Weaving the Narrative Thread
Themes from the 2012 Western Cities Conference

We arrive
Armed with umbrellas
Finding sunshine in the smiles

61 years of coming together
To talk about how we’re adapting
What we’re learning
Sitting together
Talking together
Coming alive

What’s shifting now?
Doing more with less
Salary expectations
Getting our retirees to retire
But how?

Shift is piling up
but
Imagination is an unlimited supply

Throw darts with unwavering belief
Achieve that which we seek

Strive for what’s possible
in
the impossible
Fall short and be better off
Miss the moon
find yourself among
the stars

Suffer disappointment
to
practice
attitude control
And celebrate small victories
Because how we deal with roadblocks determines where shifts happen

We might not be on the skeleton track but our lives don’t have brakes and we certainly aren’t slowing down

So where do we go from here?

Set-backs with divorces
Having kids later
Housing
The grey ceiling

How do we help our employees prepare to retire when they are unable to afford to retire

This is today’s economy We’ve cashed the reality cheque

Households are vulnerable Freedom 55 is no more We’re living and dying with debt

How do we stop the cycle?
It’s not about right or wrong
But the questions we ask
Dig deeper
to understand
how
families in your
community
are affected

We’re in communication clashpoints
And our jobs are herding cats
JFK, Barbie, divorce and the World Wide Web
These events
shape how we show up

We bridge gaps when we share stories
Music cuts across the generations
Learn new ways of communicating
with those who
aren’t feeling heard

Alphabetize the distribution list
and
capture knowledge before it’s gone

Deal with the Facebook generation
It’s their smoke break
I get it now
Why they must collaborate

We all have a unique perspective
And even though I’m older
I
still
have
value
Psychic handshakes
And networking

This gathering
is about
surrounding ourselves
with people who support
each other

To connect with like-minded
and like-spirited
individuals
all trying to work smarter
not harder

We need to decide
Do we want to be consumers
or
contributors?

Discover what’s in your culture
that’s life-giving
Create space to talk about
what’s visible
and
what’s real
Embrace the negative
Celebrate the positive

Bring corporate values
to life at lower levels
Help leaders stretched thin

And get rid of those piles

The issues are becoming more complex
We fight
freeze
Or
take flight
But it’s not about getting it right
Think broadly about the issue
Listen with eyes and hearts
Believe
there is something there
Discover
what can we let go and set to one side

Check the
quality your of leadership
through the
quality of your
conversations

Stop to ask yourself
How are YOU living your values?
Leadership is who you are not your position

Balance is needed
Care for employees
without detriment to the company

Listen, acknowledge and celebrate difference
Find ways for unions and employers
to work together

Discover what’s happening in the environment
instead of blaming
the
individual

Share our experiences
Learn from
breakthrough moments

Start locally and watch our actions spread
Discover new perspectives through new team members
Reach out to each other

The wisdom is in this network
Find success through SHRED
Train your mind and your body will follow
Engage in strategic play to
stimulate our brains
Fiddle for better memory
and get into the
flow
zone
You can quit your job
but you can’t quit your calling

Change happens in the muck
it’s where the misfits live
The one animal you fear
is the one you can’t live without

We scrape by to survive
Win fossil awards or we can
make
things
better
Consume or contribute
Look deeply at our actions
I’m just one boy and look at
What I’ve done

Success is looking in the mirror
Not looking around to
place
blame

Check your ego at the door
Don’t do this this work alone
The time of the lone captain is over
Trust and believe in yourself
The culture you leave
is
your
legacy

Begin the work of becoming yourself
Chart where your ability and appetite intersect
Seek the sweet
Satisfaction
Of
Our
lives
and have
your
“why NOT me!”
moment