

Presidential Ponderings - November 2024

As we enter the season of the year best known for “Giving Thanks”, I realize that I have much to be thankful for. On a personal note, I am extremely grateful for the love of my wife, Kristi, who stands by me through “thick and thin.” Ditto for our four children and two grandchildren who are the lights of our lives. Lastly, I am grateful for the gifts of good health and prosperity that my family has enjoyed. We have been truly blessed.

With just a few short months until my retirement, I am obviously taking the time to personally reflect on the many blessings that have been a part of my professional journey these last 42 years. I have been employed by four different agencies, all of whom were nonprofit church-affiliated organizations that believed in both high-quality care and benevolent support for those in need. I am thankful for all the folks whom I worked alongside, and who instilled in me the values and kernels of wisdom that continue to guide my decisions.

Over half of my work life was spent here in Palmyra. I am extremely grateful for the wisdom and compassion of the many LV Board members I have known; I am especially thankful for the Board’s support of our Green Houses, which was a largely untested concept back in 2005 when we started down that path. It was the right thing to do for our elders. I am equally appreciative of the professional and technically brilliant efforts of my Department Head team members; they are a gifted and hard-working group of organizational leaders. More generally, I am indebted to the 200+ staff members of Londonderry Village, whose dedication and hard work are the foundation of our reputation for excellence; these tireless individuals get us through blizzards, heat waves, and even viral pandemics!

Last, but certainly not least, I am thankful for the many residents (and their families) that I have been privileged to serve. I have learned much from them, including the values of compassion, volunteer service, philanthropy, fellowship, faith, acceptance, humor, dignity, grace, and how to deal with the inescapable moments of adversity that eventually confront us all. It has been quite an education.

The pleasure has been all mine!

*Thanks for Listening,
Jeff Shireman, President*

