

SPEAKER

GIVE

BACK

SHOWCASE
YOUR SPEAKING
SKILLS
PAGE 9

Enriching lives by donating time, talent and money

**GIVING
THROUGH
GIGGING**

TOGETHER WE CAN
**CHANGE THE
WORLD**

AN AIR OF HUMILITY PROMOTES
**AUDIENCE
CONNECTIONS**

**A CLOSER
LOOK** AT 3 NSA
PHILANTHROPISTS

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**THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP:**
A 90-DAY ACTION PLAN

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME *and Reaches Across the Globe*

Nido Qubein Philanthropist of the Year Award recipients volunteer their time and resources to charitable causes to make the world a better place.

The annual award honors individuals inside or outside of NSA who have made a significant contribution in our world by being examples of philanthropy and stewardship. It acknowledges those individuals who demonstrate the power of giving simply for the sake of giving—with no expectation of receiving anything in return.

Nido Qubein, CSP, CPAE, founder and chairman of the NSA Foundation, was honored with the inaugural award at the 2003 NSA Convention. Since then, the following individuals have received the award:

- 2004 Robert J. Danzig, CPAE
- 2005 Peter Legge, MA, CSP, CPAE
- 2007 Jim Tunney, EdD, CSP, CPAE
- 2008 Jim Rhode, CSP
- 2008 Naomi Rhode, CSP, CPAE
- 2009 Keith Harrell, CSP, CPAE
- 2010 Roxanne Emmerich, CMC, CSP, CPAE
- 2011 Randy Pennington, CSP, CPAE
- 2012 Mark Sanborn, CSP, CPAE
- 2013 Randy Gage, CPAE
- 2014 Jim Tunney, EdD, CSP, CPAE

Here, past recipients Jim Tunney, EdD, CSP, CPAE, Randy Pennington, CSP, CPAE, and Roxanne Emmerich, CMC, CSP, CPAE, share their personal stories of giving back at home and abroad.

Pictured: The highly coveted Nido Qubein Philanthropist of the Year Award



A Little Philanthropy EVERY DAY

A philanthropist is defined as someone who generously donates to charitable causes. Fortunately, there is no mandate that the generosity be measured by the size of the financial gift.

The philanthropist I desire to be is someone who can influence global issues such as Bill Gates, Oprah or Bono. The philanthropist I am has a mortgage and must fund his own retirement. And so, I give what I can as often as I can to groups that support the causes in which I believe.

My giving has always been a combination of time and money. Some years it has involved more time. Other years it has been more money. It is an example that I learned from my parents.

My father and mother always gave to help worthy causes. My dad worked a job that often demanded overtime as a truck mechanic. Yet he gave time (that no doubt cost him money) to coach Little League, be involved in his church and participate in a civic service club. Along the way, my parents regularly gave money and time to their causes of choice. From that I learned that giving to help others is expected.

My first experience with giving came as a teenager volunteering as a swimming teacher for special needs children. It doesn't sound like much, but giving my Saturday mornings taught me the value of sacrificing something to help others. That experience led to other opportunities, and before long, volunteering was part of my life. Since then, I've given my time, talent and later my money to a number of community and health-related causes such as the American Heart Association, the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (as a founding member) and the Salvation Army. For the past 20 years, it has also included volunteering for my professional community—the National Speakers Association and the NSA Foundation.

Philosophically, I have tried to apply the following principles to my philanthropic activities:

- It is about giving not giving back. An essay written by University of Virginia professor James W. Ceaser illustrates the distinction: “To give back means to restore

something to its rightful owner. The operative virtue in giving back is justice. The operative virtue in giving is generosity.”

- If you expect or demand recognition, it is not a gift. It is a trade. I tend to make my financial gifts in private. And while I am genuinely grateful for the volunteer recognition I've received, I try to never enter a volunteer assignment with the thought of the recognition I will receive or contacts that I'll make.

These days, I continue to contribute my time to NSA and the NSA Foundation. And my family gives to the causes in which we believe. Increasingly, those are groups who don't care if we are giving back, but desperately need us to give. I think that is the essence of philanthropy—to find something about which you are passionate and then give.



Randy Pennington, CSP, CPAE, was the 2011 recipient of the Nido Qubein Philanthropist of the Year Award. He is past chairman of the NSA Foundation. He has chaired and served in numerous NSA volunteer roles, including the NSA Board of Directors.

He is the author of two award-winning books.

Pennington rolled up his sleeves to sell tickets at an NSA Foundation event.

