

# Why Managing Remote Employees is So Difficult (and what to do about it)

Hosted by



with  
Dr. Paul White

March 8, 2023



# Questions



**Dr. Paul White**  
Appreciation at Work™



Languages of  
**5**  
Appreciation at Work™

# Ask questions...Win!

If we address your question live, you'll receive a free registration code to take the *Expanded Remote version of the Motivating By Appreciation Inventory*.



## Get involved and **be recognized!**

*Q & A will take place at the end of the webcast, but you can submit questions any time using your tool tray on the right side of your screen.*

# Logistics – Getting Information:

To receive:

- a) a handout version of the slide deck,
- b) links to the remote research published,
- c) a sample report for the Remote version of the *Motivating By Appreciation Inventory*,

email [yesdrpaul@gmail.com](mailto:yesdrpaul@gmail.com)  
with “Terryberry” in the subject line.

# Why Managing Remote Employees is So Difficult (and what to do about it)

5  
Languages of  
Appreciation at Work™

## Onsite

vs.

## Remote





*"I can't remember—do I work at home or do I live at work?"*

# Why Managing Remote Employees Is So Difficult

**“Remote employees” are not a homogenous group.**

- Role of employee
- Frequency of remote work
- Distance / Location
- Preferred mode of communication
- Who they communicate with

# Why Managing Remote Employees Is So Difficult

## “Expectations”

- People have differing backgrounds, experiences, values & life circumstances.



**Including about  
Remote Work!**



# Why Managing Remote Employees Is So Difficult

## The Challenge of Effective Communication

- Clear communication is difficult enough
- Reduced frequency & availability
- Introduction of multimodal means
- Decreased channels of communication



# Poll of 400+ Remote Employees (2023)

## Amount Work Remotely

19%	1 day / week
41%	2-4 days / week
40%	Fully Remote
<1%	None (but work with remote colleagues)

## Age of Respondents

3%	≤ 29 years old
12%	30 - 39 years old
27%	40 - 49 years old
37%	50 - 59 years old
21%	60 + years old

# Benefits of Working Remotely

(February 2023)

38%

Not having to commute  
(time & cost)



# Benefits of Working Remotely (February 2023)

**27%** More productive / Less distractions



# Benefits of Working Remotely

## (February 2023)

21%

### Flexibility

- work when works best for them
- schedule other activities



# Benefits of Working Remotely (February 2023)

21%

Work / Life Balance

- eat healthier
- comfort of home
- time for other things



# Downsides of Working Remotely

(February 2023)

57%

Loneliness / Lack of social contact  
with colleagues



# Downsides of Working Remotely

(February 2023)

12%

Difficulties in Collaborating & Managing,  
Brainstorming, Getting input





# WARNING:

**Online communication isn't sufficient.**

- Videoconferencing is a great tool  
BUT neuroscience is showing that  
in-person communication is  
qualitatively different (and better)
- Peer to peer recognition is a good start  
BUT it is only Words.



# IF AT ALL POSSIBLE:

Meet together in person,  
at least occasionally.



# Downsides of Working Remotely

(February 2023)

12%

Less productive / Distractions /  
Supplies not available



# Downsides of Working Remotely

(February 2023)

9%

Work longer hours



# WORK-FROM-HOME PROBLEMS



THE COWORKER WITH  
BAD BREATH

Downside of  
Working  
Remotely  
(one more)

# ~~Downsides of Working Remotely~~ (February 2023)

9%

No downsides for them.



# Research: Remote vs. Onsite Employees

## Differences in How Appreciation is Desired

### Keys to Effectiveness:

- *Proactive*
- *Peers*
- *Personal*



# Research: Remote vs. Onsite Employees Differences in How Appreciation is Desired

## Remote: Desire for Quality Time increases

Onsite employees: 26%

Remote employees: 36%





# Communicating Authentic Appreciation Increases Staff Retention



# The Great Resignation

A recent study by MIT found  
**feeling appreciated** was

**3x**

more likely to predict employee  
attrition than compensation

\*January 2023



# In a 3 ½ year study\* with 13,000+ nurses

<u>Percent of Nurses</u>	<u>Amount of Recog.</u>	<u>Median Tenure</u>
9%	None	.5 yrs
16%	~2x/yr	1.1 yrs
25%	~3x/yr	2.3 yrs
25%	1+x/qtr	3.5 yrs
25%	~4x/qtr	3.5 yrs

\*2023 Dr. Rick Garlick & WorkProud



# Meaningful Acts of Appreciation (2023 Remote Employee Poll)

56%



WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

“Call or text me occasionally to see how I am doing”.

“Call attention to a success of mine during a team conference call.



# Meaningful Acts of Appreciation (Remote Employee Poll 2023)

18%



QUALITY TIME

“Taking time to listen to my thoughts & ideas.

“Give me undivided attention when we are talking on the phone (don't multi-task)”.



# Meaningful Acts of Appreciation (Remote Employee Poll 2023)

11%



ACTS OF SERVICE

“Schedule a call or video conference when it is convenient according to my time zone”.

“Offer to take some of my daily responsibilities while I am working on a time-pressured project”.



# Meaningful Acts of Appreciation (Remote Employee Poll 2023)

11%



TANGIBLE GIFTS

“Order (and pay for) lunch for me when the team is having a working lunch meeting in the office.”

\_\_\_% cited *Time Off* as the type of “gift” they want



# Meaningful Acts of Appreciation

(Remote Employee Poll 2023)

**36 %** cited *Time Off* as the type of “gift” they want





# Key Steps to Take

- Define type of remote employees
- Seek to understand & gather input
- Address the most important issue for your employees
- Revisit expectations in context of goals and “reality”
- Clarify and prioritize



# Top Two Priorities



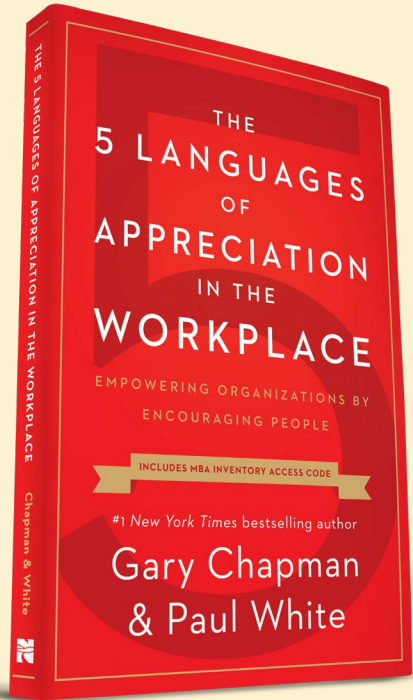
- Develop processes and activities to facilitate **social connection** between team members.



- Figure out ways to have team members **meet together in person**, at least occasionally.

# Implications for Leaders

- Develop a plan for your team members *supporting one another* (both remote and onsite) -  
*Remote MBA Inventory and Virtual Appreciation at Work Training*
- Focus on *staying connected* with your colleagues -- including what is going on with them *personally* (at home, stressors, social support).



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