

The Toolbox by David K. Taylor, C.P.M. January 2007

Resolution or Evolution Time –Flip the Calendar!

Sorting through some magazines over the Holidays, I was noticing the thickness of the magazines is diminishing over time. Magazine titles change as does the content. Even our job titles and duties change. We once were purchasing or inventory control professionals—buyers, planners, expeditors etc. Now you have commodity managers, supplier development managers, supply chain managers and analysts etc. The inventory control dept is now the materials group.

Just last week a supplier representative was talking about a friend with a 17 year old daughter whose cell-phone bill covered over 1200 text messages in one month not to mention the call minutes.

Increasingly, newspapers are fighting to retain subscribers. Even more individuals are declining to have the printed copy delivered and are opting for the electronic E-zine or website versions. We see more and more feature packed cell-phones like the razor or the blackberry with more features and whistles than ever before.

The big question—are we communicating better--more or less effectively, or have we just added more data and information to wade through and digest daily. It is not uncommon to hear individuals decry their 100 to 400 or more emails a day, most of which are spam or ad-ware. When voice-mail was first introduced it too was abused and overwhelmed us. In this convoluted jungle of the digital age, how do we now determine our priorities and choose what, when and how we will respond? Can we simplify and stream-line?

We used to have a day-timer, Franklin Planner or desktop calendar. Annually we placed a replacement order for desk calendars for the whole office. No longer! Now we most often use MS Outlook if we are in the typical office. My day-timer has sat unused for over three years. I want to ask our members some questions and would like it if you would respond back to me, Dave Taylor at taylo517@yahoo.com

- 1. How much news do you absorb each day and where do you receive it from?**
- 2. How much do you read in a day and what do you read?**
- 3. How do you choose to expand or enhance your education or professional development?**
- 4. Do you see and receive an advantage from networking? How?**
- 5. How much time are you willing to devote to stay professionally informed?**
- 6. What new or different opportunities would you be willing to explore?**

There are no right or wrong answers. As a writer, I seek input from you the reader and our association members. If you would respond to any or all questions which evoke a response, I will do my best to share the results with our board members and then with you our readers. Change is certain just like death and taxes. Six-Sigma and other tools now show us we can change and re-invent ourselves more frequently to stay competitive. I look forward to your input. Dave Taylor