



by Britt Wood

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## The Loss Prevention Foundation

**A**t certain times in my life, I have realized just how lucky I am. The week of October 12th, when I was offered and accepted the opportunity to be president of the newly formed The Loss Prevention Foundation, was one of those times.

I have been fortunate enough to be involved with the retail industry for over eleven years now, and in that time I have gotten energized by a lot of different projects and by a lot of different challenges. This opportunity, however, takes the cake. I can't tell you what an honor it is to be given the opportunity to help lead such an important effort for such a great industry.

I am also privileged to have one of the hardest workers and one of loss prevention's finest personalities, Rhett Asher, join me. Rhett and I have spent the last three years together at the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), and in that time I have seen him build communities, launch new initiatives, and flat out bring people together to get things done better than anyone I have met in any trade association. Rhett has a passion for this industry that is truly infectious, and anyone who has spent more than five minutes with him knows exactly what I am talking about. I can not think of anyone better to help me lead this new organization.

Rhett and I bring not only years of experience in the retail trade association world, we also bring nearly twenty years of experience in the retail industry. Through our experience we believe that we bring the right mix of not-for-profit and the real world to the table to ensure that the loss prevention industry's certification program will be one of the finest available.

### Production Update

I want to update you on where things are with the two certification segments—LPCQUALIFIED and LPCCERTIFIED. By the time you read this article, some of the first drafts of the modules for LPCQUALIFIED should be back in the hands of the subcommittee members for review. After the subcommittees have had an opportunity to review the drafts, we will begin making the necessary adjustments.

After the changes and modifications have been made, we will then have the courses reviewed by our academic subcommittee, composed of loss prevention authorities like Dr. Richard Hollinger and Dr. Read Hayes of the University of Florida. After the academic committee has finished their review,

we will have our legal team examine the courses. The final step will be the sign off from our Loss Prevention Certification Council (LPCC).

As you can see, we are going through quite an extensive process to ensure that this certification provides the right educational material for the loss prevention industry. Even with all of these steps still to come, we feel confident that we will launch LPCQUALIFIED in early spring of 2007.

The LPCCERTIFIED program is also beginning to come together. With the first subcommittee member meetings taking place in early November, and with a similar set of steps to the LPCQUALIFIED, we hope to have the LPCQUALIFIED ready for launch by the summer of 2007.

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While all of this work is going on, we want to make sure you have a chance to keep up-to-date with where things are, as well as, have an opportunity to get involved. In early November we will launch our website [www.LPcertification.org](http://www.LPcertification.org). Use the site to get the latest information on what is happening with certification, as well as, how you can get involved and help us make this certification something our whole industry will be really proud of.

### The Future

If you have heard any of the presentations about the certification program, you are aware that this is going to be more than just taking a course one time, passing a test, and becoming certified. As we looked at the certifications that have the most impact in their respective industries, we began to realize that you have to provide continuing education for those who become certified. Hence, we will be developing a

*continued on page 97*