From the president's desk

Change your attitude

COLUMN BY HANK HENKE



The other night my wife and I went to see CJ Jones, a comedian who bills himself as the deaf comedian. I had my reservations about the evening as I no longer know any sign language. (Yes, at one time I learned because I hired two deaf employees and all my employees learned so we could communicate with them.)

I was very impressed with his story. He was born into a home with both deaf parents. He and his six siblings were not hearing impaired. At seven years of age he lost his hearing. I can't imagine what this would be like. He attended school and college. CJ is a businessman, world traveler, and an entertainer. As the evening went on it became evident he was talking to his deaf audience but directing his remarks to those of us who could hear. His message was knowledge and attitude. If you ever get the chance to attend his show it is well worth your time.

Now how does this relate to you? Well, are you willing to share your knowledge with others? Have you joined the Electrical Rebuilder's Association (ERA)? If not, this could be a way to start.

Oh, you are a member? Do you post on the forums to help someone solve a problem? Every year we have a convention at the ERA Trade Show. Have you attended? Yes? Have you ever volunteered to make a presentation for something you are doing to make your life better? What about volunteering to be on a committee or on the board?

Knowledge is yours to share. It is one thing that you can do that won't cost you a dime. Just think how lucky you are when you hear of someone like CJ who faces a disability every day. Most of us suffer from a mind-induced belief that we could never get up and talk. Yes you can! Everyone who shares at the show had to do it the first time and thought no one would want to hear what he thought. We do want to hear what you think!

If no one would show up to make a presentation, how would anyone learn? Oh, you would be embarrassed to do this (another mind game). The only one who can embarrass you is you. Everyone in your audience is there to learn from you. Is it time to change your attitude and share your knowledge. You might be surprised at the outcome.

If you would like to get involved, call me or contact Polly Shea at the *Exchange* office. We would be happy to have you.

Hank Henke, ERA president, is owner of United Starter & Alternator, Lowell, Ind.

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