



Your Personal APPA Experience

By James Harrod

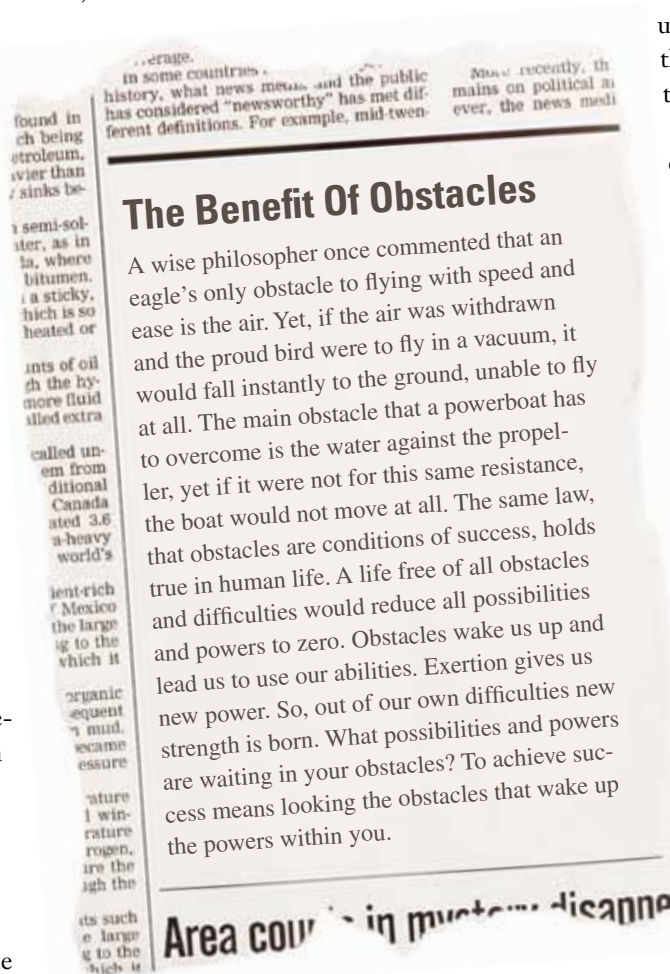
It was 1990. The San Francisco 49ers were Super Bowl champions; we were watching Macauley Culkin in *Home Alone*; and at the time of the APPA annual conference (in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada), the New Kids on the Block had the number one hit. It was also my first APPA conference. I was excited to be attending 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 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):



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, congratulates you when you succeed, and adds motivation to everyday life. ☺

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