

Louise Q. Caron's Recollections from LIMA Gala's Past

Do You Know Who I Am?

Louise Q. Caron, former Sr. Vice President/Member Relations for LIMA, managed the Awards Gala for many years when it took place in New York City. She was always available at the door to greet the guests and troubleshoot any issues regarding tickets. Following are some recollections from her evenings as the "Gala Bouncer:"



- "Do you know who I am?" She can't tell you how many times she heard that one over the years!
- A man showed up without a ticket and said, "I don't need a ticket, I'm one of the founders of LIMA". When she asked him if he knew Murray Altchuler (LIMA's co-founder), he said, "Who's Murray?"
- Three people told her husband (who was helping me at the door) they were LIMA Board Members and didn't have their tickets. Her husband told them to, "See Lou." One of them asked, "Who's he?" Her husband responded, "You should know - SHE takes the minutes at every Board Meeting." They knew they were busted and headed back down the escalator.
- Two very friendly gentlemen told her they were from the United Nations and needed to meet their party inside. (They didn't have tickets, of course.) After a brief conversation, they hit the road. Even fake "diplomats" need a ticket!
- A gentleman told her he was a reporter with *The New York Times* and was there to cover the event. Even though LIMA did not give press passes, she asked him for credentials as she suspected he was not a reporter. He said he didn't carry ID. Nice try!
- "My Assistant has my ticket. She'll give it to you when she gets here." She didn't think so.
- A guy showed up saying he didn't need a ticket - he was a winner and was there to collect his trophy. She told him that was not possible as the winners are not announced in advance. He told her that he received a call from LIMA. Just to see what he would say, she asked him who called? He said, "some woman - I don't know her name". She responded, "that's not possible, only our President and I know who the winners are." By the way, he wasn't a winner.

- Next up: A man showed up without a ticket. She told him his name was not on the list and offered to sell him a ticket. He responded, saying that he didn't carry a wallet and had no cash, credit card, or ATM card to get cash. Who does that???
- An elderly gentleman showed up with his very young girlfriend without tickets. He was extremely indignant when he was told he could not attend as the event was sold out and he was not on the guest list. He then told her that he was invited to sit at a specific company table. She located a rep from the company and was told he had not been invited by them. When she relayed the response to him, he raised the cane he apparently needed to walk and pointed it just a couple of inches from Louise's face and yelled, "I'll have your job!" Okay, Dude – have a nice evening.
- "The Runners" - They are the folks that would occasionally make the mad dash and run right past her at the door. Louise's husband would head them off and bring them back to her. The runners never had a ticket.
- "The Bully" - The person who didn't have a ticket and had no intention of ever buying one. The bully would try to muscle his or her way in while speaking LOUDLY. One year, a man was particularly rude, not to mention relentless. He wouldn't take no for an answer and refused to pay. After a few minutes of loudly trying to intimidate her, he just stopped and left. Louise was happy that she had diplomatically handled the situation, not realizing that a moment before, her husband had appeared behind her and gave him "the look."
- Louise's personal favorite ... A man wasn't able to get by her without a ticket, so he tried sneaking through a wall of tall plants. He didn't realize that the plants were hiding a stanchion and he fell into it and took a few plants with him. As he tried to crawl away, she asked him if he needed assistance. Really???