

Bozho,

This month I wish to touch on two topics: First, what we should expect from our Executive Branch in running tribal affairs, and second, the 13 things an employee anywhere should not share with his coworkers.

In *The One Minute Entrepreneur*, Don Hutson quotes his friend, Harris Palmer, who gives this fundamental advice on why a business or enterprise succeeds or fails. There are four key areas which follow:

- Make sure sales exceed expenses
- Collect your bills
- Take care of your customers
- Take care of your people

As your elected representative, I reviewed and approved our annual budget this last September. Additionally, on a monthly basis, I review the spending detail versus the budget as we proceed through the year. Presently, the data shows we are accomplishing the first three areas cited.

I have visited Shawnee several times, along with the Rossville elder center in Kansas. I spent six days with a variety of employees and fellow citizens on the Gathering of Nations trip to Canada in August 2008. I have held conversations with our employees on the trip already mentioned, at tribal headquarters, and at the Cultural Heritage Center. I received no negative comments from any employee regarding our current leadership.

I have also looked at their Web sites and have received correspondence from others seeking to run our businesses. In my opinion, the only person who, as a candidate for election as Chairman, meets all of the elements needed for us to continue being successful, is our current Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett.

On February 17, Rachel Zupék posted an article online at www.careerbuilder.com about how you potentially jeopardize your career by sharing personal areas with your co-workers.

1. Salary information is between you and Human Resources. Disclosure indicates you are not capable of maintaining a confidence.
2. No one really cares about your aches and pains. Moreover, to the boss, your constant medical problems might look like you are too expensive and a high-risk employee.
3. Gossip never stops with the one you spoke too. He will no doubt pass on your tales and, ultimately, you will be the one who is the topic of the "nasty news."
4. Complainers soon find they are no longer in the loop. If you don't like the place, policies, or what is going on, go through regular channels and offer a solution. Otherwise, it is time to move on.
5. Cost of personal purchases is bragging, and some may wonder if you are living beyond your means.
6. Don't share intimate details about your personal life. Co-workers can and will use the information against you.
7. Regarding politics or religion, people have strong, passionate views in these two areas. You might alienate a co-worker or be viewed negatively by him or your boss and ultimately impact your career, and not necessarily the way you wished.

- 8.** Changes in lifestyles reflect on your capabilities, desires, and limitations on availability. Breakups, divorces, and baby-making should only be shared if there is a need to know.
- 9.** Blogs or social networking profiles have the capability of being seen online by multiple eyes. An outburst or something said at the wrong time can blow up in your face!
- 10.** Negative views about colleagues, as expressed to co-workers, is not the proper venue. If you have an issue with someone's dress, manners, professional ability, or whatever, either keep it to yourself or talk to him privately.
- 11.** Talking about hangovers and wild weekends makes you appear to be unprofessional and unreliable. It's perfectly fine to have a good time on your days off, but your wild adventures over the week-end should not be a Monday conversation item.
- 12.** Personal problems and relationships – in and out of the office - are a real no-no! Failed marriages and volatile romances spell instability to an employer. Office romance can lead to gossip and broken hearts, so it's best to steer clear. The safest rule to follow is, "Never get your honey where you get your money".
- 13.** Off-color or racially-charged comments are not funny. Federal laws involving discrimination or harassment can place you in very serious jeopardy. This is offensive and is simply not tolerated.

The reasons I chose to address these two areas this month are that, first and foremost, many jobs are in peril this year because of the economy. As an employee, you need to be sure your value to the company is not at risk because of what you do or say. The 13 items are a minefield, one or more of which can be the deciding factor the boss uses to determine who goes and who stays if staff must be reduced.

Second, two of the three candidates running for the Chairmanship failed on one or more of the four areas Harris Palmer identified as needed for continued success. Our present Chairman is the only one who consistently stayed the course. Is everyone perfect? Obviously not, but given three choices, we need to look at who will serve the Nation best, and who has the management skills to lead us as we continue through our change. I believe as your elected representative, I must give you the benefit of what I have found.

Bama Pi,
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Bozho District Three Citizens!

I am very proud to have been allowed to be your initial elected representative for the first fifteen months of our new constitutional government.

I thank you for your confidence in me and am deeply honored to find myself as your uncontested candidate in 2009. I look forward to representing you in the first full four-year term that begins in June of this year.

Our tribal Chairman is running for re-election and I will be voting for his return. He has the experience and has taken us through continuous change for the better. I hope you, too, vote for his continued leadership of our Nation.

My initial pledge was to serve you well and I intend to keep this as my primary objective.

Megwetch,
Bob Whistler/*Bmashi*

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