



The Keynote Chronicle

Humor News from Jan McInnis
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Communicating in a Perfect World

I just read that the latest tattoo “trend” for baby boomers is medical tattoos. Baby boomers are actually tattooing health instructions on their body, like “DNR” (Do Not Resuscitate) or “No CPR” so that if they drop dead on the sidewalk, the medical personnel will know what to do. I decided I’m going to tattoo PSMBO on my chest – that stands for *Put My Shirt Back On!* I’m in public! Okay, I probably won’t do that because I don’t like needles, but I bet my tattoo would get some attention!

Medical tattoos are just the latest rage in communication, in a time when we are inventing more and more ways to communicate. I texted a friend, but she didn’t return it because she said she hates texting and that I need to email her. I emailed another friend, and she told me to call her because she is never on email. I have yet another friend whom I called and of course got her voicemail, but she never returned the call. In fact, she acted like I was some sort of dinosaur for calling – and she responded to my voicemail through Facebook! I think I’ll just give up and write them all a letter: snail mail would definitely get their attention!

Despite all of these avenues of communication, getting our message across has never been harder, and we still haven’t found a way to perfectly communicate without error.

Take verbal communication. This should be the easiest, simplest way (theoretically) to converse, because you’re speaking directly to someone. And yet, this gets messed up all the time. I recently stopped by the store to pick up some laundry supplies, and I asked the saleswoman where the bleach was. She sent me down the cosmetics aisle! Hey lady, it’s for my whites, not my mustache! Since we’re all communicating from our own point of view, we interpret things through our own lens of experience, which sometimes leads to misinterpretation. And for the record I *don’t* have a mustache – but I’m guessing she does!

Email came along to compliment our verbal communications, but it has its own unique problems: mainly in the *volume* of messages. When email started out, I didn’t even think there was a need for it. I was working in the optics industry at the time (you know, for the people who build this internet stuff) but I thought email was kind of stupid and even told a co-worker “*Why would I email someone who works in the next office over when I can just go talk to them?*” Glad I wasn’t in charge of technology or we’d still be using stone tablets. I think email became really popular when people realized they never again had to have a face-to-face conversation with someone they didn’t like. Unfortunately the junk mail in our post office box followed us to email. I now pay a premium for my iPhone service to have instant access to email, just so I can learn that Sears has free shipping today only!

And to cut through all this spam, and make sure someone got your message, we began texting. It is succinct and quick—or it would be if I didn’t have to spend so much extra time explaining my texts. My friend sent me a text saying she’d

Spotlight

Jan’s Keynotes:

- *Finding the Funny in Communications* - Learn how to use humor in your business communications to connect with clients/coworkers, sell your product/idea/service, get people to listen to you and be memorable.
- *Finding the Funny in Change* - Learn to use humor during change to diffuse tense situations, kick off tough topics and facilitate communications.
- *Hilarious Hosting* - Keep your audience engaged and keep the program running smoothly on schedule with Jan as your emcee.
- *Cubicle Comedy* - Clean, customized comedy focusing on work, family and day-to-day life.

A few of the upcoming groups Jan will be presenting this key-not to include:

- Kansas Health Care Engineers Association
- Colorado Health Care Association Risk Managers Association
- Kentucky Home Care Association

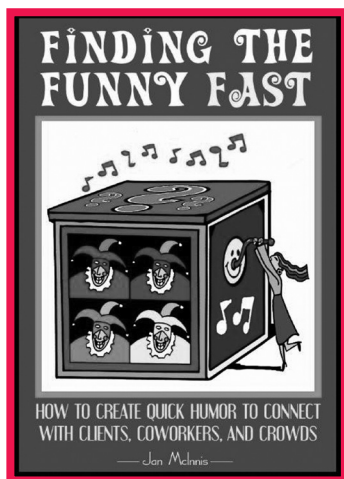
Feel free to pass this newsletter along and refer me!

like to meet up with me to go on a bike ride that afternoon. I immediately texted back “pervert”. . . I meant “perfect” but AutoCorrect, another “helpful” communication tool, changed my text. And some people among us are abusing the text privilege. My friend’s daughter sent 9,000 text messages in one month, and a lady in my audience said her son sent 10,000. I can’t comprehend that, because the math makes my head explode: 9,000 texts divided by 30 days in a month equals 300 a day divided by 18 waking hours equals 17 texts an hour divided by 60 minutes equals 3.5 texts a minute. There should be a competition for speed texting . . .oh wait, according to my Google research, there is! And the fastest texter gets like \$50,000. Wow, how pervert is that?

Then Facebook came through to save the day to help us communicate with everyone about everything. And as it turns out, we neither want nor need to know everything about everyone. I mean, I’ve enjoyed re-connecting with people. I found long lost friends whom I hadn’t spoken to in years. We got to be friends again and all was right with the world. Unfortunately, along with those good friends came the “other” friends. You know, the ex-boyfriend who weighs 300 pounds more than when I dated him and has a picture of himself sitting in the same bar we drank at 30+ years ago – yeah, he found me. I also get friend requests from people I don’t even know because I think they think there’s a grand prize when you reach 5,000 friends. “Junk mail” has made it to Facebook. And when you have a status change such as “in a relationship” to “single” do you want to let the entire nation know about it? Apparently you will if you don’t press the right button so that everyone you’ve ever known doesn’t see your status update. I understand people have divorced over status changes.

I was recently hiking Glacier National Park where there is no cell or internet service. It was nice to disconnect from everything, but a little hard to relax knowing I’d be hit with 200,000 messages when I got back “in range.”

I think what we need is not more ways to communicate, but ways to make sure our communications are more clear. I’ve decided my cat Rader is probably the best communicator of all because he only has two methods: pawing the air and drooling. When he wants to be petted he sits on his hind legs and waves his front paws in the air like he’s Marcel Marceau the famous mime trying to get out of a box. Then when you pet him, he drools to show that he likes it. Waving and drooling. . . too bad all communication isn’t this simple.



Jan has shared her customized humor keynotes with thousands of associations and corporations. She is also the author of “Finding the Funny FAST; How To Create Quick Humor To Connect With Clients, Coworkers And Crowds,” and she was featured in the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post for her clean humor. From a recent client: “Hey Jan! Thanks for a great keynote speech and kick off to our annual convention. In all my 25 years of HIM (Health Information Management) experience, I’ve not seen a large group of HIM professionals walk out of a meeting with such smiles on their faces. Your presentation was witty and enjoyable!”

Baby Boomer Comedy Show; Clean Comedy For People Born Before Seatbelts, Safety Helmets, and Facebook – Jan co-stars with Kent Rader in the Baby Boomer Comedy Show for theaters and private events around the country. This is a hilarious 90-minute laugh-fest, with clean humor on topics that the “boomer generation” can relate to - family, kids, work, do-it-yourself projects, dieting, aging and all. Check it out at www.BabyBoomerComedyShow.com to see when they’re coming to your town, or contact them to book the show at your event!

THE BABY BOOMER COMEDY SHOW IS APPEARING AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Fountain Inn Civic Center, Fountain Inn, SC, September 28
- Kaleidoscope Theater, Lynn Haven, FL, September 7 & 8
- Greenwood Community Theatre, Greenwood, SC, September 29
- Carlsbad Village Theatre, Carlsbad, CA, November 10

“The Baby Boomer Comedy show was so enjoyed by our audience that we booked them to return right away. It brought in a whole new audience of entertainment lovers who had never seen our space before!”

- Anita Sleeman, Fountain Inn Civic Center