

Wisdom: What is it?

*By Hap Hansen*

I would like to start with what I think wisdom is not: Do not intentionally embarrass others. Do not make disparaging remarks about your friends. Do not gossip. Never argue politics because only rarely does anyone ever change their mind. Do not criticize others unless you know all the facts.

Here's the official definition of wisdom by Webster's Dictionary: wisdom is accumulated philosophic or scientific learning, a wise attitude.

Wisdom is also defined by famous writers and philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "One man's wisdom is another man's folly." Henry Louis Mencken said, "The older I grow, the more I distrust that age brings wisdom." Yeats said, "Joy is wisdom, time an endless song." Santayana, "It is wisdom to believe the heart." And Rousseau, "What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?"

For me, wisdom can be described as simple common sense. Paying compliments to others as often as possible. But I believe one of the best descriptions of wisdom is this: Knowing when to keep your mouth shut! And I'm still learning.