine everywhere. Be someone's idol.

We once learned from teachers and performance. Pass on your acquired wisdom to a novice. Be a mentor. Your charge's mentality and behavior are as vital as technical skills. "Do as I say, not as I do" is acceptable. Nobody's perfect. Cover the ideals, logistics and expectations of core activities. Develop a grounded, rounded professional that people can trust anytime, anywhere. After your protégé matures, recruit and aid another. Their growth and success will reward you with a sense of pride and gratification. Improve their welfare and treat them with respect to gain respect in return. That's a bonus.

Our organizations once invested in us and still do. Be a giver, not only a taker. Volunteers as well as leaders are sought. You're in the wrong outfit if you'll only work for pay. Make time and step forward. Find a staff job where you can be of use. If no opening exists, create a niche to fill a need. If you find fault in a system function, fix it. Solve, not complain. Aim to serve and produce results, preferably good results. Do your share and do it well, and you'll earn acceptance and acclaim. Moreover, our institutes survive, if not thrive, for another day and everyone's happy. Well, almost everyone.

Officiating is a choice. Protecting its lifeblood and health is in the best interest of all who elect to pursue this enriching avocation. Ascent and attrition now make us the torchbearers. Just blowing the whistle isn't enough. We have a higher calling to help others like others once helped us. Our commitment, loyalty and sense of obligation are vital to growing our pastime for the benefit of one and all. The future of officiating is in our hands.

Show your passion. Give back.