

What's *Our* Story

On November 10, 2010, The Employers' Association (EA) will celebrate sixty years of service to the employers of the greater Toledo area. Sitting at my computer writing this article, I am struggling to express what this really means. Reaching significant anniversaries and celebrating their accomplishments is important. However, knowing how to do this best is challenging. Let me offer an example.

My wife and I recently celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Initially, I was just glad to remember the date and the correct number of years, but as the big day approached, I found myself thinking about how to make the day and what it represented special and important. As is typical, we went to our favorite restaurant to enjoy ourselves. It was in the midst of the conversation that I realized what it meant to celebrate an anniversary. Nancy and I talked over dinner about many of the high points and some of the low points that we had experienced together. I guess, in a way, you could say we relived our story and how we had managed to both survive and thrive over the years. As you can imagine we are both proud of that story, not because it is earth-shattering, but simply because it is **our** story, the one we wrote together over a fairly long period of time and because in the writing of that story we have become who we are.

You might be asking, "How does this relate to the EA, Jack?" As I've reflected on the 60th anniversary of the EA, it seems to me that what's really important to celebrate is "Our" story. Not the one written only by the current staff of the EA, but the one many individuals at many companies have written over the last sixty years.

That's where YOU come in. In order to write and reflect on the EA story, I need your help. Every month in 2010, the EA staff and I will be sharing little parts of the EA story in this publication and on the EA web site. We will be reviewing our history files and talking to people who are currently serving or have recently served on the Board of Directors. However, we need your help, too. We believe each member has something to share that can help us write **our** story. Perhaps you worked at the EA and could share your experiences. Perhaps the EA has helped you or your company in a special way, and you'd like to share that with other members. Or maybe you know someone who has made a contribution to the EA and we should talk to them so we can share their story with the rest of the membership.

If you will, please drop me an e-mail titled "My EA Story" and send it to jhollister@employersassociation.com or send a note to my attention at the EA address.

Thanks for being part of **our** story. We look forward to writing it with you this year as we celebrate sixty years of service.

Jack Hollister, President