

Curriculum Vita

Jerry Ash

Gerald W. (Jerry) Ash is a coalminer's son, a native of Bridgeport, West Virginia, located in the center of the northern coalfields of Appalachia. Now he is a business strategist located in the Tampa Bay region of Florida.

He is a life-long advocate, currently an activist on the side of the many, with advocacy the thread running through his eclectic career which includes university professor, journalist, editor, publisher, author, state senator, chairman of the state senate standing committee on health and human services and healthcare executive. He is also known internationally as a leader in corporate and personal knowledge management.

Jerry holds a masters degree in journalism from West Virginia University with a minor in political science and was an assistant professor of journalism there for seven years.

In the 1970s, he was editor and co-publisher of a small town weekly newspaper in Terra Alta, West Virginia, *The Preston County News*, which won forty state and national awards during those years. At the same time he co-founded the Pioneer Press of West Virginia, a commercial printing firm.

In the 1980s he was elected to two terms as a West Virginia State Senator and chaired the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. He also co-chaired the education committee and chaired the higher education subcommittee and founded and chaired the standing committee on small business.

After leaving the Senate he became vice president of the West Virginia Hospital Association and then president and CEO of the Nevada Hospital Association.

After a stint as executive director of Lifegift Organ Donation Centers in Houston, Fort Worth, Lubbock and Amarillo, Texas in the 1990s, he worked as an independent business consultant and became known worldwide for his expertise in the field of corporate knowledge management. He was also editor-in-chief of *Inside Knowledge* Magazine in London, England, before retiring in 2010.

Soon he became an advocate for economic justice and founded the Facebook group, WE Are the Market Force, an alliance of individuals, groups and organizations opposed to economic inequity, the taking of wealth from the impoverished, the working poor and the middle class by unrestrained capitalists, and the exploitation of that wealth to corrupt democracy.

Currently he is serving as professor for an online course about economic injustice titled "NoMyEconomics." He has developed THE COMMONS Business Model, a socially responsible, self-managed, profit-sharing system in which everyone is an entrepreneur who owns and manages his or her own work. He will launch his company, COWORKS Entrepreneurs, in January 2021 providing coaching for those who choose to adopt the business model.

In addition to his work as a journalist and author of business books, he has written several books for the niche and self-published markets, which include *West Virginia USA* (1976) and *Hellraiser – Mother Jones: An Historical Novel* (2013), which led to the writing of the yet-to-be-published *MoJo: Getting on the Right Side* about a contemporary Mother Jones who unwittingly discovers how to turn economics right side up beginning at the grassroots.

He is married to his best friend and business partner of 49 years, Michele Linn Ash, who is sole owner of Associated Professional Services, a proprietorship offering graphic design, website development and management and associated services. They have one daughter whom they adopted from an orphanage in El Salvador in 1979. They take pride in their multi-cultural family, which includes four grandchildren.

Links:

NotMyEconomics

https://www.notmyeconomics.com/not_my_economics/

THE COMMONS Business Model

<https://www.notmyeconomics.com/the-commons-business-model/>

COWORK Entrepreneurs

<https://www.notmyeconomics.com/cowork-entrepreneurs/>