January

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 1, 2018 is, beyond doubt, the biggest day of the month. The birth of Martin Luther King is celebrated nationally on the 15th. However, our offices will be open for business that day.

One big event for the new year is the transformation in administration systems for the company. This may take the first two quarters of 2018, but when fully implemented, the expansion of daily functions will be remarkable. Enhanced servicing of agency needs will be of great importance.
Bits and Pieces

If you are thinking about having a tattoo removed from your body, you are not alone. According to the Society of Plastic Surgeons, a total of 14,124 tattoos were surgically removed in the U.S. during 2016.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs report there were 1.53 million firearm related deaths in the U.S. between 1968 – 2015, while there were only 1.2 million deaths as the result of all U.S. wars from 1775 – 2017.

2017 was a busy year for the erection of skyscrapers which are any buildings measuring over 650 feet tall. In 2017 there were 244 such buildings erected throughout the United States which is more than any other year in U.S. history.

When robot driven cars become commonplace, will blind people be allowed to obtain driver’s licenses?

When we see a sale price, we shouldn’t consider what the price used to be or how much we’re saving. Rather, we should consider what we are actually going to spend. Buying a $60 shirt marked down from $100 isn’t saving $40; it’s spending $60.

A new discovery of Egyptian tombs was recently made on the west bank of the Nile in the city of Luxor. The latest discovery is a tomb that is estimated to be 3,500 years in age.
Transplants

An organ list exists for all types of organs and every ten minutes a new person is added to the list. Many factors, (not just when a person is added), play into who gets the next available organ. Factors include medical emergency, the time on the wait list, proximity to the donor, body size and blood type.

Pig hearts could prove to be an even better source for human transplants because scientists have managed to edit DNA to make them healthier and compatible.

Other artificial hearts continue to be used by people waiting for a donor or because they are ineligible for a live heart transplant.

Forks

Before forks became popular the difference between refined and common people was the number of fingers they ate with. The upper classes used three while everyone else used five. This began to change in the eleventh century, when tiny, two pronged forks became fashionable in Italian high society. But they didn’t catch on. The Catholic Church opposed them as unnatural as it was an insult to imply that the fingers God gave us weren’t good enough for food. The people who used them were ridiculed as effeminate or pretentious. Forks weren’t generally considered as polite until the eighteenth century which was 800 years after they were first introduced.
Lexiphilia

How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.

I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I’d never met herbivore.

When chemists die, they barium.

I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn’t control her pupils?

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I didn’t like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Velcro – what a rip off!

Don’t worry about old age; it doesn’t last.
Ugly Sweater Contest

The ELCO annual ugly sweater contest took place on Thursday, December 21 at the home office. The contestants were numerous and the sweaters were, indeed, ugly. The winner was a tie between Zsuzsanna Rosengard and Eric Grawe. Third place went to Andrea Slove.

Ralph Lombardi Retires

We wish Ralph Lombardi a wonderful retirement after more than 38 years of defense litigation in California. As our attorney, he was called upon to perform services on our behalf which he did brilliantly. So, good luck, Ralph; enjoy your skiing.

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen is a little village in northern Norway, which is so far north the sun will not be rising again until March. But for now, the 2,000 residents of what is the world’s most northerly town wish it were much colder. Like many other places throughout the world, Longyearbyen has been experiencing an increase in temperatures. The winter temperatures have risen almost 50 degrees Fahrenheit over the past 30 years or so. Residents and experts fear that this tight knit community where polar bears outnumber people is at risk of disappearing due to the warming.

January Birthdays

1. Nancy Bruce Alexander
3. Cathy Wendt
6. Hannah Pomatto
9. Jerry L. Alexander
9. Kendel Susan Knudson
13. Andrew D. Pomatto
17. Patricia G. Bruce
18. Janice Bradford
26. Brian Key
30. Madalyn Rose McConn