

AN RSVA PROFILE of SUCCESS

“GROWING INDEPENDENCE AND SUCCESS IN OUR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS”

By: Hazel Harmon, Vendorscope Editor

In step with our RSVA President Dan Sippl’s message in this issue of the Vendorscope, I am proud to present a profile of an RSVA Board member who absolutely exemplifies “Growing Independence and Success in our Businesses and Organizations” to the highest degree. Many in the national blind community can say they have had the pleasure of working alongside this individual for many years in many capacities.

As you read this profile, you will soon realize her enthusiasm for positive attitudes and volunteerism have created excellence for all, as she has utilized so many talents to elevate her success not only personally, but also for the national blind community. Her energy to develop affiliate memberships, organizational acumen, necessary budgeting, convention/conference development and general implementation of committee responsibilities is never ending and, I am sure you will agree, this enthusiasm has played a vital role in the successes of many organizations.

Ardis Bazyn spent several years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where in 1996 she received two Bachelor of Arts Degrees at Coe College, where she majored in Public Relations and Speech Communication. In 1998, Ardis earned her Masters Degree in Arts in Teaching (business and speech areas) as well at Coe College. To round out her education in 2010 she received an Anchor Program Certificate (completing 130 hours on Biblical principles, church history, and doctrines of Christian Faith.

From 1984 – 1999, Ardis worked as a Randolph-Sheppard vendor at the Cedar Rapids Post Office, in a business which included 57 vending machines. We know her many accomplishments as a Randolph-Sheppard vendor pivoted her toward greater successes in independent business and organizational accomplishments.

Ardis was an elected Board Member of ACB from 1992-2000. In 1996, 1997, and 1998, she worked for the American Council of the Blind creating proposals and she completed a Masters Research Project for the ACB in Washington, D.C. In 1999-2000, she gathered data to write three manuals for ACB. In 2001 to 2005 she was the elected Treasurer of ACB. From 2006-present, Ardis has served as the ACB Membership Committee Chair. Also, as President of the ACB affiliate, Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs (IVIE), from 2005-2011, Ardis has grown the membership. She presently serves as Vice-President of that busy affiliate.

Ardis has lived in southern California for the past several years. She married Kevin Berkery three years ago, and as a new bride traveled on a cruise to the British Isles, touring England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as spending 4 days in the Netherlands with her daughter. Ardis has two grown daughters from a previous marriage and she and Kevin have been able to include visits with her daughters during their travels. This past April, Kevin and Ardis traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, and were also able to spend time with a daughter in North Carolina. Of course, there have been several inside the U.S. trips, including the Grand Canyon.

Somehow, she also found time to extend her volunteerism within the California Council of the Blind (CCB). From 2001-2005, she served as the elected Secretary of CCB. In 2006, and presently, she has served as an elected Board Member of CCB. On a more local community level, Ardis was an elected Board Member from 2000-2008 for both the Glendale/Burbank Chapter of CCB as well as the Greater L.A. Chapter of CCB, both very active affiliates of CCB.

From 1991-1999 and again from 2002-2006, Ardis was an elected member of the RSVP Board. From 2006-Present, Ardis has been the elected Secretary for RSVP, responsibly presenting approved Minutes, Schedules, Board Motions, etc. to the RSVP Membership.

It needs to be added that from 2006-2008 Ardis was appointed to serve on the prestigious Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Beneficiary Summit Planning Committee. She participated in

teleconference calls and meetings in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Ga, and Louisville, Kentucky while serving on the Committee.

As a popular inspirational/motivational speaker Ardis has traveled extensively throughout the nation speaking to various groups and committees. For example, in September 2012, she will be speaking at a Conference for the Caption Advisory Committee for Audio Description. She will also be speaking in Michigan at their Blind Council Conference, as well as at the South Dakota Council of the Blind Conference. For information about her speaking engagements, please visit her website at bazyn@bazyncommunications.com.

Ardis has spoken extensively on subjects too numerous to list in this profile. As stated, she is a prolific writer and has published many papers and books. In the spring of 2002, she published her first Book, Building Blocks to Success: Does the Image of Your Church Attract Members? Her second book, Building Blocks to Success: Does the Image of Your Organization Attract Members? was printed in July 2002. She was very excited when her third book in this series, Building Blocks to Success: Does the Image of Your Business Attract Customers and Employees? was released. Ardis Co-authored a book called, Success Simplified a few years ago as well, and has received many favorable reviews.

Ardis has designed several basic presentations for various organizational subjects and details can be found on her website, abazyn@bazyncommunications.com. Ardis is presently the Secretary for the American Business Women's Association where her organizational knowledge and skills again are utilized to support their success.

As one can see, Ardis truly exemplifies a profile of courage and success both in her personal life and in her business life. RSVa is extremely proud of Ardis Bazyn's work. We will always appreciate her many talents, knowledge and skills, including her positive attitude, and recognize that her contributions have truly raised the level of success for RSVa and the national blind community.

THANK YOU ARDIS BAZYN FOR ALL YOU DO!!