

Membership Matters

What's Your Impact? Here and Now—Why Me?

by Jim Barbush, P.E.

Have you ever asked yourself any of the following: Why am I here in this place at this time? Why am I working at my institution in the position that I am in? Why am I in APPA, my region, and my chapter? Why am I serving or not serving in APPA, my region, or my chapter? What impact do I make on those around me, in my job, at my institution, and in APPA (internationally, regionally, and locally)?

Many have asked these questions and there are probably some that have not. Whether or not we have, we *should* be asking these questions of ourselves, and we should be asking them regularly. More importantly, we need to be answering those questions. We need to assess what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what impact we are having on those around us and the places we are in.

Why do we need to do that? Now there's a question about why we need to ask questions. We need to ask and answer these questions so that we can realize that we need to be assured that we are *adding value* to what we are involved in. We need to assess the level of value added and determine if it is sufficient, and then take action to increase or change that added value.

We need to understand that each and every one of us is a *focal point* of action that will affect what we are involved in. We need to understand that each and every one of us is a *filter* that will sift conditions and activities to determine what is appropriate and what is not appropriate in

Jim Barbush, P.E., is the facilities contracts manager at the State System of Higher Education in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He can be reached at jbarbush@passhe.edu.



what we are doing, to allow or disallow things in our present situations and into our future situations.

We need to understand that we can motivate ourselves and those around us in ways that change how we work, how we think, what we get accomplished, and how we feel about ourselves and others.

In the recent years, I have been awakened to the massive influence that we as individuals can have on our surroundings. That can be a positive influence or a negative influence. I have been awakened to understand that where I am matters, what I do matters, and what I do where I am does make a difference. I have the power to make that impact as a positive influence or a negative influence.

I came to this awakening by asking and answering these questions and then taking steps to implement the answers. The results have been striking. My work has been impacted. People I work with have been impacted, and my family has been impacted. My horizons have been expanded and continue to expand. My territory (sphere of influence and places of op-

eration) has been expanded, and that has spread to include my family.

By the time this article is published in APPA's *Facilities Manager*, I will have attended: 1) APPA's joint conference in Hawaii; 2) ERAPPA's 56th annual conference in Mystic, Connecticut (ERAPPA is my region of APPA); and 3) KAPPA's semi-annual conference in Cranberry, Pennsylvania (Keystone

APPA is my chapter of APPA). My wife and son will have attended the APPA and ERAPPA conferences with me. We will have been to places that we never would have expected or planned to be except for my involvement in APPA, ERAPPA, and KAPPA. We will have been with people that we know and some we have never met before. We will have influenced others and been influenced ourselves. Our territory and horizons in the world will have expanded again.

I will have been encouraged that I am in the right place at the right time, having been with people that are focused on common goals. And possibly, I will have determined that I am to go into something new and different, something that I never expected. Then, the thought will come, "If I would not have ventured out in APPA/ERAPPA/KAPPA and gone to the places and experienced the education, events, and people, then I and my family would not have grown and developed as we have, we would not have benefited from what other people had to offer, and others would not have benefited from what we had to offer." After

Acoustiblok

When What You Don't Hear Counts...

NOISE PROBLEMS?

MADE IN USA

"ACOUSTIBLOK ALL WEATHER SOUND PANELS"

For serious industrial noise problems, this panel not only blocks sound, but also absorbs virtually all extreme noise with no reflections (NRC 1.0)!

When noise cannot be contained, it will continue to reflect off surrounding surfaces until it escapes. In documented installs around AC chillers, the panels reduced noise at school property lines an average of 24.9 db!



Panel size is 4'x8'x2" for use inside & outside, it is constructed for rigorous use with

welded stainless steel frames & brass eyelets, UV & non-mold covering. A layer of 1/8" Acoustiblok is inside the panel to block sound.

Also great for reducing sound in hallways, assembly areas, cafeterias, gymnasiums, music rooms & pool areas. Even used on oil rigs in the North Sea.

Noise going through walls & ceilings? One layer of 1/8" UL approved Acoustiblok in a stud wall can achieve an amazing STC of 57 and even up to an STC of 66 depending on wall design. Adding one layer of acoustiblok can result in more sound reduction than 12" of poured concrete (STC 51)!



© C925

www.acoustiblok.com
(813) 514-4531

that thought, I will be thankful to have gone and been permitted to go.

So, in this column, I want to say that membership in APPA (internationally, regionally, and locally) *does* matter. It means a lot to my institution and me. It's something that you cannot fully understand until you experience it. It's something to tell people about. It's something that I should not be without at this time. It is well worth the time, money, and energy to be involved in APPA.

I want to thank my institution, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, for being part of APPA and supporting me in this endeavor to be

part of APPA, ERAPPA, and KAPPA. It's an investment that provides our system with great benefits. And it's not just me that our system supports. It supports numerous facilities personnel from the Office of the Chancellor and the system's 14 state-owned universities.

So, do some self-analysis, ask yourself some questions and answer those questions. Take some appropriate actions regarding those answers and see what happens in your life, whether at work, at home, or wherever, and find the answers to, "What's your impact? Here and now—why me?" 🙏

Membership in APPA

A Valuable and Life Changing Experience

"Why am I here in this place at this time?"

- Do some self-analysis.
- Ask yourself some questions.
- Answer those questions.
- Take some appropriate actions regarding those answers.
- Watch what happens in your life.

Be assured and understand that:

- You add value to what you are involved in.
- You are a focal point of action to affect what you are involved in.
- You are a filter to sift conditions and activities, to affect your present and future circumstances.
- You are a motivator for yourself and those around you.
- You are a massive influence on your surroundings.

Membership in APPA

(internationally, regionally, and locally)

- Attend international, regional, and chapter conferences to influence and be influenced.
- Experience the conference and its people to prove the value.
- Share the value of your experience.
- Thank your institution for allowing you to participate.