

Your Personal APPA Experience

found in ch being etroleum, wier than

sinks be

semi-sol-

ter, as in

bitumen a sticky, hich is so heated or

ints of oil

th the hy-more fluid illed extra

called un-

em from

ditional Canada ated 3.6 a-heavy world's

ient-rich Mexico the large ig to the which it

> organic equent n mud.

essure

ature l win-

rogen

By James Harrod

t was 1990. The San Francisco 49ers were Super Bowl champions; we were watching Macauley Culkin in Home Alone; and at the time of the APPA annual conference (in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada), the New Kids on the

Block had the number one hit. It was also my first APPA conference. I was excited to be attending the event, but probably for a different reason than most. I was ten years old, and the pool at the hotel looked pretty cool.

APPA IS THERE FOR SUPPORT

Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet many individuals involved with the organization who have played an important part in shaping my career. Along with career guidance, everyone that I have met at APPA has been more than willing to share their experiences when it comes to life in plant operations.

We have chosen a career where people are more than are the happy to contact you when something is wrong, but we rarely hear from them when the waters are calm. So when it gets tough, we have to remember that there is a pretty good chance that a fellow member has faced the same problem that we currently face at our institutions. And fellow members can help ease anxiety at times of great stress. One member provided me with the following "thought

of the week" (the article was in the local paper and is from an unknown author. It is hanging above my kitchen sink and I

read it nearly every day): in some countries.
history, what news means, and the public history, what news worthy" has met different definitions. For example, mid-twen-More recently, the mains on political an

The Benefit Of Obstacles

A wise philosopher once commented that an eagle's only obstacle to flying with speed and ease is the air. Yet, if the air was withdrawn and the proud bird were to fly in a vacuum, it would fall instantly to the ground, unable to fly at all. The main obstacle that a powerboat has to overcome is the water against the propeller, yet if it were not for this same resistance, the boat would not move at all. The same law, that obstacles are conditions of success, holds true in human life. A life free of all obstacles and difficulties would reduce all possibilities and powers to zero. Obstacles wake us up and lead us to use our abilities. Exertion gives us new power. So, out of our own difficulties new strength is born. What possibilities and powers are waiting in your obstacles? To achieve success means looking the obstacles that wake up the powers within you.

Area con in mustandicappe

APPA IS THERE FOR STRATEGIZING

Members help drive one another to accomplish new and innovative practices. Practices that I have employed to help streamline workflow at my current institution. The practice or procedure

may need to be tweaked for use in your personal setting—however, it can provide the big picture, which may be all the motivation necessary to achieve implementation. I, for one, look forward to upcoming events to discuss what is on the horizon for fellow members and their institutions.

Now, back to why I was at an APPA event when I was ten years old. See, my father was involved with APPA and spoke highly of the organization while I was growing up. So, early in my career, when I was given the chance to attend the APPA Institute for Facilities Management program, I jumped at it.

YOUR OWN APPA EXPERIENCE

Everyone will have their own experience with membership and a story about how they were introduced to APPA. It may have been at a regional event, it may have been an avenue for continuing education, or maybe your boss just informed you that you were going. Regardless of how one is introduced to APPA, once you are part of the group, there is one thing you need to remember: you are part of a team. A team is there for you when you struggle, congratu-

lates you when you succeed, and adds motivation to everyday life. (3)

James Harrod is maintenance and operations manager at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI. He can be reached at jharrod@uwhealth.org. This is his first article for Facilities Manager.