

Volume 1, Issue 2

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**Commitment
through the Eyes
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Members**

What is Commitment

What is commitment? To each person it means something different. To the boxer, it's getting off the mat one time more than you've been knocked down. To the marathon runner, it's running another ten miles when your strength is gone. To the soldier, it's going over the hill, not knowing what's waiting on the other side. To the missionary, it's saying goodbye to your own comfort to make life better for others. To the leader, it's all that and more because everyone you lead is depending on you.

True commitment inspires and attracts people because it shows them you have conviction. They will believe in you if you believe in your cause. Commitment starts in the heart—some people want everything to be perfect before they're willing to commit themselves to anything but

commitment always precedes achievement. If you want to make a difference in OTHER people's lives, you need to look inside yourself and determine whether you are truly committed. Commitment is tested by action; it's one thing to talk about it but it's another to do something about it. Commitment opens the door to achievement. There will be obstacles and opposition and there may be times when only commitment itself carries you forward — because the work has to get done.

These words came from an IAAP presentation on Succession Planning. What does commitment mean to you? This is a question which I began asking myself this summer. When I learned that the International theme for 2009-2010 would be 'The Power of Commitment', I knew this question needed to



be asked of each one of us.

In this issue you will learn exactly what commitment means to a number of IAAP members around the United States. I hope you find something among them that resonates with you just as I did.

Commitment Quotes

'Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the "right stuff" to turn our dreams into reality.'

James Womack

'The irony of commitment is that it's deeply liberating — in work, in play, in love.'

Anne Morriss

'There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstances

permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.'

Art Turock

'Anyone can dabble, but once you've made that commitment, your blood has that particular thing in it, and it's very hard for people to stop you.'

Bill Cosby

'Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a

civilization work.'

Vince Lombardi

'It was character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through.'

Zig Ziglar

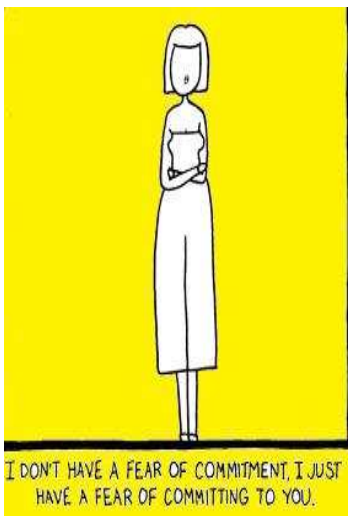
'When work, commitment, and pleasure all become one and you reach that deep well where passion lives, nothing is impossible.'

Nancy Coey



“A member’s commitment to the Association and then the reciprocation is the engine that drives both to greater heights.”

“NSA/PSI/IAAP members were there to support me through thick and thin, through divorce and remarriage, through firings and hirings, etc., and I owe them to ‘pay it forward’.”



Commitment through the Eyes of Other IAAP Members

Greater New England Division President Bob Marshall told me he had to really think about this for a few days. “It was a learning and growing experience for me. It puts what you agree to in an installation ceremony and how we carry it out in black and white. So many times many of our chapter officers don’t know what they are getting into and what the word commitment really means. I went to the dictionary ... the definition of this word in the Merriam-Webster dictionary which represents my commitment to IAAP is ‘an agreement or pledge to do something in the future, the state of an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled.’ As Division Presidents we not only [feel] obligated to move the association to the next level, but know that we need to engage all of our division members to live up to the mission statement of IAAP. As President of the Greater New England Division, I know that the Greater New England Division Board of Directors has pledged to carry out this mission statement to the best of their abilities and will continue to do so throughout this year by offering opportunities at Division and District levels with workshops to build Networking and Leadership skills. We are striving to mentor our chapter leaders today to be Division Leaders tomorrow.”

Judie Yannarelli, International Director, Northeast District had this to say about the quest for the meaning of the word commitment. “As a member of IAAP for fourteen years, I’ve committed to its mission and vision. Possessing membership in an association that commits itself to the membership is paramount to universal success for both. Some call it yin-yang; others synergy. Whatever label you prefer, a member’s commitment to the Association and then the reciprocation is the engine that drives both to greater heights.

Here I am fourteen years later and my strong commitment to IAAP hasn’t waived. Year in and year out it demonstrates the ability to keep the commitment to be a stronger, better Association. A member can’t ask for more than that on any given day. It’s like a best friend who’s committed to the friendship and never lets you down when you need them most.”

Leslie Fish, an Executive Administrative Assistant at Presstek, Inc. in Greenwich, CT wrote: “My involvement with IAAP started as self-validation, since I had no formal training as a secretary or admin professional. It quickly became a gift, whether it’s employer-sponsored or whether I’m sponsoring myself. It’s a gift of self-improvement and a way to make myself more valuable as an employee, through the educational opportunities, the leadership opportunities and the networking opportunities.”

“Knowing that I will only get as much out of my IAAP membership as I am willing to give to it,” wrote Jacquelyn Hudgins, Administration/Budget manager at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “I consistently stay involved in chapter activities. As a result, I have expanded and developed many skills over the years. I continue to look for new opportunities to grow. Along with serving my chapter as Membership Committee Chair, I am the Host Committee Co-Coordinator of the 2012 EFAM, which will be held in Grapevine, Texas. That’s a big commitment! However, I am excited about participating in such a big project and I’m looking forward to the many new skills I will learn from it.”

Suzanne Hutchinson, who is a Business Manager with Sales Tax Advisors, Inc. in Ozarkie, Kansas says “I have been a member since 1974. Originally I joined to stay in touch with fellow CPS class members after receiving my CPS. I found

encouragement and reinforcement from NSA members for work and personal life. I volunteered for six committees by mistake (long story) but learned from each and every one. I became chairperson of small and then larger committees, became an officer and then moved to a new town where NSA became a lifeline in a strange place. I became chapter officer, then chapter president, Division officer and finally Division President. Like Jacquelyn, I too was Co-Coordinator of an International Convention (1988 in Kansas City). Every project, every committee, every officer position gave me new skills to use at my work. I advanced from clerk-typist positions to Assistant to the President positions, to Office Manager positions and finally to co-owner of my own consulting company. I still attend my local chapter meetings, because NSA/PSI/IAAP members were there to support me through thick and thin, through divorce and remarriage, through firings and hirings, etc., and I owe them to “pay it forward.” Also, as Jacquelyn stated, you get out of IAAP what you put into it. If you choose to attend meetings and not get involved you will not grow. You will be a “pew sitter”. However, by getting involved, you grow exponentially in ways you can only imagine and it oozes over into your work environment.”

Diane Sullivan CPS/CAP, an experienced Executive Assistant, told me she has been a member of the Medina, Ohio chapter of IAAP since 2002. “I agree with all of the comments: you will get out of your membership what you put into it and more! My husband wasn’t very keen on my going to monthly chapter meetings and then quar mind.

Commitment through the Eyes of Other IAAP Members (Continued)

terly weekend events and occasional board meetings, but then something happened to change his mind. After I had been an active member for four years, I saw a job opening at another company. This company was a Fortune 250 company and guess what? My chapter president just happened to have an IAAP professional relationship with the Executive Assistant to the CEO. After my chapter president gave me an endorsement, the assistant to the CEO felt confident enough to ask the HR manager to just take a look at my resume. That's all — my professional skills carried me through the interview and the rest is history. BUT, without that added benefit of someone in IAAP with a connection to someone on the inside, who knows?"

"As with any commitment, for me, it means making IAAP one of my priorities, including regular attendance at chapter meetings, always serving in some capacity, supporting others in my chapter and division, taking advantage of opportunities to learn and network, and telling others about IAAP," wrote Jan Nabors, Senior Manager in a Human Capital and Support Services Department.

Phyllis Harber-Murphy CAP is editor of The Link and Co-Chair of the Vancouver, Ontario chapter's IMPACT Committee as well as being a Virtual Assistant. She writes, "Commitment to IAAP, for me, means doing whatever I can to make my chapter more successful. It's one of my goals to increase public awareness of IAAP and all the benefits that membership offers. To that end, I actively recruit new members, issue press releases to local media, line up sponsors for our programs, and troll through local directories to target potential

new members from companies in our area. I am Editor of our chapter newsletter, The Link, chaired the 50th Anniversary Celebration committee, and am co-chairing the IMPACT Committee. And, as a way to help other editors, I've organized the Newsletter Editors e-group to share articles that may be of interest to other chapters. It's my goal to create a pool that we can all use to build our newsletters, since many of us are 'one-man-shows' and we're constantly reinventing the wheel."

My last comment came from Rebecca Klingberg, an Administrative Assistant with Nutrition Care Systems, Inc. of Elgin, Illinois. Rebecca writes, "I would like to add my perspective as a Division Member at Large. I have been a member of IAAP since 1990. I learned about IAAP (PSI as it was known then) and the CPS while attending community college working on my Associates Degree. A representative from the local chapter stopped in to talk to the class about IAAP and the CPS exam. I decided to attend a chapter meeting and almost immediately joined. I was involved in the chapter on committees and as an officer; however, there were circumstances that forced me to transfer my membership to that of MAL. I have been a MAL for many years now but continue to be active on the Division level as much as possible. I've attended several conventions and try to attend the division annual meeting and Professional Enrichment Program every year. I've served as the Building Fund committee chair for the Division and currently serve as the Member at Large liaison for the division. I am responsible for keeping the DMALS informed, for answering their questions and for presenting ideas and/or concerns to the board. This is our way of having a voice in the division. I'm sure everyone has

been affected one way or another by the economy. When I receive notice that a MAL has not renewed their dues, I encourage them to consider renewing as I believe the benefits of being a member of IAAP are worth the money, with all the educational opportunities and other benefits available to us. For pennies a day, I have yet to find another organization that provides as many opportunities for such a reasonable fee. I agree with the others who have said you get out of it what you put in. It's very true about many things in life."

With the unemployment rate now standing at 9.7%, the highest since 1983, we owe it to ourselves to consider our professional growth — networking and education — as important to ourselves as our personal life. Without my membership in IAAP during the eight months I was unemployed earlier this year, I wouldn't have been able to reach out for support, ideas and to make new contacts which remain important to me. Would I want to be a "pew sitter" as Suzanne Hutchinson so eloquently put it? No, because I know that I would begin missing meetings and would likely miss something important I should have been there for. After four years of serving as President for two chapters, a year as Vice President, and just a few months as just a member, I always want to serve as a committee chair or committee member, to help make my chapter just a bit better in some way if I can.



Those who serve are always appreciated.

"My husband wasn't very keen on my going to monthly chapter meetings and then quarterly weekend events and occasional board meetings, but then something happened to change his mind."



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IAAP is the Standard for Excellence!



The North Shore Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals was chartered in April 2006 with 16 members. The Chapter membership is comprised of office professionals with job titles ranging from Administrative Assistant, Receptionist, Executive Assistant, Office Manager, Operations Manager, Billing Coordinator, etc. Our members are employed by numerous companies in Boston and North Shore Communities of Salem, Peabody, Beverly, Lynn, Andover, Malden, and Danvers to name a few.

As a member of IAAP you will meet and exchange ideas with other office professionals, invest in your future and enhance your professional image by keeping abreast of business trends and technology, learn teambuilding and organizational skills as a committee member, chairperson, or officer, receive timely information on issues facing administrative professionals today through publications such as OfficePro, IAAP Connections and The Current.

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 priorities
 responsibility
 dedication
 pledge
 obligation
 purpose
 promises

“Each of us is born brilliant. Then we spend the rest of our lives having our brilliance buried by people, circumstances, and experiences. Eventually, we forget that we ever had genius and special talents, and our brilliance is locked away in a vault deep within. So we settle for who we are, instead of striving for who we were meant to be.

Why is releasing your brilliance important? Well, let’s consider what happens when you don’t release your brilliance. When you operate outside of your brilliance, you become disengaged from life. You work and live to meet your daily needs rather than to maximize your potential. You simply exist from day to day, without much passion or enthusiasm for life. Meanwhile, your talents remain untapped, buried somewhere deep inside. Life shouldn’t be that way—and it doesn’t have to be. When you release your brilliance, you feel alive, connected, and uplifted. You use your talents and gifts to breathe life into everything and everyone around you. Imagine what would happen if each person on Earth simply focused on releasing his or her brilliance!”

Simon T. Bailey, author speaker and consultant