

Herding Cats

A quick discussion around agency structure and a solution we found at Marbury Creative Group.



I am Rob Marbury, President & Creative Director of Marbury Creative Group. This is our 13th year of business.



Some may remember my previous agency, Max2o. Tony and 2nd Wind were a major help for that agency and navigating an unfortunate demise.

(ANOTHER LESSON I COULD SHARE WITH ANY OF YOU)

I started Marbury Creative Group in 2010 and brought along 3 Max2o employees.



We rented some cubicles from a friend of mine, and hit the ground running.

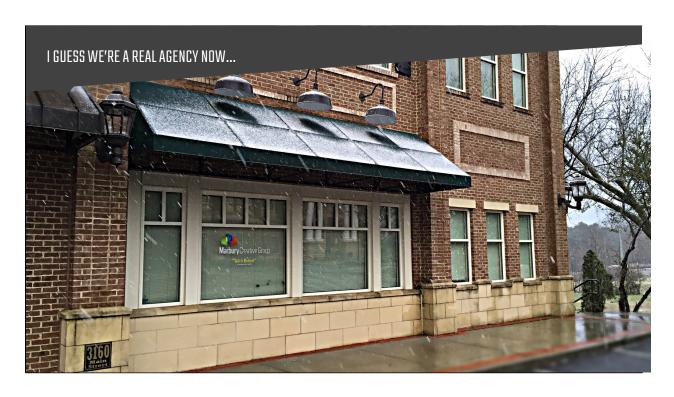
SOMETIMES I miss those days. I imagine a lot of you remember that feeling.



We were "scrappy" in the beginning and just GOT IT DONE (whatever IT was).

A bit of the Wild West! You all know what that's like.

Fun — Daring — Make it up as you go!!



Year 2 we got our own space with a 5 year commitment!!!

We started adding account managers and designers to meet the needs of our clients.



About year 4 I began to realize that my "Creative Director Talents" were not enough to sustain the growth we were experiencing.

Shelly has always been a key part of this company, — she ALWAYS asked questions about running the business and offering to help. **(ANOTHER LESSON)**

Year 5 Shelly started taking on ownership and helping me ON the business.

We started handing tasks off to our growing team (about 7 at that time). We went from START UP to LONG HAUL We went from REACTIVE to PROACTIVE

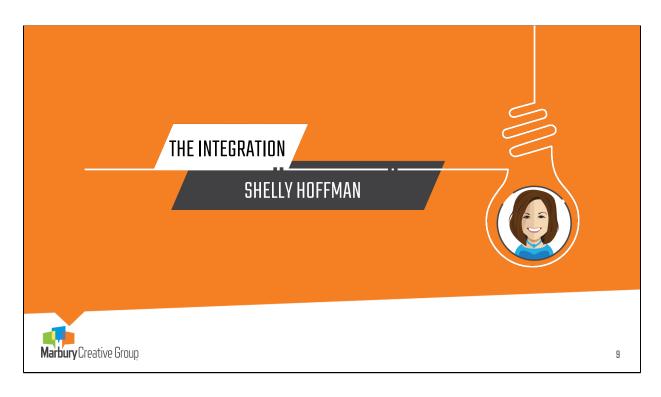


In Year 6, we did some evaluation and some dreaming, and realized we needed to "get serious" with a real business structure.

Investigated a number of options to help with this (Amy Wong shared a bit)

We ended up choosing EOS I knew a number of entrepreneurs loved the simplicity of it.

Now I am going to let Shelly is going to share a little about this Solution and how we did it.



I'm Shelly Hoffman, Partner and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EVP}}\xspace - \ensuremath{\mathsf{accountable}}\xspace$ for new business.



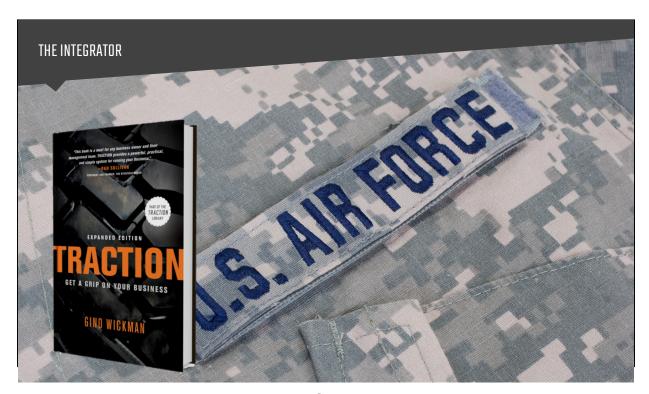
EOS is very focused and process-driven.

Question — how many of you have heard of EOS? How many use it?

It helps US focus ON the business while we continue to work IN the business.

It was a BIG CHANGE!!! You can imagine a company of creative thinkers having to follow more processes!

But you really need to have a person take responsibility for structure. We call it operations, in EOS they call it "the Integrator."

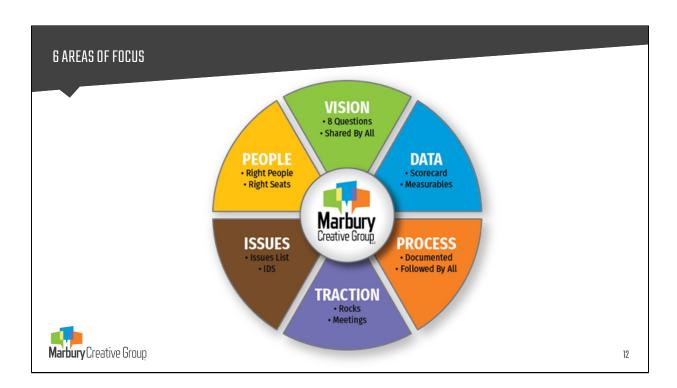


At our Year 7 - 2017 - we hired a TRUSTED friend of Rob's.

A retired military guy who used to run operations for U.S. Air Force Bases (Some of you may have met Vann Mathis)

He loved processes and so Rob gave him the E.O.S. Book "Traction" and asked HIM to write a report on it and tell us if he could get our agency up and running on EOS.

He did it!



VERY QUICKLY:

EOS is made up of 6 components:

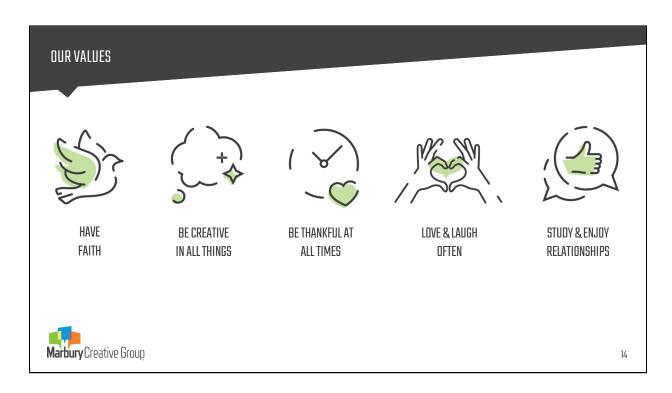
People. Process. Data. Vision. Issues. Traction.

This is where the Visionary and the Integrator Focus — and they bring the rest of the team along.



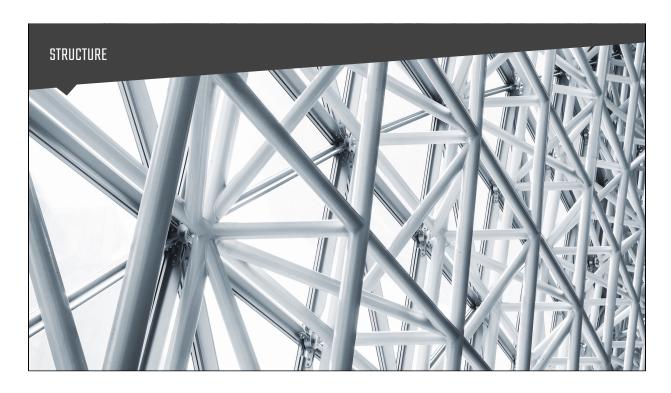
Here are our people and their TITLES — CURRENTLY.

We began to look at what each person could offer, and we developed an Accountability Chart (you'll hear more on this in a moment).



One of the best things we did right out of the gate was to bring out our CORE VALUES.

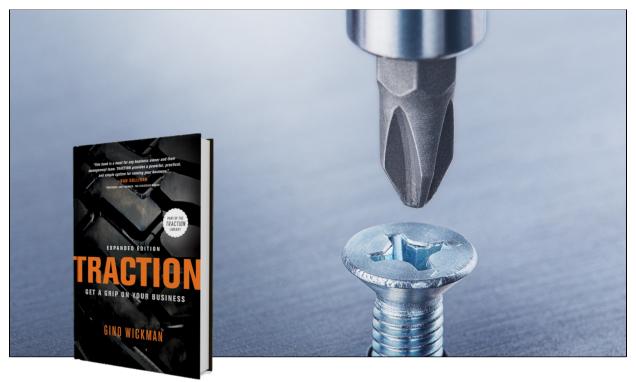
These have been consistent since 2018. We hire, fire and even choose clients based on them!



Of course not selling EOS.

We would recommend it — but there are many different business operations systems that you could look into.

The point is: We got better as a business because of the STRUCTURE.



We realized in 2021 that there was still room to TIGHTEN UP on EOS.

Vann left for greener military pastures, and we found a former LEGAL Operations Director that I knew personally.

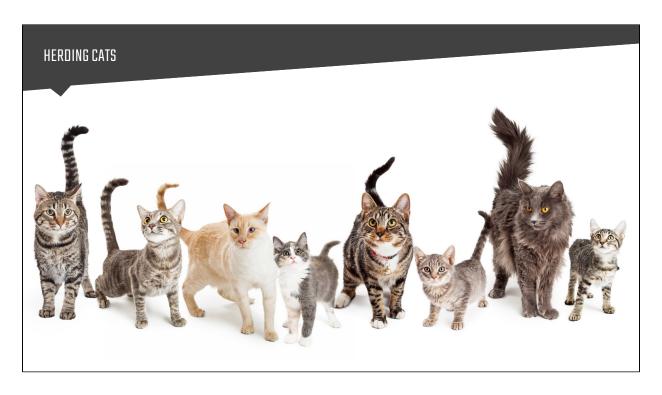
This time I asked HER to read "Traction" and tell us if she could get us further into it.

She loved it — and I am going to let my friend and our Integrator Stacey Zimmermann "bring us home" with some outcomes.



My name is Stacey VP of Operations and EOS Integrator.

I joined Marbury in December of 2021, and was really impressed by EOS.



EOS gave some structure to the business (which I love) as well as tools to help me "wrangle" these creative cats!

Starting with our creative director Visionary (Rob), and fast-moving Partner and EVP (Shelly).

It also helps all the creatives and entrepreneurial souls understand MY ROLE



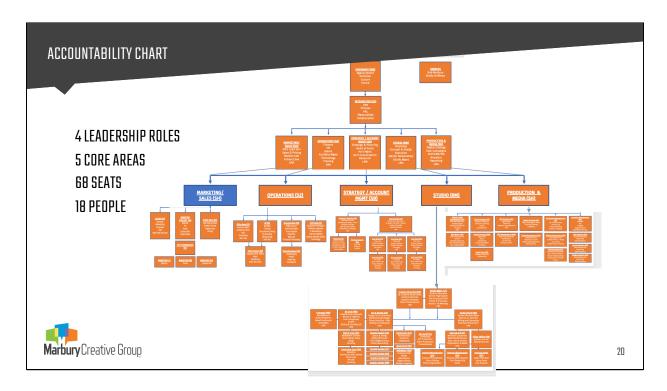
EOS is available out there — and it is possible to start implementing it yourselves. You can find lots of tools and videos online.

(that's what Rob, Shelly and Vann did for the first 4 years)

NOW we are working with an EOS Implementor (Certified in helping companies implement EOS) to run our Annual Meetings.

Our implementer is Brent Stromwall, and he helps us do it RIGHT — holds us accountable.

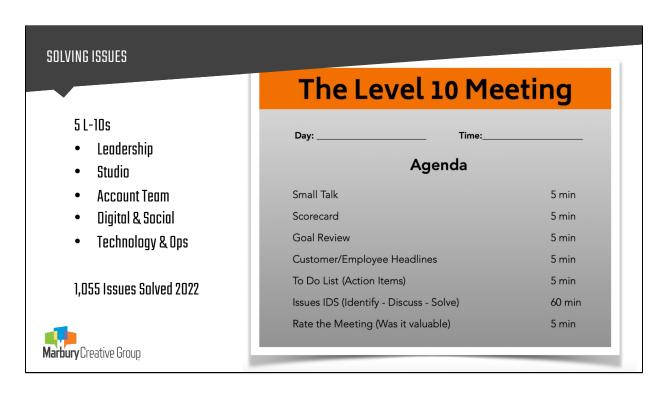
I'll cut to the chase and share a few highlights that we recognized last year (2022), our first "Truly Committed" year.



First — we built out our Accountability Chart — 68 seats for 18 people.

We are hiring and firing on our Values – as well as our team's ability to GET IT, WANT IT and CAPACITY TO DO IT to fit these seats.

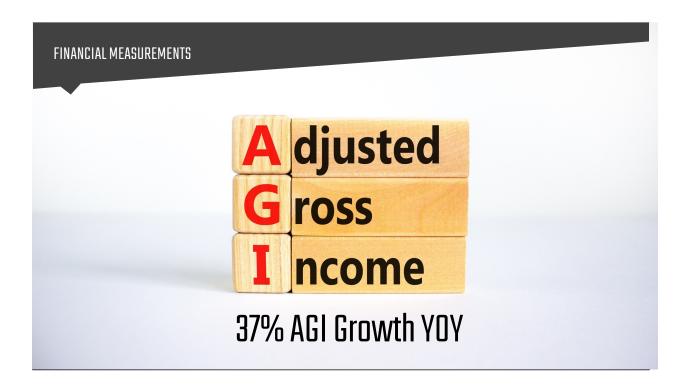
This shows who is accountable for what tasks — and indicates where there is room to hire.



We got serious about our meetings. There is a specific way that EOS has you run meetings to keep them ON TIME and STRUCTURED.

We Identify, Discuss and Solve the most important ISSUES in priority in these L-10 Meetings

In 2022 we solved 1,055 issues across the agency!

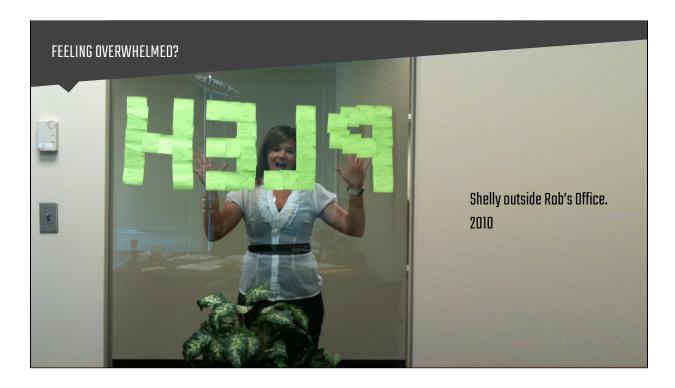


We have WEEKLY finance meetings (we've worked with Vince Dong to do even better with these),

You always hear Laurie talking about AGI - and we experienced 37% Growth in AGI YOY from 2021 to 2022.

This is largely attributed to the structure and the ability to follow it.

(I'll add it also came at greater expense - mostly salaries - so Net Profit YOY was only slightly higher, but still growing!



All this to say that if you find yourself tired of handling parts of the Business you shouldn't be doing...

If you feel like you've hit the ceiling in terms of your agency's growth....

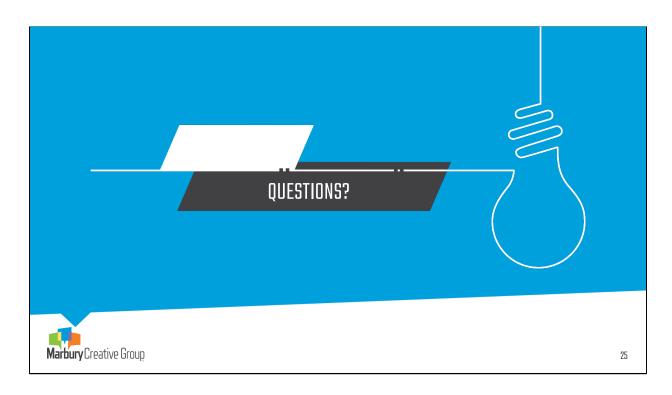
If you need some structure to position your agency for sale and to show progress...

It may be time to try something like EOS.

It's worked for us, and we'd love to help other agencies who found themselves in our shoes.



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Feel free to reach out to myself, Shelly or Rob if you would like to learn more about our journey.

In the meantime, are there any Questions?