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Joe Lindsey, M&AMI, CBI
Chairman of The M&A Source

Happy New Year!
Are You Exactly Where You Want to Be?

Various reports state that Richard Branson, founder of numerous businesses (think Virgin Records, Virgin Airlines, Virgin Galactic, etc) started his first business at an early age. Some claim that he was less than 10 years of age; others say he was 16. For the sake of discussion, let's agree that he was pretty young regardless of which of those ages are accurate. Since that early step into entrepreneurship, he has started several hundred other businesses and amassed billions of dollars of personal net worth.

While being interviewed by a reporter, Branson was asked about his greatest regret. According to the reporter, Branson responded by saying he had not one, but two great regrets. He regrets that he waited too long before he started his first business because, he determined in hindsight, that he had wasted too much time. His other great regret was that he had not dreamed big enough.

Really? Wasted too much time? Not dreamed big enough? Good thing I don't use his accomplishments as a barometer to measure my accomplishments. Perhaps his vision, his unrelenting quest for excellence, and his insatiable curiosity are the primary reasons for his success.

Are you dreaming big enough? Are you achieving the level of success you set for yourself? Or, are you doing ok?

The 1978 movie "[Foul Play](#)" starring Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase, included a soundtrack song by Barry Manilow entitled "Ready to Take a Chance Again." In my opinion, the thrust of the song is one of self introspection. Although the song may have been intended as an introduction into the life of the Goldie Hawn character Gloria Mundy, it could just as easily be directed towards our own personal lives.

Portions of the song's lyrics refer to a life being lived as "doin' okay but not very well," and "It's all very nice, but not very good." Reviewing her life as she drove along the Pacific Coast Highway, Gloria began to realize that she was tired of living in a shell and that she was "ready to take a chance again."

I once heard the following quote, "You are right now exactly where you want to be. If you weren't, then you'd do something to change." Are you ready to take a chance?

If you are ready to take a chance, let me encourage you to get involved in the M&A Source leadership. Not only is serving on one of our committees a way to give back to our profession, it is also a great way to develop meaningful relationships with your peers.

[Our committees include:](#)

Communications/Newsletter
Dealmakers Expo
Governance
Online Education

Conference Planning
Education
Marketing
Sponsorship

Credentialing
Finance
Membership
Webinars

The committees require varying degrees of commitment. Some committees require very little time; others require two one-hour conference calls per month. Some require additional time between each conference call.

If you are so inclined, committee members become the well from which future leaders are developed. Committee members can, and frequently do, become committee chairs. Committee chairs are the most likely candidates to be nominated to serve as a member of our Board of Directors. Directors are vetted by the nominating committee, and elected by our general membership to serve a three-year term.

The Board of Directors selects its officers. The Secretary and Treasurer are expected to serve for three years. The Chair and Chair Elect serve in those capacities for one year...typically. I was approved to extend my chairmanship for an additional year, but that is unusual. Ed Telling served a two-year hitch as chairman (1994 & 1995), and Bob Gurolla served as chairman for the second half of 2000 and all of 2001.

Speaking from experience as a member or chair of several M&A Source committees, I can attest to the varying levels of time commitment. I can also attest to the fact that being involved as a leader of this tremendous organization has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. The friendships that I've developed, and the corresponding depths of knowledge and experiences that I've been able to tap into, are priceless.

If you're like Richard Branson in that you haven't dreamed big enough, The M&A Source provides the tools you need to step up your game. We can be your bridge to success.

If you're like Gloria Mundy in the movie, in that you're ready to take a chance, let me encourage you to get involved as a leader of this great association. Feel free to contact me or any of the [committee chairs](#).

Joe D. Lindsey, M&AMI; CBI
Chairman: The M&A Source Board of Directors
jnrlindsey@gmail.com

