

Outgoing President's Speech June 25, 2006

Last year I conveyed to you that I consider myself a Transformational Leader and that I hoped by this year, you would believe the same. A Transformational Leader is someone who engages with others in such a way that leaders and followers raise one another to higher levels of motivation and morality. We're in pursuit of a common or at least joint purpose. We transform followers into more highly motivated followers who provide extra effort to perform, beyond expectations of a leader and a follower.

I truly hope that I have been able to inspire you to raise one another to higher levels of motivation and morality. Remember – we are all followers...and we are all leaders.

I'm often asked: why did you become an Ohio Division officer?

I can honestly tell you that IAAP has been the backbone of everything I am today – and everything I hope to become in the future.

When I joined IAAP, someone saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. They encouraged me to become active at the Chapter level. Then someone else saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. They encouraged me to become active at the Division level. I would never have seen myself standing here today – before so many people – let alone talk – let alone facilitate an entire weekend meeting.

I think most of us have the same story...I was quiet and shy, etc., etc., etc.

IAAP – which means YOU – have given me the courage to step beyond my comfort zone. IAAP – which means YOU – have provided me with the support along the way. I truly believe WE cannot fail in IAAP. There is NO such a feature as failure in IAAP.

Just a brief history during my IAAP "career":

I joined in 1995.

Earned my CPS in 1996.

Earned my MOUS Expert Certification somewhere in there.

Found the courage to leave a bad marriage.

Found the courage to enroll at Franklin University.

And graduated with my bachelor degree in 2005.

Found the courage to resign from a company after 28 years.

Found the courage to start two businesses on the side.

Found the courage to apply for a teaching position...of which I am now teaching at the adult level.

And have learned to know when I'm not where I'm supposed to be in a job.

Found the courage to leave that job – and am now employed with Bugess & Niple as their Marketing Assistant.

Along the way, I hope I have become a mentor to others as well as those before me have mentored me.

Some days when we officers are bombarded with IAAP “issues”...we ask ourselves, why do we do what we do.

And then one day, I receive an e-mail – that simply states:

THANKS – for being a great mentor to me...

That’s why we do what we do!

“One fundamental thing that I have learned about life is that you shouldn’t cry because it’s over, you should smile because it happened.”

Author Unknown

And remember – the only difference between a cat and a lion – one purrs and the other roars!

Thank you for helping us Roar into the Future!