



# SOMETIMES IT'S WORSE KNOWING

Jamie Herman | CEO

We've all heard this saying, and yes, sometimes it is worse knowing what lies ahead. This adage is often used when discussing a medical condition, or life-changing event, but in this case, I'm referring to the retirement of a friend and co-worker, Fred Holley.

In my time here at NYRWA I have witnessed many friends come and go...Many were here for a long duration such as Pat Scalera, Doug Smorol, Mike Dill, Valerie Ogden, Tim Shudt, Donna Bartolotta, Yvonne Tucker, Bob Messenger and Dan Tousley, just to name a few, while others were shorter term but no less important such as Josh Bossard, Keith Herbert, Steve Smuda and Michael Batz, again to name just a few.

These work relationships are what really matters, the friendships we develop over years of working together in our industry. In most cases our co-workers provide ample notice on their pending retirement or departure. We make plans, say our So Longs but never Goodbyes. But with Fred it's all been different. We have known his retirement date for so very long, I think I took it for granted. I kept putting off the inevitable discussions, you know, those "what are you going to do when you retire" type discussions. Then COVID-19 hit and our, well, my focus was elsewhere, and now the time has come to say So Long to a co-worker and friend.

Fred Holley, or 007 as some here call him (his cell phone number ends in 007), came to work as a Circuit Rider in February 2015. I had talked to Dan Tousley who had recommended Fred and thought very highly of him. Fred applied for the position, along with several other worthwhile candidates, and interviewed with Pat Scalera and I a short while later. I was taken by Fred's past experience, his knowledge, his passion for our industry...it was obvious he wasn't ready to retire and needed one more challenge, a challenge he needed to accept to round out his career in his own mind.

We hired Fred shortly after the interviews, and that is where the story ends. No...just kidding! That is where it begins. Fred joined our team and was immediately a breath of fresh air, like a missing

piece to a puzzle, and he proved to round out our team quite nicely. Fred brought a dry sense of humor, which I know took some of our members a bit of time to appreciate, but he also brought passion, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to learn. In time, Fred truly grew into the Circuit Rider position and in my opinion, met the needs of our members with each, and every system visit. Who knew, this whole time I was gaining a friend! Fred was a good fit right from the beginning, he quickly adapted to the paperwork, travel, and had a way of building relationships with our members. Fred and I always like to joke with one another, and I always appreciated that he knew we could joke, but still complete the serious work in front of us.

On one trip to Little Rock, Fred stayed out just a little too late. The next morning he was sleepy, and unfortunately for Fred we were in class together. Well, Fred nodded off you see, and me being, well me, I asked the speaker to stop and I took a picture of Sleeping Beauty, which I used for several of my classes over the years to signify break time...I hope you all enjoyed the picture half as much as I did. My one regret, I always promised Fred a Pink Yugo for a Circuit Rider vehicle. Unfortunately, I was never able to keep that promise...sorry Fred.

I could go on and on about Fred, one thing I will not miss is asking him to get a haircut. Kramer has nothing on you Fred. If you don't believe me, just ask him to take his hat off. Just don't get in the way! Poof!!!

Fred, thank you for all you have done for the Association and our members. You have been a valued co-worker who always had the

best interest of our members at heart, and that is all we ever asked. You are leaving behind some mighty big shoes to fill. Thank you for helping to train Jon, with your help we know he will be successful. We wish you all the best in this next chapter of your life, and much joy to you and your wife Carol on this journey. You will always have a place at our table here at NYRWA, surrounded by friends. I won't say goodbye my friend, let's just say so long for now! 💧💧💧

