

PINNACLE AWARD WINNER



JANE E. SMITH-BOWEN

Director of Events Marketing, The Word & Brown Companies

Jane was born & raised along with her sister Sue, in the small lake town of Webster, Massachusetts with its lake name often cited as the longest place name in the United States and one of the longest in the world:

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg or Webster Lake. She graduated from Bartlett High School and was awarded a Bachelor's Degree from Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA.

Following college, Jane was employed by the United Way of Central Massachusetts in Worcester and was instrumental in the research, development & execution of their "First Call" initiative, a network of public & private services connecting area residents with services in need via hotline and published book distribution.

In late 1983 Jane & a few friends decided that they could no longer bear the cold snowy winters in New England and headed on a 3 week cross country journey - Destination: California. Jane became employed by the United Way of Orange County initially as an Allocations Specialist reviewing non-profit agency applications & the distribution of funds collected to these agencies. She was promoted to the position of Campaign Fundraising Associate handling all the aerospace, medical industry, builder/developer & non-profit agency accounts. Through this employment she met John Word, who was on the Board of Directors and worked as one of the volunteers on the fundraising committees assigned to her.

Soon after meeting John and his persistence to come work for the newly formed company he was starting with partner Rusty Brown, Jane came on board as the 21st employee at Word & Brown, heading up the Marketing area with Rusty. Together they introduced brokers to the state of the art "Quotomatic" quoting system and conducted hundreds of training seminars. Today, Jane is Director of Events Marketing and is responsible for Events & Trade Shows for The Word & Brown Companies and its initiatives throughout the country. She is also responsible for overseeing the Continuing Education arm of the company and works with various state Departments of Insurance on the company's providerships & broker continuing education credits.

With John's involvement as a founding member of OCAHU and as its President, Jane became involved in all aspects of the organization from the initial monthly meeting planning during John's tenure to becoming President in 1994-95. Jane, along with co-chair and future OCAHU & CAHU president, Dorothy Cociu, organized and produced the first ever California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) State Convention which set the precedent for their yearly tradeshow that still occurs today. Since her time in office, Jane initiated and continues to be involved in OCAHU's Annual Cystic Fibrosis Charity Golf Tournament – celebrating its 18th year. Jane's continuing support of the event helped to lead the charity drive to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and was instrumental, along with the "Women in Business" Charity Event, for OCAHU to receive NAHU's William H Flood Award for the past 3 years.

Jane resides in Irvine with the love of her life, her husband Stan Bowen and is a proud stepmom of Stan's son Johnny. She is also a doting aunt & godmother to her nieces, Olivia & Gwyneth who reside in Charlton, Massachusetts.