

**From:** [Neil Barnett](#)  
**To:** [Peter McDonagh](#); [Frank Panicali](#); [Kevin Krapels](#); [Robert Felton](#); [Tom Peters](#); [Barbara P. Semple](#); [Domenick Cutri](#); [Kirk Wolthouse](#); [Chris Kelly](#); [John Bengivenni](#); [All Sales Managers](#); [Brand Managers](#); [Salesperson](#); [Field Sales Managers](#)  
**Cc:** [John Devin](#); [Richard Leventhal](#); [Max Leventhal](#); [Robb Sansone](#)  
**Subject:** Passing the Torch  
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April 17th, 2020

In just a few hours the 2019 Presidents Club luncheon was scheduled to begin. The worldwide Covid 19 pandemic has not only caused the cancellation of one of my favorite events but has dramatically changed the way we live, breathe, and think. By this time we all have been touched in one way or another by the virus and its effect on society and our families. I, along with all of you, yearn for a return to normalcy.

One of the items on today's agenda would have been the formal transfer of responsibilities to your new President of Sales and Marketing. When John Devin agreed to join the company a few months ago, I commented how qualified he was to take the role and how pleased I was personally that he was joining us. Let me say that after 4 weeks, I am absolutely thrilled. Not only is he qualified by his experience, but he has the temperament, character, empathy, and plain old natural ability to step right in and be the leader you can count on day in, day out. He will listen so don't hesitate to talk to him. I am wishing John good luck but he won't need it. He is the real deal and will continue to guide you to great accomplishments. So starting today, if you are thinking of coming to me, go directly to John. I will continue to be available to John and the Executive Office in an Advisory capacity and I hope they find my 41 years helpful.

In closing, as I have said many times, it has been a true honor to be able to represent you for all these years. I have been so fortunate to have a team of people that I respect, admire and love being with. Richard has been an amazing owner and boss and given me tremendous freedom in the management of the sales and marketing teams. I am forever grateful for that as well the respect he has afforded me over the years. Quite simply he is the smartest person I have ever met and has provided the resources that enabled us to accomplish extraordinary things well beyond what the industry standards have been. I have no doubt that Max will continue to build on that foundation. This is one case where the apple has not fallen far from the tree!

So that's it...John, I wish we could have done this at Maplewood CC this afternoon but the world has changed for now. Knock it out of the park, I know you will.

NB

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