It’s almost impossible to believe that the first half of 2020 is almost over. This means, however, that we have an entire half a year to continue to learn and grow in the face of some staggering odds. I continue to be in awe of the progress I’ve seen and the things I’ve learned from human resources professionals stepping up to the plate day after day to meet and exceed all the current challenges.

At NOARK, your board continues to create ways for us to continue to learn, improve ourselves as humans and as professionals, and to connect in any way we can. This Tuesday (June 16, 2020) we will be hosting our “regular” monthly meeting virtually. If you haven’t registered, PLEASE take the opportunity! It is on a different date and time than our usual meeting. The program will not be recorded, and there is still time to register and invite a guest to register.

Our presenter is Linda Clark. She will be providing a highly interactive program to help us develop deeper connections beginning with self-awareness, understand the need for empathy in leadership, and create safe spaces for tough conversations, bravery and innovation. Sounds extremely timely to me.

Later in the month, we plan to host some virtual coffees. These will be brief, connection moments designed to gather and see old friends and meet new friends. Networking is one of the number one priorities at NOARK, and until it is safe to do so, we will continue to drive these connections virtually. RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVERYTHING. I do hope you will join us to lift each other up, brighten a day, get a chuckle, and tell us about yourself and what you do. We will send detailed information soon.

The July meeting is our annual legislative meeting. We will be hosting (virtually) representatives from Senator John Boozman’s, Senator Tom Cotton’s, and Representative Steve Womack’s offices. Our Legislative Chair, Amy Fisher, will
NOARK Membership Meeting...WEBINAR
"Empathy and Execution – Connection and Future Forward" (Yes, even during a pandemic!)

Date: June 16, 2020
Time: 8:15am-9:30am

Join us for a recharging conversation about empathy and connection as we lead in organizations, groups and teams through work, volunteerism, faith, and family while we face challenges including working from home and returning to work. How do we balance compliance and compassion? We have the capacity to use empathy and connection to provide stability, structure, reassurance, and confidence. More than ever, we’re reaching for each other, looking for opportunities to connect and how we feed and grow our cultures.

Many times, we get it exactly right. Sometimes, it goes terribly wrong. Right now, we struggle with what to say, how to say, when to say it, and how will we deal with the response?

Connecting and leading through empathy takes practice and self-awareness. There are ways that we may unwittingly drive disconnection even when our greatest hope is for warmth, understanding, and problem solving. Let’s do some work around developing empathy as a first response, creating inviting space and safety for tough conversations, bravery, and innovation.

We are all in this together. Let’s remember and reinforce our connection to each other, to our service goals, and missions. We will go forward and we can’t wait to support you in dreaming about the future, aligning your strategy, and connecting with people in every area of your life.
Speaker Name: Linda Clark, MHRM, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CMC
Bio: With nearly two decades of experience in strategic human resources and operation leadership, Linda is the principal behind a dynamic organizational development and human resources consulting practice. Skilled in creating and sustaining innovative cultures using effective feedback and strategic people operations, Linda combines peak performance, authenticity and personal presence to maximize success for individuals and organizations. Linda offers an exceptional reputation of radical operational focus centering respect and empathy at all levels.
Today, Linda is an in-demand professional speaker fluent in topics of group and team dynamics, feedback, communication competency, and coaching. Her signature charismatic and engaging presentations are driven by her passion for service, offering unparalleled learner-centered environments punctuated by storytelling and humor. Speaking at more than 60 events in 2018, Linda speaks in front of thousands of people each year including executives and senior leadership, professional and industry conferences and organization, and teams in a variety of industries. Her topics range from building and leading effective teams, leadership and organizational development, the art and competency of giving and receiving feedback, adapting and thriving with change, and the power of our individual brand and voice as we contribute to collaborative environments.

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Additionally, University of AR Global Campus will be hosting Free Information Sessions online so that you can learn more about SHRM, the certification options (CP or SCP), and the benefits of our instructor-led course. Please visit our website at [https://training.uark.edu/professional-development/courses/shrm-info-session.php](https://training.uark.edu/professional-development/courses/shrm-info-session.php) to register and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the path to certification!

If you have further questions or concerns please contact:

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