

Looking for an assistant

Every year in April, the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has a convention where all the latest in broadcast technology is displayed. This year is no different. For whatever reason, a significant number of broadcast engineers can not or do not attend. It is very important for engineers and technicians to stay abreast of the latest technology so if they cannot attend, the next best thing is to have some of that technology that was at the NAB convention brought to them. That's what I do and call it a Taste of NAB.

I've done the Taste of NAB Road Show for the past five years. This year will be my sixth. It is an industry wide, well recognized effort now and as the Road Show has gotten more involved in its set up etc, I have found it necessary to have, in addition to the "volunteers" at each venue who "usually" show up early to pitch-in, assistance from someone familiar with what goes where and how it all hooks together. I teach my assistant how to do this is. Trust me, it is not complicated and is most vital to me and the success of the Road Show. My assistant helps to save a considerably amount of time when setting up. During the past three years, I've had the on-going help of my grandson, but do to other commitments this year; he will not be able to join me.

I am also a Bahá'í who has developed a power point presentation on the Faith. It is a comprehensive visual fireside that covers most all aspects of the Faith a seeker might be interested in and tries to answer many of the questions that typically come up during a fireside. It has been very well received where I've presented it. I offer this service to Bahá'í communities as I travel and can fit it into my professional presentation schedule. I have a projector and screen that I use. (It helps to have someone help me with this gear too.) I do whatever I can during these trips to promote and make the Faith of Baha'u'llah known. On the flip side, I love meeting the friends as I travel.

The position is called "assistant." The reason for needing an assistant is because I am handicapped and confined to a wheelchair. That doesn't stop me, though. Baha'u'llah does not exclude people who are handicapped from working and I love what I do, so it's no problem.

Note: *In traveling across the United States, my assistant and I may share a hotel room from time-to-time, so my wife insists that my assistant be a male.*

Nearly everything I had with me this past year was on wheels; wheels on mobile racks, carts with wheels etc. It took about an hour to get the gear out of the van; another hour to put it in place (each venue is different) and a final hour to hook it all up and make it work. That's a total of three hours. I frequently get side tracked by engineers who want to talk when I'm doing this and the extra help keeps things moving.

At the end of each presentation, I also need to have someone who knows where things go in the van. Packing things up is akin to putting a puzzle together; if it isn't done right, we don't get everything in the van to take to the next location. Disassembling the gear and stowing it properly has taken about the same amount of time as set up: three hours. Except for my grandson, I usually had no help as I could not depend on the local folks to stick around after things were over to help in this packing effort. Packing the van is akin to a puzzle: if you don't do it correctly, it may not all fit in. Making sure things are tied down properly is extremely important as well. I'm not always able to do that.

A few side notes: The van has an elevator on it, which makes getting the gear in and out considerably easier than lifting it in and out. I need the elevator to get my wheelchair in and out of the van, so it serves a dual purpose. If I absolutely had to, I could do all the work myself, but it would take twice to three times as long and I probably wouldn't be any good to do the presentation after setting up by myself.

When would my assistant have to be available?

Briefly: Monday, April 30th through Friday, September 14th.

Permit me to explain. This year, as in the past, the Road Show will begin in Medford, OR (our first venue) on Thursday, May 3, 2007. I'd like my assistant here in Florence, OR no later than Monday, April 30th to help with the final packing of the van. I absolutely need help with that! Tuesday, May 1st would be a travel day from my home base in Florence, OR to Medford, OR. The trip to Medford takes about 3-1/2 hours. The first venue is the "shake down" presentation (Wednesday, May 2nd). This is so we make sure we have all the connectors, wires etc that we need to make it all happen "smoothly" or can get whatever parts we need to make that happen.

After the Medford venue, we'd pack up and head on down to the next scheduled stop, arriving the day/night before. You can see what has been scheduled to date at: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/2007/2007-Itinerary.htm>. I'm still in the process of setting up the itinerary. Where I'm at right now is normal for this time of year; the schedule will fill in – trust me.

The last venue is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th in Eugene, OR. The following two days would be the when all equipment would be packed up and returned to the various sponsors. I would suspect that the final day for my assistant would be Friday, September 14, 2007.

This schedule can be looked at several ways: 4-1/2 months, or 20 weeks or 138 days. Although we will be off from Saturday, June 30th through Monday, July 9th, my assistant will be paid for that week as well.

My assistant's compensation will be in the form of a gift. The IRS says I can give a tax free gift to anyone – relative or not. You would not have to pay tax on it either. I normally give my gift at the end of the Road Show in one lump sum. Draws against the gift total are available, if needed. I will discuss the amount with any interested person, when and if they call me.

I cover all travel, lodging and food expenses, including transportation to and from Florence, OR. Bahá'í or not, I will not cover the cost of any alcoholic beverage. All of the hotels we will stay at do not permit smoking, so the use of any kind of tobacco is not an option.

At each hotel we stay at, I normally pay a bellboy \$5.00 to take our luggage in and \$5.00 to take it back to the van when we leave. I normally reserve this for whoever is my assistant. We typically stay at no less than 2 to 3 hotels a week (\$20 to \$40/week).

We typically stay at one of the brands of three major hotel chains:-

The Hilton brands:



The Marriott Brands:



Holiday Inn brands:



Nearly all the hotels where we stay have both pool and exercise rooms which we are welcomed to make use of. Some of the higher end hotels have concierge rooms which, if we qualify for, are permitted to use.

Most have breakfasts as part of the stay. I will not pay for breakfast if it is offered at the hotel as part of the stay.

I do expect my assistant to help me, as need in all things reasonable, such as doing our laundry at least once or twice a week at the various hotels where we stay. Most all of these facilities have laundry rooms and I'll pay for the both of our laundry when done in a hotel laundry room as well.

Miscellaneous things: Because my assistant and I may share a hotel room from time-to-time, it is necessary my assistant be a male and his age is not a factor, so long as he is able-body. Although I do not dictate how my assistant dresses or grooms himself, I do expect him to be clean when we start out **each** day so that we may make a somewhat professional impression on those we meet. I will also provide a cell phone for my assistant while they are on the trip with me. If my assistant wishes, I will make whatever arrangements are necessary so that he may attend the religious services of his choice.

As we travel, I like to stop at places of interest. (Houston Space Center, The Alamo, Baseball Hall of Fame, etc.) I will cover my assistant's costs if there is an admission fee. I normally do the same if we should attend any movies etc.

Please direct any an all questions to me at (541) 902-2424. Feel free to call anytime after 9 AM and before midnight any day of the week. I hope to have this position filled no later than March 1, 2007.

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