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Yvonne C. Bennett, CAE has dedicated her career to understanding the human side of organizational development during changing times. Inspired to pursue her Master's Degree in Business Administration in the mid nineties, she has made facilitating and managing change her professional niche. One of her greatest attributes is her understanding of the relationships of people in organizations facing dramatic operational and cultural change. She has worked in both the for profit and not-for-profit sector and brings a unique understanding of leading volunteer based associations.

In 2022, Yvonne retired from the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin (BCAW) where she served as their executive director since 2014. She led BCAW through a dramatic transformation of the organization. This was accomplished by bringing together staff and volunteers, based on a strategic planning process that tackled five key priority areas: governance, technology, membership, communications and financial stability. BCAW is stronger than ever with continued growth in members and programming.

From 1996 through 2000 Yvonne was a vice president of a \$13.5M association services corporation serving the bowling industry, responsible for the merging of three organizations (ABC, WIBC, YABA) to create a single shared services delivery system. Departments were consolidated into work teams in order to streamline processes and reduced operational redundancy. Organizational culture was transformed from one of independence and silos to that which was truly customer focused and quality driven. Duplication and ineffectiveness gave way to faster and improved customer service while also reducing overall operational expenses. From the money saved through such efficiencies, additional programs and services were created with no additional funding.

During her two-year tenure as executive director with a \$2.5M youth sports organization, she was able to lead the transformation to find better ways of meeting the membership's needs while reducing the overall operational budget. This required not only identifying and leading the necessary change within the staff, it also necessitated working closely with a volunteer board of directors to assure success. With Yvonne's leadership, a \$30,000 state of the art learning center was designed and built to further the organization's long range strategic emphasis on educating athletes, volunteers and staff. This project was funded in total through sponsorship and donations.

As the chief operating officer of a large national trade association, she led staff through many difficult challenges as the association recreated itself to be more service focused. She was responsible for the restructuring of the organization's human resources, design and implementation of a compensation program and the establishment of a performance evaluation process that reinforces the association's strategic plan and core values.

Yvonne served as the executive director of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, with 130 member clubs and over 55,000 registered youth players. She also served US Youth Soccer as chair of the Leadership Development Symposium for three years, leading the effort to provide educational opportunities to 55 State Associations.

She has been a seminar presenter at such events as Athletic Business Conference; ASAE & Center for Association Leadership's Aspiring CEO; New CEO Bootcamp and Annual Conference; as well as US Youth Soccer's Workshop and Leadership Symposium. She has also worked with numerous state associations in the area of governance and strategic planning.

Prior to retirement, her professional affiliations have included the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and their local affiliates. Yvonne has earned and continues to maintain the prestigious Certified Association Executive (CAE) through December 2024.