

You Make A Difference – The Star of CPI

By Sue Heusing

This past year we have spread the “Talk It Up” message and just as a parrot would continue to repeat its message over and over until someone heard, our Executive committee has taken every opportunity to share their knowledge and guidance to every local association and district. We want CPI to grow and continue to function as a viable association; we must continue to parrot the strengths of our members, to provide the educational support and the network of membership both at the local and as direct members. As we prepare to start a new year, let us recognize the job Carol Neal and her executive committee have done by Talking It Up! (Applaud)

Your new President has chosen the Star as her symbol of office and the theme of You Make A Difference. It would appear the emphasis is on the You in that sentence and each of you can make a difference in how CPI is perceived, marketed to prospective members, and managed at the local and district level. President Linda sees everyone as a Star in her Galaxy and one single star alone would not be enough to provide the light necessary for the illumination of Credit Professionals International.

Astronomy is the study of the stars and is probably the most ancient science. Modern astronomers know a surprising amount about most stars,

distance away, temperature, mass, size and motion. Stars nearly always occur in clusters or galaxies and like members of Credit Professionals; we too can provide greater light and energy when we appear in clusters.

Just as astronomers know a great deal about the basic information on mass, distance and luminosity, the evolution or creation of stars is not as well understood. In the same way the Earth goes round the Sun, nearby stars seem to shift their positions. As members of a local CPI association, you move in your own small orbit about the District and each of the Districts move around in the International organization.

A star is a luminous globe of gas producing its own heat and light by nuclear reactions. Their surface temperatures range from 2000 degrees to over 30,000 degrees C and range in color from red to blue white. They live a million or more years so is it any wonder that astronomy is the oldest science! Many stars appear to be far brighter than others and that indicates that there is more energy being spent, more heat generated and may have a shorter life span than others. Much like our membership, wouldn't you agree?

Some members shine brightly for a short period of time and then disappear over the horizon and we never see them again. Others are steadfast in the desire to continue providing the light for others to follow and

to navigate through the local, the district and then on to serve on the International Board of Directors.

Many members are like the stars in the Milky Way, part of a large mass shining brightly for all but not making a distinct formation like Orion or Taurus or the Big Dipper. Some stars are better seen at certain times of the year or from specific latitudes or locations but nearly invisible from other parts of the world. Much like the local member who never attends a district or international but shines brightly in their location. If you were to move below the equator, the primary guiding star would be the Southern Cross and not the North Star we always try to spot when we look skyward.

As members of Credit Professionals International, you can be a star and how brightly you shine depends on how much energy you project, how many other stars you gather around you, and if you are willing to go the distance in our stratosphere. Will the District Officers please come forward. As Presidents of your District Associations you have just been elected and installed at your most recent conference. Carol asked you to “Talk It Up” and President Linda will ask you to provide a very bright star over the next several months at your local meetings, your State Meetings, and your fall seminars? If we can count on you to Make A Difference please answer, I will

Past President Carol Neal, you provided a talkative theme this past year with Talk It Up and while your year has ended, we still entrust you with helping the new Executive Board and provide illumination for Making a Difference.

CPI: Secretary- Treasurer_____. You have been elected to serve this association as both Secretary and Treasurer. To you we will look for accurate minutes of the association meetings and an accounting of our financial status. Do you pledge to serve this association in that office?

CPI Vice Presidents – _____ and _____.

You have once again agreed to serve Credit Professionals International. To you we will look for leadership of our members. You will serve as Chairmen of the Education and Membership committees and you will play a critical role in our effort to brighten the horizon with the brilliance of your starlight. Do you pledge to lead us?

President - Linda Bridgeford You have been elected to the highest office this association can bestow on anyone. To you we will look for leadership, co-ordination of all efforts from every district and member. You must remain impartial on all issues to come before you but your voice must be the loudest in our effort to continue to grow our association. You truly are the brightest star in the galaxy but only with your full attention to detail

can we keep this CPI horizon bright for others to follow you. Do we have your pledge to lead us?

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in congratulating your officers and wishing them the best for 2005-2006. (Applaud)