

Meet MARION LOWRENCE



International Speaker

Marion Lowrence is a multi-award winning former PA winning Yorkshire PA of Year 2011, National Runner-up 2011 & Pitman International PA of Year 2012.

Marion is the Founder & Co-Director of The PA Hub, an international speaker and a Regional Board member for the Executive & Personal Assistants Association (EPAA). Marion has recently become the UK Representative for the World Administrators' Summit Advisory Council working on an international level to promote the role of the assistant.

WE HEARD THAT YOU ARE A GLOBAL PA TRAINER AND RUN YOUR OWN COMPANY THE PA HUB WITH YOUR HUSBAND JON.

TELL US MORE... HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

I loved my role as Senior PA at Yorkshire Universities but as the only PA this could be a lonely place. My boss secretly put me forward for a local award which I won and then I won national runner up. Suddenly I was being invited to PA events in London which was 200 miles away from home. I loved attending them; meeting other PAs was refreshing. I came away thinking I want to meet my local PAs too! So I set up an internal PA network within the 12 universities I worked for. This in time led me to set up The PA Hub.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU STARTED IT?

Truthfully it was all a bit of a whirlwind and I didn't have time to feel anything! Setting up a company is quite a procedure! My previous role involved helping start-up companies so I did have some knowledge already. Overall, I felt a mixture of elation, exhaustion, like I was riding the crest of a wave, self-doubt, panic and then the best thing I had ever done! I was providing a service to PAs that was desperately needed and even now I pinch myself to think it is all real!

WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE DO YOU THINK THIS SENDS OUT TO PAS AS A WHOLE?

I would hope a good one. I work hard to promote a profession I truly love. I mentor six PAs in the UK and regularly public speak about the importance of mentoring. It changes lives and it's one of two things that have helped me reach my goals. My own mentors have been crucial in my successes and helped me climb back up after any disappointments. Someone else having an opinion about what YOU can achieve often helps you deliver it! The other one is networking. I believe both are the way forward in whatever role you are in.

WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE DOES THIS SEND OUT TO EXECUTIVE LEADERS ABOUT PAS?

I love the fact I am helping other PAs see their own potential with the development sessions The PA Hub provides. When executive leaders see the change in their PAs after being part of the network, they see the benefits it can bring to their companies. The view of their PA changes and they can see the advantages it brings to their business. This means they are more likely to fund further development. One boss told me he gives his assistant more responsibility now which means he can get on with the job he needs to do knowing everything is working in the background.

NOW LET'S FOCUS ON YOU: TELL US THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU.

I am one of 7 children and have 22 first cousins. It was a busy household and probably the reason I love networking so much. Every day was an adventure. One day I will write a book!

WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE?

I am blessed with the best husband and running the company together means we can follow our dreams together. We both

have the same company values and goals for the future. On the flip side we have four children and a grandchild that we want to spend more time with. The company does take over sometimes so you have to sit back and remember why you are doing it. We try to get a good work life balance but we still need to work on that!

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Sometimes I can be a perfectionist! It drives people mad (especially Jon and the kids!). I like things neat and tidy and this is not always possible with the busy life we lead so my goal is to ease up a bit! Running over 40 events a year in 3 cities and the travelling we do with my speaking and company business is quite exhausting in itself so being a bit more chilled out about the little things would help me (and everyone else) immensely.

EVERY HARD-WORKING PA MUST HAVE AN OUTLET - WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I love sunny climates and I like to travel; it is big old world out there and life is short so I like to enjoy it as much as possible. I love a nice glass of wine in front of a film after dinner; Jon is a great chef so that is a big bonus. I love attending concerts, going to the theatre and socialising with friends. I also love to read, sing and listen to music. Life is an event so live it to the full!

Marion can be contacted on marion@thepahub.co.uk

