June 2020



From the President



Growing up in the North Carolina Sandhills, Sunday afternoons were spent with my Dad. The summer of my second-grade year, my parents got a divorce, and my custodial parent became my Mom. A man of limited means. Dad entertained me those Sunday afternoons fishing on the creek bank, wandering

through flea markets searching for treasures, and other such excursions. During those times together, my father imparted to me pearls of wisdom strung together Sunday to Sunday.

During the summer of my 12th year, he taught me to drive. Near my father's house, there was an old tobacco farm laden with acres upon acres of fields linked by sandy, unpaved roads. Turning from the main road, my father faced me



June 25, 2020 11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m. <u>Virtual Lunch Ladders (Members Only)</u> Register Now

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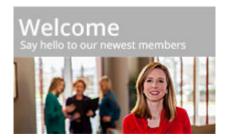
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CREW Charlotte's 30th Anniversary

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Silvia Balan

and said, Soodie, today you're going to learn to drive. Pulling over, he put the old Chevy truck in neutral, set the brake, and began to instruct. I had watched my father switch the gear lever on the steering column. I had even sat up on his lap at times and felt the gears slip one to the next as I steered the old Chevy down the nearly abandoned side roads. Now I was to sit alone in the driver seat, working right foot back-and-forth between gas and brake, gas and brake, my left foot charged with commandeering the clutch. My excitement and anxiety blended together in that moment and left a wet mustache on my upper lip. We tried it out, just a little way down that dirt road, Dad's old Chevy bucking and stalling like a spirited colt, my arms and legs flailing without purpose about my body. In time, I had it going, and the transition between gears became smoother. Stall-outs became more infrequent. Cruising along down that little farm lane, I felt a sense of freedom and pride.

Then came the real test. Farther down the road, Dad explained, we would run into some rougher road. Ruts in those old farm roads were always filled in with sand, commonplace in this region. It would take some degree of technique to navigate them. For a time, I would feel out of control, he said, but I must, under no circumstances, panic and stop. Up ahead I could see the first sandpit approaching. My now sweaty palms gripped the steering wheel like a vice. My front tires traversed in, and just as the tension began to ascend, my back tires fishtailed first right and then left. Sheer terror set in, and my right leg willed itself from gas to break. I came to a dead stop, but not before miring up my back tires in sand.

It took my father considerable brawn and brain to get us out of that sandpit. But he was patient and never stopped instructing. My next attempt would deliver me to the other side.

With all that is going on in our world right now, it occurs to me that life itself is a lot like that driving lesson. Along the way, there will be sand pits, treacherous curves, even stall outs. But at each juncture, we are called on to rely upon our resources to navigate to the other side. It is at these times I hear my father's voice encouraging me. Don't panic. Don't stop. Drive straight through that sandpit. There is smooth road on the other side.

Stay strong, my friends. Lean in to the feelings that accompany these uncertain times. Lean on others. If CREW Charlotte can support you in a

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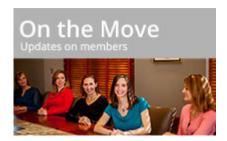
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Please contact Patty Drummond with your career updates.

Member Spotlights



Amber Westerduin McMillan, PLLC

way that we have not, tell us. Share and listen. We are not all experiencing these challenging times in the same way. But we are all experiencing them. This is when the connections we have with each other really matter.

"When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all of our hands." – Maria Shriver

Highlights

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CREW Network isn't just CREWBiz,

Conventions and the Foundation...although those may be the parts of CREW Network that you hear the most about....

There is also a means for connection with those serving you through their service to CREW Network. Use this link to learn more about your Network Leadership Team. You may find the answers to these FAQs useful as you expand your involvement with CREW Network.



Membership is now being offered at a special mid-year rate. This rate will

cover membership from July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. For more information or to apply, please **click here**.

Do you have any **news** to share with us about you or your company? Have you won an **award**? Would you like us to **nominate** you for one? If



Sophie Wiley
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<u>Click here to read the member</u> spotlights.

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Presented by
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May virtual

luncheon was based on recent Accenture research, The Hidden Value of Culture Makers.

Click here to read a summary of the luncheon.

June Virtual Luncheon - Circular Charlotte



Our virtual
June luncheon
presented by
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