



“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.....”

Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson was cut from the same brilliant cloth as Washington. In George Washington's second inaugural, delivered on March 4, 1793 his entire speech was two well-crafted paragraphs.

Fellow Citizens:

I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.

Brevity persuades. I have been honored to serve as your President in 2016 and very excited to continue my leadership into 2017. We accomplished a solid agenda this year and I can report the Association is in as good a shape as it has been in a decade.

My 2017 goals are to continue to make Metro the best local chapter in the North East where all builders face the same regulatory burdens. I plan to launch a renewed effort to get all our members to know each other as people not just entities or targets for business. I have learned among the lessons of leadership that any organization is founded on the strength of its people, not just its policies or its many benefits. As a “people person” I relish meeting new members or prospects and sharing my enthusiasm for Metro and the joys of the building business. As your President, I have been thrilled to see members grow through our collective efforts. I participate or visit every Metro gathering. You know the depth of my respect for you as demonstrated in meetings start on time, events run like clock-work, education is delivered to your inbox or in our classrooms, and nothing gets cancelled.

Metro is moving forward. I am thrilled to hold the rudder while such a valuable cargo as our membership seeks fair winds and following seas.

Your friendship, insights and thoughts are welcomed.

Phil Calinda