

Plan to Achieve and You Will

By David Byrne

This year marks a new decade (2020) and it is really important to have a plan about what you want to achieve and the direction you want to go. If you don't have a plan in place you end up wandering aimlessly through the years and then look back and ask yourself "what did I actually do, I didn't get done what I wanted to achieve". You then get annoyed at yourself and a little frustrated and think that time spent was a waste. Did you realise that less than 3% of the population have a written goal and even less review the goal and then less again review the goal on a daily basis.

Having a plan in place is one of the key steps in moving forward and achieving something over the coming year and the coming decade. I would like to share with you the model I use for setting my goals and planning things I want to achieve. I break it down into a word I like to use "PET" cause I'm a real animal lover but a dog lover in particular. I find this an easy word to remember as firstly the P is for Personal Development, the E is for Economic and T is for Things you Want to Achieve. Things you want to achieve will be specific to yourself, this might be spending more time with your family, going sky diving or riding a horse. It will be something that is important to you and what you would like to achieve over the coming year and what you have planned. Remembering it is much easier to go in the direction we face once we determine the direction we want to go.

There is a classic line "It is easy to ride a horse in the direction it is facing". This is very true and if you have a clear model and clear plan on what you want to achieve, it makes setting your goals and ticketing things off your bucket list so much easier.

No 1 – Personal Development

Personal Development is something I hold dear and I review and do this on a regular basis. This year I am going to put myself through another University course to keep myself educated and also strive to learn new things. What is your personal development goal? It might not be going to University, it may be completing an online course, learning a new skill, participating in free events or to get better educated and develop your skill base. Learning how to speak in public through Toastmasters is a great way to improve personal development and relatively cheap to do. Personal development should be on your list of things to do, but how do you write down what you want to achieve and what is the best way to do it for you. For me, it is sitting in a quiet room with a notepad and pen and letting my mind drift. Write down the words Personal Development and just think purely about the things you would like to achieve over the coming year and even long term ideas for the coming decade. Ideas will start to flow and no idea is incorrect, at this point it is purely about getting ideas on paper and tinkering with them as you move forward. The hardest part is finding the time to sit quietly and allow yourself the time to think of ideas and opportunities for yourself over the coming year. Remember these ideas are about you and your development and it is important to spend the time on developing your opportunities.

No 2 – Economic

Money is important and we do need financial goals. In business we have weekly, monthly and end of year financial reports that you are required to explain. So why not have financial goals for yourself, why not have a clear agenda on what you want to achieve financially moving forward. Spend the time by sitting down and writing down some clear financial goals. Is it paying more off the mortgage or saving for a holiday you have dreamt about. Now is the time to start planning for it so you can start saving for the end result which may mean saving for your retirement.



Irrespective of what your financial goal is I class them as Economic, it is important to spend the time and think about what they are and what stage you are with those economic goals. Planning ahead is really important in actually achieving your economic goals and if you don't do this the money slips through your fingers and the next thing you know, the bank account is not where it should be and you're not going on that holiday everyone else seems to be talking about and retirement seems to drift further and further away.

No 3 – Things you Want to Achieve

Spending more time with your family could be one thing, getting fit, losing weight could be others or just a goal that is unique to yourself, the ideas are endless. However, be specific about what you want to achieve and write them in a positive manner, inspire yourself to achieve and keep it in an easy to get to place for reference. You are in charge of your new direction, so be super motivated about it and make the change. Setting your goals and setting the plans are the first steps about turning invisible into the visible. Remember hard work works as things don't just happen they are made to happen so be that person in control of your year ahead. Take control and start to plan.