



20 QUESTIONS

June

Celebrating 20 Years of ACS

ACS is 20 years old! We're celebrating this milestone with a game of "20 Questions," featuring some of the people who've inspired us the most during our two decades in the field. Each month, we'll highlight a few answers from each of our featured guests.

Debbie Neale

Debbie Neale is a groundbreaker in many ways: She was one of the first female corporate lobbyist in the insurance, chemical plastics industries, breaking down barriers and opening the door for other women in the field. She led the charge in Ohio to increase national attention and investment in Alzheimer's Disease research. She's been the Mayor of Lakeline Village for 15 years. She's a huge patron of the arts, serving in volunteer leadership roles for the Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland International Piano Competition, and the Cleveland Play House. In short, Debbie is a strong, no-nonsense leader who gets things done!

1 What's your philosophy for life?

Have as much fun as possible and don't sweat the small stuff.

2 Best book you've read lately?

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer, by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006).

3 Something you've done in your work that you're most proud of?

Winning some tough bills with some difficult opponents.

4 Favorite watering hole?

Johnny's Downtown.

5 One public policy you'd change?

Citizens United.

6 What made you choose your career path?

It wasn't easy in the 1970s, but I had an affinity for politics and luck and coincidence.

7 A favorite mentor?

Pete O'Grady, one of the first contract lobbyists and legendary head of the Democratic party.

8 Rock, rap, or country?

Rock.

9 Dogs vs. cats: who rules and who drools?

Never had either, but pets always rule.



- 10 Favorite thing about working with ACS?**
They are fun women who are smart, who care, and who know their business.
- 11 A skill that might surprise us?**
I can't think of any.
- 12 Biggest “win” or “lesson learned” of your career so far?**
Some adversaries are relentless and need constant vigilance.
- 13 Favorite vacation spot?**
New Mexico.
- 14 Ideal weekend activities?**
The Orchestra and theater and reading the Times.
- 15 Pet peeve?**
Patriarchs and the idiots who refuse facts and science.
- 16 Advice for rising leaders in your field?**
There's always another bill and another day.
- 17 If you could magically become an expert in anything, what would it be?**
Art.
- 18 Favorite holiday?**
Any three-day holiday.
- 19 Country you'd live in if not this one?**
Australia.
- 20 Most recent thing that made you smile?**
[*The Borowitz Report*](#), by Andy Borowitz (Simon & Schuster, 2004).

Stay tuned for 20 Questions from ACS in July!