



Paul's Leadership Tips

Chief Paul H. Stein

paulhstein@aol.com

THE NOTHING BOX

Last January, I had the opportunity to conduct training at the Texas A&M University (TEEX), Leadership Development Symposium. The symposium was held in San Marcos, Texas.

The title of my training session was "Can't We All Just Get Along", and the discussion revolved around creating an organizational culture of innovation and cooperation. This concept is achieved when good, positive relationships are developed within a team. My mantra for the training session was "there is no issue more important in an organization than developing good relationships." If you have positive relationships you can accomplish anything and solve any problem because strong relationships enable trust and facilitate better communication leading to higher performance.

As I was conducting research for the program, I came across some interesting facts about why men and women think differently. I have been married 49 years (same woman). What I have learned from my research and personal experience is that women are much more complicated than men. Men are very simple because our unique brains are different than a women's brain. It makes no difference whether men are having sex or watching sports, our brains are made up of little boxes. We have a box for everything. We have a box for the car. We have a box for money. We have a box for our job. We have a box for you. We have a box for the kids. We have a box for our mother-in-law, somewhere in the basement.

We have boxes for everything, and the rule is that the boxes don't touch. When a man discusses a subject, we go to that particular box, we pull that box out, open it, and we only discuss the items that are in that particular box. Then we close that box and put it away being very careful not to touch other boxes.

Example: I call my buddy about playing golf. My wife is in the other room, but she can, as always hear my conversation. Here is how it goes;

Me "Hey Steve, what's going on?"

Steve "Not much, things are good. What's up?"

Me, "How about golf next Tuesday at Olivas, 9:15am?"

Steve, "OK, I'll see you there."

Now my wife comes in the room as I'm hanging up. She ask me "Who was that?"

I respond 'Steve, we made a golf date for next Tuesday.'

Wife, "How is his family?"

Me. "Fine I guess."

Wife, "Didn't you ask?"

Me, "No."

Wife, "You mean you just called him and only asked about golf and nothing else?"

Me "Yep."

Wife, "Men!"

As I said earlier, I learned that women's brains are very, very different than men's brains. Women's brains are made up of a big ball of wire. And everything is connected to everything. The money is connected to the car, the car is connected to your job, and your job is connected to the kids and so on. It's like the internet superhighway, and it is all driven by energy we call emotion. It's one of the reasons that women remember..... *Everything*.

If you take an event and you connect it to emotion it burns into your memory and you can remember it forever. The same thing happens to men, just not very often. Because quite frankly we just don't care. Women tend to care about everything, and they love caring.

Now men have a box in our brain that most women are not aware of. This particular box has nothing in it. As a matter of fact it's called the "nothing box." Of all the boxes a man has in his brain, the nothing box is our favorite box. If a man has a chance, he'll go to the nothing box every time. That's why a man can do something seemingly completely brain dead for hours on end. You know like fishing. It appears that men have the ability to think about absolutely nothing, and still breathe.

Women can't do it - their mind never stops, and they don't understand the nothing box - it drives them crazy because nothing drives a women more crazy and makes them feel more irritated than to watch a man do nothing.

As they say during political election time, "This message has been approved by my wife."

*VIVI BENE--LIVE WELL
RIDI SPESSO--LAUGH OFTEN
E AMA MOLTO--LOVE MUCH*

