

# De's Dazzles

October 7, 2019

Recently I guided a secret bus tour of 38 people through the opera house from Kearney Nebraska – they had no idea where they were spending the day. One lady approached me during the tour and said “What a fun job you have!” It was a great reminder for me! Sometimes all I see are gigantic mountains, I needed the reminder that one sees great possibilities from the valley, because from the peak everything looks very small!

Recently I heard this story.

A guy looked at my airplane the other day and said I wonder how many people you could have fed for the price of that airplane...I replied I am not sure, it fed a lot of families at the factory where it was built, it fed a bunch of families that rolled the aluminum, and more people at the factory where the experts built the turbines and a whole company when I had them build me a new interior, plus it feeds the families of the linemen that fuel it. When you buy something you are putting money in people's pockets and giving them dignity for their skills. When you give someone something for nothing, you rob them of their dignity and self-worth. Freely giving money in exchange for something of value – that's humbling.

Some people complain that ticket prices or rental rates are too costly. Those ticket prices cover the entertainers cost of traveling to Corning, meals/snacks before and after the shows, costumes/clothes, instruments (guitar strings, drum heads, piano tuning), lessons, advertising and so on. As for rental rates, the fees cover utilities, insurance, janitorial cleaning, wear and tear of equipment and so forth. Others wonder why we have an opera house – that's where YOU come in – tell them! The building provides a multi-purpose facility, honors our heritage, enhances cultural experiences, breaks down walls, adds to our economy, fills people with joy... ..We know there are so many options to choose from and many of you chose us – Thank You! As we prepare for our 2020 season, the tasks look daunting, yet thinking of the smiles and laughs from people all over the United States that will be filling the building are very rewarding!

See you soon!

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