

Real Estate & Business

Bergen Networking Group fundraiser helps 'Heroes to Heroes' reach out to veterans with post traumatic stress disorder

Event for foundation raises awareness and empathy

Knowing how to network is invaluable in business and in life, but it is a skill that must be learned, honed, and practiced consistently to achieve success.

The members of Bergen Networking Group understand this and partner with local clubs, organizations, and businesses to connect them to the right people and services needed.

One event representing such a combining of talents and effort is the "Heroes to Heroes" fundraiser held July 7 and sponsored by the Bergen Networking Group to help local veterans with post traumatic stress disorder.

"This event helps raise awareness of a wonderful nonprofit that is helping our local veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder," said Fernando Sosa, CEO of Haon Tech.com and president of Bergen Networking Group. "It is my hope the Heroes to Heroes Foundation gets all the support they need to continue to carry on their mission."

As part of its 10th anniversary, Bergen Networking Group organized the

fundraising event at Blue Moon Mexican Café in Englewood. Blue Moon donated 20 percent of its proceeds to the foundation.

"Thank you to the entire Bergen Networking Group for your support of Heroes to Heroes Foundation. Your hard work and generosity will help save the lives of some of our most vulnerable veterans," said Judy I. Schaffer, founder and president of the foundation.

Representing the networking group were Michael Baer, Larry Bauer, Kelly Cassidy, Venessa DiBona, Tamarha Ellerbe, Jennifer Glass, Cathy Green, Jill Kravitz, Elvin Lopez, Ray Turkin, and Liz Santos.

In addition to raising funds for Heroes to Heroes, members also donated cash, soccer balls, backpacks, and other sporting goods for a mission trip to Ghana, where attorney Michael Baer will travel for the third year to help children in need.

"These donations will be brought to the schoolchildren of Awate Torno, Ghana. These are recently rescued child slaves that are now in school and with foster families" said Baer.

For more information about Bergen Networking Group, their activities, or how to join, visit <http://www.BergenNetworkingGroup.com>

Heroes to Heroes Foundation, a non-denominational 501(c)(3) organization, provides spiritual healing, suicide prevention,

and peer support program for veterans. The foundation serves veterans of Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

All who are having challenges with PTSD or returning to civilian life after serving their country are welcome.

Sheldon Silver's son-in-law pleads guilty to \$7 million Ponzi scheme

The son-in-law of former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver pleaded guilty to running a \$7 million Ponzi scheme.

Marcello Trebitsch, 37, offered his plea in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on Monday on charges of wire fraud and securities fraud. He was arrested in April.

"I'm sorry for what I've done and I apologize to the court and my family," Trebitsch reportedly said in court.

Trebitsch is facing up to 20 years in prison. The plea deal calls for him to serve between 51 to 63 months, according to the New York Daily News. He must also pay nearly \$5.9 million in forfeiture

and restitution.

He is married to Silver's daughter Michelle, a certified public accountant, who was a co-owner and managing partner of the fraudulent investment fund, Allese Capital. She has not been charged in the fraud, which ran from 2007 to 2014.

Silver resigned in January after being arrested in an anti-corruption investigation.

Sentencing for Trebitsch is scheduled for Nov. 2 – the same day that Silver, who has pleaded not guilty, goes on trial, according to Reuters.

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