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Meeting at Panera Warrenton

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Balance

- The balance is at \$1903.40.
- Dennis Donovan is tracking all of the leads.

Chamber Events

- Business networking luncheon at Harry's at Airlie.
 - Today at 11:30am.
 - Harry's is contributing two board prizes: Easter brunch for two at the Carolyn Main House and Easter brunch for two at the Fairies.
- Coffee and commerce at Starbucks Field.
 - This Friday the 28th, from 8 to 9am.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Spicy Magnolia Boutique and staging in Warrenton.
 - March 7th from 5 to 7pm.
- Women's Business Council educational question at Stonewall Gold Club.
 - March 18th from 11:30am to 1:00pm.
 - Donna Highfield will be speaking about the power of influencing with confidence.

Faulkner Community Theater

- Two weeks from Friday is Inherit the Wind opens.
- Working on the new season.

Paul Klinger

- Community credit union mortgages.
- New locking shop for the entire summer.
 - Can start looking at your house right now, locking your rates and float down.
 - Free flow down report free from now through July.

Benchmark WBC Virginia

- Now accepting nominations for women owned businesses.
- Deadlines Commission is made March 17th.

Becky Miller

- "Don't live to work, work to live. This weekend I got to work to live."

Sylvia McDevitt

- Subbing for Lisa Barkima, facilitator and coordinator for chats programs Connecting Humans and Telling Stories.
 - Commencing this coming month on the 25th of March at the Path foundation from 4 to 6:30.
- On the mediation side of Piedmont Peace center.
 - In eight counties and 15 jurisdictions.
 - Enormity of work is to create peace amongst people who are having problems.

Elder Mediation Facilitation

- Speaker is preparing to launch into elder mediation facilitation.

Russ Nagel - Bucks Foundation Solutions

- Ross Nagel works with Bucks Foundation Solutions.
- Deals with commercial and residential properties with structural or water issues.
 - Offers pre-inspections and full engineering.
 - Helps clients with financing and worker escrow.

Scott Bricker - Orcadia Media Group

- Scott Bricker with OK Media Group.
- Recently worked with Young Life for their golf tournament.
 - Brought together print materials, web, and social media.
- Offers event overhaul services.

Jen Sutton - Sutton Insurance

- Jen Sutton with Sutton Insurance.
- Helps with business, life, auto, and home insurance (B.L.A.H.).
- Encourages referrals for those disgruntled with claims or rates.
- Will be in Africa for three weeks on safari.

Judd Walls of Constant Water

- Chad Bolton offers battery-powered, whole-house emergency water systems.
- Provides free leads for people concerned about losing water.

Photo and Document Organizing Presentation

- Caitlin Adkins is presenting on organizing for digital photos and home office documents.
- First handout covers steps to clean up the office.
- Key steps:
 - Discard unwanted items.
 - Separate items into categories.
- Important to keep personal and business documents separate, even in the same room.
- Organizing system should align with how the individual recalls information.
- Scanning documents can dramatically reduce paperwork.
 - Suggests using cloud-based systems like Google Drive, which is considered secure.
 - Allows access to documents on a phone when out in public.

Organizing Tips and Tricks

- Start by moving items to the correct room.
 - Organize later, but at least get items to the right place.
 - Move mail to the office, shoes to the kids' room.
- Be ruthless about what comes into your home.
 - Avoid impulse buys, especially with young children.
 - "What are they bringing in and what can you say no to or what can you throw away or reject?"
- Don't touch items twice.
 - Focus on the task at hand and make a decision about each item.
 - Decide whether to keep, toss, or relocate the item.
- Sort mail daily.
 - Apply this to digital clutter as well.
 - Delete, trash, and recycle unwanted items regularly.
 - "It will never stop coming... the only way to stay on top of it is every single day, just be ruthless about it."
- Remove duplicate items.
 - Choose the best one and get rid of the rest.
 - Limit the quantity to stay organized.
- Not everything needs to be in a container.
 - Containers are not a magical solution.
 - Over-containerization can be a problem.
- There is no such thing as a junk drawer.
 - Question what's in the junk drawer and reallocate items.
 - USB cords should go with other tech items, screws with hardware.
- The 20 by 20 rule.
 - If an item costs under \$20 and can be replaced in 20 minutes, toss it.
 - If struggling to toss something, consider this rule.
- Avoid separating clothes by season.
 - It's labor-intensive and can lead to duplicates.
 - Keep clothes together to remember what you have.
- Creatures of habit.
 - Generally, people wear only 20% of their clothes.

- Keep this in mind when decluttering clothes and other items like coffee cups.
- Sentimental items.
 - Each person should have one keepsake box.
 - Review the contents annually, perhaps between Christmas and New Year's.
 - Be diligent about sticking to the box size.

Mental Weight of Physical Clutter

- Speaker notes that people don't realize the mental weight of physical stuff.
- Speaker uses the example of walking into a luxury resort, noting the lack of clutter is by design to create a sense of openness.

Collections

- It's fine to have collections, but they must maintain the space designated for them.
- When a collection starts to overflow, it encroaches on other areas, creating a problem.

Containers

- Get consistent containers, not trendy ones, that can be found again.
- If a client already has a majority of a particular type of container, stick with that type to avoid a mismatched look.

Magazines

- Rule: Keep magazines/newspapers for the last three months.
- Magazines can often be found digitally, reducing the need for hard copies.
- Designate a space (basket/bin) for magazines and scale back when it overflows.

Relationships and Clutter

- It's common for people who like to get rid of things to be married to people who don't.
- There's often blame in relationships regarding clutter ("that's his garage," "that's her mess").
- Need to find a balance between both parties in the household.

Space and Clutter

- Building more garages doesn't solve the problem of having too much stuff; people will fill the space.
- Getting a larger house won't solve a clutter problem.
- Clutter will eat your equity when selling a house.

Decluttering

- Clearing out a closet can create a freeing feeling and an energy cleanse.
- To get a boost of momentum, clear a cabinet, drawer, or closet.

Free Lunch and Learn

- Every Wednesday in March, the speaker is hosting a free virtual lunch and learn from 12-1.
- Topics will include professional and personal organizing.
- Speaker was inspired to share information quickly and freely.
- Speaker attacked her closets after helping her husband pack up his ex-wife's apartment.

Observations on Clutter

- Speaker sees hoarding and organization in homes she inspects.
- Generational impact: Great Depression experiences passed down, leading to stockpiling, even post-COVID.
- Two extremes: either avoiding parents' hoarding habits or continuing them.

Dealing with Children's Items

- Speaker has six kids and is getting rid of their old items like pictures, diplomas, and trophies.
- Trophies are disposed of after peeling off the plates.

Furniture Trends

- The market is flooded with old furniture like dining room tables and china cabinets.
- This furniture is no longer in demand despite its original cost.

Storage Solutions

- "Our homes are not free storage units for people who don't live there."
- Adult children should take their belongings or pay rent for storage space.
- Unsettled adult children: If they are settled, they need to take their stuff.

Additional Information

- Speaker will share information about organizing events.
- Speaker offers private videos on the website.

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