



**Bert Ely**

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**Hometown:** Cleveland, Ohio

**Fun Fact:** As one who spends every August in Maine, I make a point every year of reading a light novel or two set in Maine -- a welcome change of pace from Washington settings.

**Hobby:** Civic activities, movies, dining out, sailing

**1. How long have you been a member of WHF and what have you gained from being a member?**

My recollection is that I joined WHF not long after it began admitting men into its membership - perhaps 15 or 20 years ago. I have found great value in my WHF membership over the years -- not only in attending many, many WHF events, but also in the numerous professional acquaintanceships I have made. Additionally, I served as WHF Treasurer for two years and an additional two years as a WHF director, which enabled me to give back to WHF.

**2. How do you make the best use of your day?**

I am diligent about preparing a daily to-do list on a yellow legal pad and I love striking through tasks as I complete them. Unfortunately, many items on the to-do list carry forward to the next day and the next day after that, but eventually they get done, or I say: Nah, I do not need to do that.

**3. What do you love most about what you do?**

I love the intellectual challenges in my consulting work and the public-policy issues that constantly arise in the financial services sector. Despite all the bad press banking and financial services get, an efficient financial services sector is vital to long-term economic growth and prosperity.

**4. What inspires you?**

Others who work hard, especially at activities that are in the public good and are not personally rewarding financially.

**5. What is the best advice you've ever received?**

I have received an enormous amount of good advice over the years. The challenge has been to follow it. More often than not, I have not.

**6. What are you currently reading?**

As old fashioned as it may seem, I read five newspapers, not only to stay on top of the daily news, but also to read about ideas, issues, people, and books that I would not read or hear about on-line. I own far more books than I will ever read, but I tend to read about economics and public-policy issues. Additionally, I am reading a biography of a great-great uncle (my great-grandfather's brother) who was a leading economist in his time. I differ with many of the economic policies he advocated but he led a very interesting life. I also just purchased a biography ("Eyes on the Street") of Jane Jacobs, whose 1961 book, "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," greatly influenced how I have since viewed cities and living in them.

**7. What is your personal philosophy?**

To continue to try to do the best I can, for as long as I can.

**8. Who do you look up to the most and why?**

There is no one person that I look up to. Instead, I am continually inspired by others who put community and the good of society ahead of their personal interest. Donald J. Trump is not one of those persons.