

Who are You?

In conversations recently, and relating to a book I'm reading,* I do wonder – Who are You? And really who am I? It's a pretty common question, but do you really know who you are? In my study of Leisure Services, (yes, that is my degree!) we talked about how we usually introduce ourselves around our work. When we meet someone new, the first question is typically "What do you do?" Is what you "do" representative of all that you are?

At a regional conference I attended in May, we did a really interesting ice breaker. We broke off into pairs. Then for one minute each, we told the other person who we were by saying one-line sentences. For instance, I would say: I am a woman, I am a daughter, I am a wife, I am a mother, I am a dancer, I am a Chamber executive, I am a nature lover, I am a reader, I am a public speaker, I am a piano player, I am an athlete, I am an animal lover, I am a bike rider, I am a bowler, I am a movie lover, I am a sports fan, I am an adventurer... set your timer for one minute and go! I encourage you to do this exercise with your colleagues, your friends and your family. It's a great way to find out more about people you think you know. It's also an interesting self-reflection exercise. Don't let your conversation just be, "what do you do?"

I hope to do this exercise with Paul Melchert. [What does he do?](#) He has been a partner in his firm for 60 years and is retiring at the end of the month. (See his celebration in this newsletter) But Paul Melchert is so much more than an attorney! For one thing, Paul was one of the founders of the Waconia Chamber of Commerce in 1961. As he said at our recent coffee connection, he truly believes that when businesses work together, we all do better and we all rise. Which is one reason why Waconia has such a strong and vibrant community. If you click on the link above, you can read Paul's bio. He is an amazing man! We can all look to Paul as an excellent example of how to be a strong business person, a community contributor and a really great person. Thanks for creating our Chamber, Paul!

Take the time to get to know people you encounter... it does make the world a better place... and it's fun! So many times, you'll find out things that you have in common with someone and it's a great way to build relationships. Which does get us back to business, people do business with people they know.

Last but not least, Go Twins!

*The Gifts of Imperfection "Let go of you think you're supposed to be, and Embrace who you are!" by Brene Brown