



by **Britt Wood**

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6.4.07

So, what is so important about 6.4.07? For The Loss Prevention Foundation it represents the day we will bring two career-enhancing offerings to all current and future loss prevention professionals.

This date is when you can enroll in our LPQUALIFIED coursework and begin your journey towards earning your LPQ designation. It is also when you can join The Foundation as an individual member in order to take advantage of our career center, take in an educational webinar, participate in our compensation survey, or join your peers in determining what the future of the LP industry will be.

While both of these initiatives will improve the LP professional, you don't have to do both. Certainly you can do both...and we believe that many will find value in doing both...however, the option is yours.

Board of Directors

Before describing these two initiatives in detail, it is important to recognize The Loss Prevention Foundation's board of directors. Many of you may have seen the announcement in March or heard my presentation at RILA in April, but in case you didn't, please see the photo on page 34.

It should be pointed out that The Foundation is the only organization I am aware of that is run *by* loss prevention professionals *for* loss prevention professionals. There are many run by CEOs that offer products to our industry and others run by professionals from other industries that offer pieces to loss prevention professionals. But this one is run by folks from your industry, retailers and vendors alike, who want to...and will...improve the profession for all of us.

LPQualified

The release of our first certification program is upon us, and we could not be more excited about the coursework we are rolling out. The coursework was designed by over 65 different loss prevention professionals, written by loss prevention professionals, reviewed by legal teams, and blessed by academicians. It is designed to give an individual not only a foundation in loss prevention, but also an understanding of business and the retail environment. The curriculum will challenge individuals, while at the same time provide the knowledge needed to be successful.

In order to see for yourself, go to our website at www.LossPreventionFoundation.org and click on the LPQ button. From there take a test drive of the coursework and decide for yourself how valuable the material is.

The Foundation Membership Program

The Foundation's membership program will offer numerous benefits for individuals, not the least of which is a discount on our certification programs just for joining. The most important feature of our membership program is tied to the core purpose of our certification program—giving loss prevention

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professionals the tools to drive their careers forward. To this end, the core feature of our membership program is our career center, which is designed to help answer the following questions.

- Where do you go for educational resources that are uniquely representative of this industry?
- How do you identify the college, university, or online academic program that is best suited for you?
- What professional business and leadership books do the leaders of this industry endorse for continued education?
- Where would you go to find a comprehensive list of industry articles related to career advice?
- Have you ever completed an assessment intended to help define or refine your skill sets? Would you like to learn about the many different types of assessments that are offered in the industry, or perhaps practice completing a few of them on your own, without the pressure or scrutiny of a biased audience?
- Where can you find industry leaders who could share their secrets for achieving success? Why not listen and learn from those who have made it to the top of their career? With few

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The Loss Prevention Foundation board of directors met March 21, 2006, in Charlotte. Those present included (seated left to right) Bill Turner, Nike; Michael Grady, Vector Security; Jim Lee, **Loss**Prevention magazine; Robert Oberosler, Pathmark; Paul Stone, Best Buy; Paul Jones, Limited Brands; and Frank Johns, Office Depot. Standing (left to right) are Rhett Asher, LP Foundation; Kevin McMenimen, Enabl-u Technologies; Doug Marker, Michael's Stores; John Tabor, National Retail Systems; Ken Sensor, Wal-Mart; Gene Smith, LP Foundation; Claude Verville, Lowe's; Tim Shipman, Food Lion; Kevin Lynch, ADT Security; Bill Heine, Brinker International; Chet Young, Walgreens; Bob MacLea, TJX Companies; Libby Rabun, AutoZone; and Britt Wood, LP Foundation. Board members not shown include Brad Brekke, Target; Nathaniel Fry, IBM; Randy Meadows, Kohl's; and Keith White, Gap, Inc.

exceptions, they have certain traits in common, not the least of which is understanding the importance of developing and executing a personal career plan. Success doesn't just happen; each of us must work at it.

Managing Your Own Career

Many entry- and mid-level executives assume that their career development is their company's responsibility, not their own. It is astounding how many loss prevention executives have a

comprehensive shrink plan, but have absolutely no idea how to build and manage their own career development

plan. The Foundation's career center will provide you with all of the components necessary to develop your own plan and maximize your career opportunities.

The Foundation's career center is intended to be a "one-stop shopping" online service for loss prevention educational resources designed to support you in your career development. It is not intended to replace any of the in-house training programs that many companies already have in place that support your growth and advancement. Rather, it is intended to enhance, complement, and reinforce these programs by providing you with additional career resources.

We are committed to continuously searching and identifying new ways to improve the content offered and the service that we can provide our members. We invite you to offer your suggestions for other tools and resources that could help you build on your future.

So, mark June 4th on your calendar and make a point to visit our web site on that day. Hopefully, this will be an important date for you and your career just as it is an exciting date for us at The Foundation. ■

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