

J. Michael Locke

Musings

#78: Don't be like Fonzie

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For those of us who grew up watching *Happy Days*, Fonzie was the man. He had the leather coat, the motorcycle and got the music he wanted by hitting the jukebox. However, one thing you should not admire when you look back at Fonzie was his inability to say “sorry” and “wrong.”

No one is perfect or even close. However, those in positions of greater authority (I refuse to say “higher”) are generally perceived to be “more perfect” and not subject to making as many mistakes or being wrong. It is important to show your fallibility and admit when you mess up. I recently had expressed strong disagreement with an action taken by a CEO that I work with. I truly believed he had gotten something wrong but now that time has passed, he was right and I was wrong. Importantly, I shared that with him. Our relationship is better for it.

Sorry to continue some “Trump bashing” but he is like the Fonz. He never admits mistakes. He should. Just not in his DNA. Most politicians would be better off saying “I am sorry” or “I was wrong” more often. We are a forgiving society.

Don't we all long for Happy Days. I am a big fan of Peggy Noonan's. From her latest column: *Following the killing of George Floyd, America would totally accept protests and demonstrations, would understand expressions of anger and pain. What Americans wouldn't accept was looting, violence, arson. They wouldn't accept that shopkeepers just out from lockdown were pulled from their stores and beaten. They won't accept this because they will not accept more battery. We're now supposed to hate cops. No. Hate bad cops, help good ones.* [on-some-things-americans-can-agree](#)

Back to work.

Jml

Second Thoughts

Many of us saw this headline the other day. “Eighty percent feel country is spiraling out of control, according to Wall Street Journal/NBC poll.” Fascinating to me what a small sample supported it. “The Journal/NBC News poll surveyed 1,000 registered voters from May 28 through June 2. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.” I am not in a position to question the statistical methodology but 1,000 folks leading to major headlines seems light to me in a country of over 325mm.

My small business owner friend John McWeeny called Zoom a “great equalizer.” Usually when pitching big companies, they have the “home field advantage” as you go to their big headquarters, check-in and wait in the lobby until they are ready for you to go into their conference room. There is a superiority in

it all. Zoom negates that. Just two people talking and exchanging ideas over video. Will be sad when we get back to the old model.