



GARY POGUE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, ROMAN MEAL COMPANY

I have been with the Roman Meal Company for over seven years, moving up to different management positions, until acquiring my current position as the Company's Business Development Director.

My love of family comes first. My best friend Merri, and I have been happily married for 45 years. I have a wonderful daughter, Alysia, a son-in-law Matt, and two grandchildren. My grandson Frankie is 17 years old, a senior in high school, and a member of the golf team. Frankie is also a novice magician, and competes competitively with his Rubik cubes. He is working on becoming the world's fastest with the 5x5 cube. My granddaughter, Kaylah is 5 years old and just started school. She loves to run, and has received two medals for running this year. Alysia is a licensed phlebotomist, and is always encouraging me to donate blood. Alysia also volunteers at Kaylah's school when she can. Matt is on his way to becoming an electrical contractor. When we are all together we enjoy hiking, road trips to Morro Bay, and Monterey, and exploring new places. I am blessed to have such a great family.

I joined the Marine Corps in 1969, and received three meritorious promotions during my Marine Corps career leaving as a Sergeant. Back to civilian life brought me to cooking, and managing a steak house in Fresno. I did that for a year, and at the same time worked with my dad doing landscaping. One of my main interests always has been botany and plants. My career in the bread business started at this time, now spanning over 40 years. I started with a French Bakery in Fresno, and then moved on to San Francisco French Bread Company covering Northern California. Over the years I moved from a route salesman, to supervision, District Sales Manager positions, Account Manager, and then Regional Sales Manager positions. My love of cooking brought me the "Associate Chef of the Year" award for central California in 1996. This then took me to Interstate Brands, and eventually to managing Parisian and Colombo bakery sales forces in the Bay Area.

My interests away from work include botanical, philatelic, collecting hot wheels, historical literature, and working on mathematical problems with my grandson. I belong to the Cactus and Succulent Societies of Sacramento and San Francisco. I have been collecting US stamps since I was 7 years old, when my Grandmother gave me her collection. I belong to the Hot Wheels Collectors Club, and my collection dates back to 1968. I enjoy reading books on Presidential and ancient history. Additional interests include astronomy and taking architectural trips with Merri. I studied both astronomy and engineering in college.

I am currently the President of the Sales Managers Club of San Francisco, which is a non-profit organization with all proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. The Sales Managers Club has established a tradition of excellence in its role in the business community, and has established a tradition of recognizing business leaders who have made a difference in our community and industry.

It has been my pleasure for the past eight years to be a part of the Illuminators organization. I am in my second year as a Hilite. I have enjoyed the networking opportunities that have helped grow my business, meeting new friends, and playing a small part in making a difference this industry.