

January

2006

The mission of NAPM Central Michigan, Inc. is to serve the needs of its members and the profession by providing quality learning opportunities through educational forums, career broadening and mentoring experiences. Additionally, it is our mission to promote increased recognition of NAPM and the growth opportunities offered by the organization.



President's Toolbox by David Taylor, C.P.M.

Status Quo or Not?

One of our members is working on an idea with their boss for a lunch meeting with a small targeted group of buyers/supply chain managers. The idea has surfaced occasionally that possibly lunch or breakfast meetings in small groups might be a way to stimulate or cultivate relationships with our peers. As supply chain professionals have we become complacent or numbed into thinking that the **Status Quo** is sufficient and acceptable?

Most would agree that today in our jobs, we are all doing more with less, in less time than we previously were allowed, and with little or no budget at all for improvement. Sometimes we are expected to do much with nothing! So **what is Status Quo?**

Recently an owner challenged his management staff: "We have a new competitor in a neighboring state. They are beating us in price and matching us in quality and service. Are we going to step up and counter the competition or - just let it happen?"

For those of you that have certification status, and think that is the end of professional development, you may be badly mistaken. Your replacement may be doing your job in the near future. They used to say only a few things in life were constant: death, taxes, Kodak, Coca-Cola and Change. Even Kodak and Coke have had to constantly change to stay ahead of their competition or in the case of Kodak embrace digital technology and be a leader before film and film cameras became totally extinct and obsolete. Today Kodak is EASY SHARE! If we choose not to continually improve our expertise, our products and knowledge, our competitors will. When did Polaroid start making televisions? Memorex used to be magnetic recording tape.

NAPM-Central Michigan is not unlike other organizations across the country where membership is level or down a little, but involvement and commitment of individuals is suffering badly. Fact is, we make time for the things we enjoy or deem important enough. That is true of leisure time, books, computer toys & games, cars or our hobbies. Why take part in organizations or activities with people we don't know and don't even have casual relationships with? You must invest yourself to get something back in return.

Do you accept **status quo** in your position as a supply chain professional? When was the last time you made a point of calling, speaking to, or emailing a fellow supply chain professional or one of your team members, just because you were thinking of them and wondering how they were doing? It starts with each one of us. Organizational activities and mentoring require investment.

It turns out January is National Mentoring Month. Hallmark can remind you with a card or go to www.mentoring.org then click on the icon in the upper right corner for Mentoring Month. Over the years, many people in my life have been **Mentors**. Those people changed my life and my professional course. Today I

mentor people and suppliers when I have the opportunity. As just another fellow struggler in our profession, by sharing my experience and expertise in areas such as Inventory Management, I can and do mentor my peers. Likewise thru seminars, others in turn mentor me and the cycle goes on and on. We change our companies, organizations and communities one person, one project, one goal at a time. If you are moving forward and improving what you do or how you do it, then you are not Status Quo! If you just shrug your shoulders and resign yourself by saying "what can I do about it?" you sell yourself short. Mentoring and professional development take many forms but by participating we are changed.

We have all heard the full **Serenity Prayer** by Reinhold Niebuhr, at one time or another, which starts out: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. . ."

We are unique in that we are at the pulse or heartbeat of our companies. We have power, authority and influence to change almost anything we choose to champion! I am amazed each time I meet with my peers, at the collective knowledge, expertise and power for change we represent. Accept the power vested in you by your employers, mentor who you can and be bold enough this year to change the things you can! It just might help your company and your world will be a better place. Please share with us what you wish to change and things you want to learn—Happy NEW YEAR! dt

January Dinner Meeting

Speaker: Mr. Kurt Coduti, Resident Engineer - Lansing Transportation Service Center, Michigan DOT.

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Location: Coyote Creek Grill (formerly Windsor Mountain Grill) 6951 Lansing Road, Dimondale, MI. 517-322-3080 Restaurant (Exit 98B off I-96 in S.W. Lansing-between I-69 and I-96 loop)

Time: Sign-in & Social Time: 6:00 to 6:30 P.M.
6:30 P.M. Dinner

RSVP:

Denise O'Brien
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Mike Butchart
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Reservations must be in by Friday Jan. 13th 2:00p.m.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Members:

Brenda K Lilly-Plank
EQ The Environmental Quality Co Purchasing

SATELLITE SEMINARS:

Thurs. 2/09/06 **Satellite Seminar: *Ethics in Supply Management: Minding Your Actions and Decisions***

Thurs. 4/20/06 **Satellite Seminar: *Risk and Risk Management: Surviving in a Dynamic Business Environment***

Thurs. 6/08/06 **Satellite Seminar: *Buying Travel, Energy and Other Services***

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The February & March dinner meetings will be held jointly with Mid Michigan APICS hosting both meetings.

February 21st - Jackson Holiday Inn. Presentation by Mr. Curtis Walker - Lean Office Systems

March 14th - The March meeting will be held in Lansing at a site to be determined. Presentation by Mr. Art Gase - Team Building.

March 22 – 3rd Annual Midwest Supply Chain Management Conference & Exposition. Steelcase University Learning Center, Grand Rapids MI.

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