Before I started my own business three years ago, I worked in corporate environments for about 15 years, providing PR counsel to CEOs and other company executives.

While I did feel some sense of authority and respect in that environment, ultimately there were folks at the top who could squash my decisions at a whim. For that reason, I was very careful to follow corporate methodologies, language and preferences. Being a chameleon came with the job.

Yet in my off-time, I was always the ruler of my own universe. Certainly as a mother I took charge of my children’s day-to-day activities. But I also had hobbies to round out my professional life — dabbling in such activities as snowboarding, scrapbooking, roller derby, motorcycling.
Today, the precious off time I enjoy is typically spent playing poker with friends. Even in this hobby, I am faced with making critical decisions at every moment — empowered by calling my own shots — and of course, reaping the rewards (and sometimes lessons learned) in the process. I have to take risks, read the field and make decisions accordingly.

I have control of my own success or failure, and there isn’t much that could keep me from taking those risks every week – because I have passion for the game. I make many mistakes — yet they never dissuade me. I come back again and again — I keep trying – I never give up.

As for my other hobbies/passions, there are entrepreneurial skills within all of them honestly. Snowboarding and motorcycling include choosing to take physical risks and owning the those risks while moving forward anyway. Scrapbooking requires a high level of organization and creativity. Roller derby requires the ability to work well as a team and knowing that any individual can be a single point of failure if they don’t believe in that team mentality.

These are all things that are required for anyone considering jumping into the entrepreneurial realm, and I guarantee we each have some of these traits inside of us. Once you find that thing that gives you passion – that makes you want to work hard and be successful no matter what the odds – consider chasing it as your entrepreneurial dream. You’ll never regret it.

Tina Lange is the owner and chief strategist at TNT Creative Group, a full-service public relations and social media agency located in Melbourne. TNT Creative serves clients such as Space Florida, Brevard Cultural Alliance, the FIT Women’s Business Center and Hart Clinical Consultants. www.tntcreativegroup.com