



HBA 2008 WOTY Comments

Responsibilities of Leadership: *Recognizing, Rewarding and Creating Awareness of our Corporate Relationships*

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Chair, 2008 WOTY Luncheon
[Opening Remarks]**

Hello and welcome to the 2008 HBA Woman of the Year luncheon.

This event features so many impressive individuals and so many outstanding corporate supporters.

It's truly an honor to have the opportunity to host as this year's chair woman.

Today we're recognizing one Woman of the Year, one Honorable Mentor, a Star Volunteer and 94 "Rising Stars" who are our future industry leaders.

Sounds like a lot to cover in two hours, but I know we can do it and get you out of here on time.

And, despite all we will cover, have no fear: We have **not** forgotten that the basic premise of a luncheon is to have **lunch!** So we won't starve you through lots of speeches before you get to eat.

In fact, I'm the only thing between you and the food right now, so I'll try to be brief.

I do want to offer you a few thoughts on the meaning of this organization and what it means to **support** an organization like the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association.

You know, a lot of people like to end their speeches with an inspirational quote. I will **begin** with one today, because I think it sets the tone for this event, and may actually capture the very essence of the HBA itself.

The words are from former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor: "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone. Whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life, and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another."

To me, these words speak to the power that comes from combining our strengths, the power of mutual support, the power of **relationships**.

That's what the HBA offers to women in healthcare. And those relationships are founded on the HBA's relationships with its corporate partners, including the ones here in this room today.

So, first, my thanks to these supporters.

And let me convey to everyone how critical their support has been and will continue to be to the success of all the women in this room as well as those unable to join us today.

As I've said, I believe the HBA is fundamentally about relationships, whether you want to call it: networking, mentoring, teaching, learning. However you want to slice and dice it, the HBA enables success for women in healthcare through relationships.

And that's really no surprise, because almost all success in life is a function of the quality of our relationships: The people we learn from and work for as well as the people we love. *(Now, it does get a little complicated if all those happen to be the same person, but that's another story for another time and place).*

Let me build upon this relationship concept a little further. The relationships the HBA fosters among its *individual* members are possible only because of its relationships with its own corporate partners.

In other words, the support we receive on the corporate level allows us to function on the individual level. It's that simple.

That's what's in it for us. But why do companies in the healthcare space support the HBA? What's in it for them?

Well, you know, it's more than just a nice thing to do: It's a way to provide support to a diverse mission that focuses on developing and enhancing women's life experiences across company and geographic boundaries.

The HBA creates a bond of like backgrounds, desires, motives and initiatives that corporate organizations sometimes can't create.

The value is in the bond that allows women to help achieve their personal and professional goals that ultimately enhance the performance of corporations. And in these challenging times for the healthcare industry, we need to make full use of the talent we have on hand to address these emerging issues.

And the HBA provides an environment in which women are inspired to participate and contribute to the maximum degree possible, while satisfying their goals.

So as an industry, we need to tap into more women as thought leaders.

We need to engage and embrace a diversity of perspectives to enhance creativity and innovation.

Don't get me wrong: Supporting women in this business is not just about raw self interest and bottom line.

Organizations like the HBA certainly have a deep moral and ethical dimension.

They're a force for a level playing field.

They nudge companies to do what's right.

But the companies that ***really*** want to succeed and push the envelope recognize the value of the HBA, because creating the conditions for women's success is not only right, it's good for their bottom line.

So this is the true value of the HBA. It's the ***premier*** catalyst for career development and leadership for women in the healthcare industry.

It really is the gold standard and continually raises the bar for other organizations and companies.

Today's individual members are living, breathing proof of that. Obviously, they didn't get where they are today with only their membership in the HBA. But the HBA has been a partner in their success.

And for those companies who've partnered with the ***HBA*** . . . well, their success is also ***your*** success.

The HBA and its corporate supporters are guides; they're leaders on the path to progress.

Now, it's true, most successful people would contend they got there on their own, through their own powerful sense of personal responsibility and because they're accountable to the toughest boss of all: ***Themselves***.

That's why they work hard and they achieve; they're self driven.

But everyone needs an assist now and then. And even the most rugged individual, if pressed, will have to admit that, somewhere along the line, she benefited from some guidance . . . some leadership.

So, yes, individual women need a personal work ethic and an attitude that's geared for success. But for most, there's clearly another factor, which is the assistance, inspiration and guidance they've received from others.

Again, back to Sandra Day O'Connor: Rare is the person who achieves everything alone against the world. Even the greatest achievers in history, at some time, benefited from strong leadership.

And leaders, in turn, earn partial responsibility for their success, "part ownership," if you will.

You might call them mentors, guides, teachers, however you want to describe them. Leaders are people who take at least ***partial*** responsibility for the direction and the success of others.

And I want the HBA's corporate partners to understand the value of their support in that light: You are our most ***important leaders*** in this effort to drive women forward in our industry.

And, as such, you share responsibility and rewards for the continuing upward curve of women in healthcare and expanding the cycle of excellence.

And for that, they deserve a round of applause.

So I hope today we all leave with a shared sense of the importance -- I would even say, the **urgency** -- of the HBA's mission and value. The good news is that most of you came today understanding this mission; that's why you're here.

But we want you to take that knowledge to the next level. And, as HBA President-Elect, it's my job to do just that. So please: **keep** the passion for this cause, because it's really a cause for the ages.

Now, let's make this concept really concrete for everyone today and see some results. Let's see some actual **people**.

We're honoring 94 HBA Corporate Partner Rising Stars today. Don't worry, we've limited **each** of the 94 winners to a short, 10-minute acceptance speech... Just want to make sure you're still listening.

Before we move on, let me take this opportunity to introduce 6 former HBA Women of the Year who have joined us today. And please hold your applause until I have announced all of them.

- Lynn Gaudio
- Maureen Regan
- Kathy Giusti
- Sarah S. Harrison
- Lynn O'Connor Vos
- Meryl Zausner

Unlike previous years, we will not take a mid-luncheon break, so please begin eating and we ask if you can keep your noise to a minimum so you can hear your Rising Star being announced.

So without further adieu, Elizabeth Mutisya, President HBA will join me to introduce the 2008 HBA Rising Stars and we will introduce the Rising Stars, in alphabetical order.

Their names also are in alphabetical order in the program and their names and companies will be shown on the screens around the room.

We know it's hard, but please try to hold your applause until we've introduced all of this year's Rising Stars.

OK – are we ready???.....

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