Slide 1

Sowing Seeds of Success
David E. Nash, CPPO, CPPB

Making a Difference

Slide 2

Learning Objectives
- By participating in this workshop, the participant will be able to:
  - Identify the differences between luck and opportunity
  - Discuss the steps taken by “lucky” people
  - Apply these steps to increase your own chances of being successful

Slide 3

Definitions of Luck
- The fortuitous happening of an event favorable or unfavorable to the interest of a person. Must involve chance and unpredictability.
- Winning in the short term or being successful in the long term, owing to chance.
Lucky and Unlucky

- Throw a lucky man in the sea and he will come up with a fish in his mouth.
- If an unlucky man sold umbrellas, it would stop raining; if he sold candles, the sun would never set; and if he made coffins, people would stop dying.

Sayings Related To Luck (1)

- Caught a lucky break
- Stroke of luck
- Ride a lucky streak
- Trust to luck
- Break a leg
- Lucky in cards, unlucky in love
- God bless you

Sayings Related To Luck (2)

- Thank your lucky stars
- Luck be a lady tonight
- Try one's luck
- Luck of the draw
- He pushed his luck
- Luck is on my side
- If it weren't for bad luck... I'd have no luck at all
Slide 7

Luck Related Things
- Horseshoes
- Black cats
- Four leaf clovers
- Broken mirrors
- Rabbits' feet
- The numbers 7 and 13
- Lucky charms

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Slide 8

Good Luck Superstitions
- Walking around a standing ladder
- Knocking on wood
- Finding nine peas in a pea pod
- Sleeping facing south
- Avoiding cracks in the sidewalk
- Sleeping on un-ironed sheets
- Having an itch on top of your head

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Slide 9

Luck in Nature
- Elephants
- Pigs
- Ladybugs
- Rabbits
- Carp and goldfish
- Dolphins
- Grapes, mushrooms, black-eyed peas
- Frogs

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Slide 10

**Luck in Color**

- Blue – sacred in religion back to pre-historic times. Represents truth, wisdom, loyalty & openness
- Burgundy – symbolizes wealth, success and prosperity
- Purple – royalty, dignity, power & wisdom
- Red – empowering and energetic
- Gold/Yellow – reflects spiritual rewards, richness, and refinement

Slide 11

**Skill and Luck**

- Deliberate effort and the exercise of skill, talent and insight remove luck from the scene.
- The person for whom things go wrong by incompetence is unfortunate rather than unlucky.
- The General gives it a rip

Slide 12

**Which Is It?**
However.....

- Doug Flutie's 48-yard "Hail Mary" touchdown pass with 6 seconds left in the 1984 Orange Bowl.
- The Immaculate Reception of Franco Harris in the 1972 AFC Divisional Playoff game.

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Luck vs Fate & Fortune

- The positive and negative things that come our way in the world's ordinary course - heritage, abilities, talents, place and time - are characterized as fate and fortune.
- The positive and negative things that come our way by chance or unforeseen happenstance are matters of luck.

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Where Does All This Bring Us?

- We as a people have believed in luck for years
- We have all of this stuff wrapped around it
- We ascribe all manner of good and evil to it
- We curse it, we blame it
- We lament others having it and not us
- We want our share
Slide 16

Build & Maintain Network of Luck

- Meeting a large number of people
- Sharing interests and experiences
- Being a social magnet
- Maintaining contact with people

Slide 17

Try This

- Initiate conversation with someone
- Choose a natural occurring situation
- Use ice breaker
- Use open questions
- Elaborate
- Meet again
- Deal with rejection
- Move on

Slide 18

Relaxed Attitude Toward Life

- Lucky people tend to be more relaxed
- They see what is there and not what they want to see.
- They are realistic in their judgments
- They are realistic in their expectations
- They are prudently adventurous
- They are cautiously optimistic
Slide 19
Create Unplanned Events
- Say yes and then figure out how to do it
- Celebrate your small successes
- Stop making excuses
- Talk with all kinds of people
- Find ways to help others
- Continue learning
- Try new activities/hobbies
- Volunteer
- Involve yourself in a project

Slide 20
Be Open to New Experiences
- Variety
- Novelty
- New activities
- New kinds of food
- New ways of doing things
- Not bound by convention
- Unpredictability

Slide 21
How About This?
- Take risks that are likely to pay off
- Be prepared for the unexpected
- Discover the unknown
- Take risks that may fail
- Use media
- Stay in touch
- Assume your interests will change
Slide 22

Being Prepared

- Walter’s story
- The other guys

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Slide 23

Listen To Your Lucky Hunches

- Listen to gut feelings and hunches
- Boost intuition
  - Meditation
  - Return to the problem later
  - Clear the mind
  - Find a quiet place

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Slide 24

Expect Good Fortune

- Expect good luck to continue
  - Uncontrollable things will work out for them
  - See bad events as short-lived
  - Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Attempt to achieve goals
  - Persevere in the face of failure
  - Evaluate risk
  - Positive expectations motivate us to take control
  - Recognize chance plays a part in decisions
  - Expect interactions to be lucky
Slide 25

**Wake Up**
- Move on to something else
- Don't stick with a bad choice
- Listen to others, then make up your own mind
- Create passion by taking action
- Be open to other alternatives
- Develop helpful beliefs

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Slide 26

**Turn Bad Luck Into Good**
- Seeing the positive side
- Counterfactual thinking
- Could have been worse
- Comparing to others
- Things work out for the best
- Don't dwell on ill fortune
- Take constructive steps

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Slide 27

**Remember**
- Build and maintain a network of luck
- Unplanned events will impact our lives/careers
- Varied activities help decide likes/dislikes
- Make mistakes and experience failure
- Create own unplanned lucky events
- Every experience is a way to learn
- Beliefs help overcome internal obstacles
- Positive thinking for positive results