

The National Timeshare Tour

Ever been on a timeshare tour?

Unfortunately, the timeshare industry seems to attract many sales people that are more interested in their own welfare, rather than the best interests of who they are trying to sell. There's cases of reps misrepresenting the product, or not disclosing even the smallest of negatives. The promise of vacations for a lifetime sounds great, but hidden from easy view are the increasing maintenance fees, the need to book many months in advance, and the fact that many timeshare companies rent out to the public...for less than you pay in annual fees! For many buyers, the real truth about what they bought only comes years after they agreed to the sale. No-one likes to admit they were wrong, so many buyers make the best of it...and seethe inside later.

Come to think of it, the national political scene reminds me of one giant timeshare tour... how so?

In politics, we should expect our leaders to do full disclosure (tell me the potential pitfalls). We want them to be good role models (tell the truth), and respect people they don't personally agree with (don't disparage others). The company they work for (the government) should respect our families, and honor the contract they signed (try the Bill of Rights). Don't tell me I can keep my doctor, and then make it impossible for them to ethically stay in business. Don't call legislative bills something that sounds good (Inflation Reduction Act), but has nothing to do with that name. Don't call half of us a "threat to democracy", just because we don't buy what you're trying to sell us. Don't shout about balancing the budget every two years, then get in office and raise my maintenance dues. Don't tell me I have to take action RIGHT NOW, or forever be doomed. Don't treat your renters (illegal aliens) better than you treat your owners (citizens, including those valued, and important immigrants who stood in line for DECADES to enter the US legally). See the similarities?

Now, not all politicians are crooks, and not all those in the timeshare industry are cads. I better believe that, because this writer was in that industry (timeshare) for 18 years. I managed to sell "the right way", and was rewarded by having the highest "reload rate" (prior buyers...purchasing again) than any other rep in the Company's history. I also got a few bad apples fired. Many salespeople hated me because of that...didn't care. Those that "pitch heat" (lie like a rug) will see weak junior salespeople follow their example to make a lot of bucks. Conversely, if you tell the truth and allow your clients to disagree (not buy) gracefully...just a few honest salespeople will follow that path. The sad truth was, the liars in my old company made much more money than the honest reps.

Isn't that like life? The liars and deceitful win way too often. It seems that many people must want to believe the lies, because we don't question enough. Why don't we question? We've trusted our entities way too much, in asking them to do the right thing. Asking questions has not been encouraged, and people are afraid that they will be "canceled" by social media, or lose

their friends if they do. In timeshare, if I questioned what I was told to say, you were either branded a traitor by other reps, or told to “stick to your lane” by the company. Similarly, if you simply want to ask your political leaders “exactly where are those weapons of mass destruction?”...you’re now against the military. If you want an accounting of aid to Ukraine, you’re a Russian stooge. If you’re a cop...and kill someone who is unarmed (George Floyd) you rightly go to jail. If you’re a Capitol Hill cop and you kill someone (Ashley Babbitt) who is unarmed...you get promoted. If you are a Democratic candidate for President, and you dispute election results (see...U-Tube: *12 minutes of Democrats denying election results*) why... that’s a normal and healthy part of the election process. However, if you’re evil Orange Man, and you question election results you’re hauled in on bunches of felony charges, and politically persecuted by the Dept. of Justice in order to get you behind bars...and off the campaign trail! Of course, any convictions will probably be later overturned, but that news will probably not make *All Things Considered*.

If I spend more than I have, I go broke. If our country spends more than it has...our “elected representatives” wait until the last minute and lo and behold...a multi-thousand page spending bill that creates money out of thin air suddenly appears, and will be passed by both parties. Why are there more people that love our Country...than people in Government that love us? What the heck...why is right now wrong, and wrong is now the new normal? It’s all so overwhelming, and those that seek more power and control over us seem happiest when we are weak. Just as the Prince of Darkness is very well pleased when the people become weak, and turn against God. Uh-huh.

The tide will turn. Oh yes, it will. The tide will turn when people actively look for opposite views, and be comfortable with the discomfort that follows. Thinking critically requires a bunch of effort, but it sure beats the consequences. The tide will turn when people get back to our historical values, and get active in promoting them. Freedom OF Religion does not mean Freedom FROM any and all mention of religion. Have Faith. Pray. Act.

Enter Jonesborough.

Why do people visit here, and many end up moving here? Place yourself in the shoes of a visiting family from a large (and probably leftist) city. Maybe they’re not really “into politics”. Just Good People, trying to raise their family in the right way. They come here and see lots of flags, many church steeples, and merchants asking where they are from...along with a bunch of us locals just saying “Welcome to Jonesborough!”. Then, they go home. “Reimagining the police” sounded so good a few years ago, but now crime is rampant. Their town wants to hire back the laid-off cops...but those seasoned veterans have now moved to Tennessee, Florida, or Texas... Unintended consequences. You tell your kids not to walk past your block, because the next street over is littered with homeless people and the accompanying filth. You didn’t want *that*, you just wanted to be kind to everyone!... Unintended consequences. Calling yourself a Sanctuary City to support foreign families retreating from persecution felt so good, now you wonder where all those single men you see have come from. Your wife and daughter are now carrying a chemical deterrent in their purses... Unintended consequences. You feel like a prisoner in your own community.

In the privacy of your dreams, you wonder if life would be better...in Tennessee's oldest town. If you have lived in Jonesborough all your life, maybe that sounds like pure fiction. It's not. We're very fortunate that we can come back home from vacation, to a place that truly feels like home. We just have to make sure it stays that way. The good news? Many people that are recent transplants to Jonesborough...love this place far more than you can possibly imagine.

So, when you finally break away from the timeshare tour, you get the gifts you were promised. Maybe a hotel stay, or possibly some theme park tickets. You earned them, I'm sure you'll agree! For those of us who are Jonesborough residents, what's our gift for enduring the National Timeshare Tour?

Well, the Canadian Geese are flying and honking overhead, fall colors grace the dogwoods, as well as in our merchants' windows. It's time to clean up our gardens, and get ready for Storytelling! We marvel at how lucky we are to be here, never perfect but always trying to be better. We attend BOA meetings that start with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Prayer to God. We wave traffic ahead of us to be fair, we ask our visitors if they need some directions, we say hello to law enforcement...and everywhere we see those wonderful American flags.

Man, we're in Jonesborough! And our greatest gift is the love and respect for one another; regardless of politics, or background. Just like God, and our Founders intended.

That's why...America needs Jonesborough.