

Immediate Past President Report

Winter 2013

At the Executive Committee meeting last October, I proposed our event planner contract be evaluated for possible rebid. The rationale for this action was that the focus had changed from 2004 when CAPPAs needed to improve its financial status and take the registration burden off the host. This proved to be a good move; today the CAPPAs financial status is very sound and the registration process is now a relatively smooth process. However nine years later, things have changed. As experienced in recent conferences, the focus by the host is that of “providing value to the CAPPAs members” while our event planner remains focused on minimizing expenditures and maximizing revenue. Conflict ensues when adding value at the expense of revenue impacts the contractor’s profit. A few of the Executive Committee officers had a frank discussion with Event Pros back in October. They see the conflict and agreed the contract should be rebid for these very reasons. We will be discussing this issue under New Business.

Award nominations have been made to APPA prior to their January 31, 2013 deadline. One Meritorious Service and two Pacesetter Awards were made. I will report on these and CAPPAs awards later in this meeting.

The By-Laws call for these duties of the Immediate Past President: i) Chair of the APPA and CAPPAs Awards Committees, ii) be a timely assistant to the President as needed, which I hopefully have been, but also, iii) be an attendee at the APPA Orientation and Board Meetings. It was suggested by Senior Representative to APPA, Larry Zitzow, that I attend the February 1st meeting at APPA as a familiarization for taking the position of the CAPPAs Junior Representative to APPA this summer. I found this experience to be very enlightening. I visited the APPA Headquarters for the first time, met most of the past presidents from other regions and APPA Board members some of whom I have met only via the monthly conference calls, met the wonderful APPA staff, and sat in on lively Board Meeting discussion regarding topics that will be discussed at this winter’s Executive Committee meeting. The topics that impacted me most were the addition of a portion of Mexico to our CAPPAs region and an excellent marketing pitch that emphasizes an approach that conveys to potential new members “why we believe” in APPA or CAPPAs, and not just what products we have to sell. I also participated in the Board Orientation of new officers and sat in on a Regional Representatives Meeting. I took away the need for CAPPAs to think now about how we will engage the newly-assigned Mexican states into the organization, the responsibility for Board members to provide quality feedback to the CAPPAs Executive Committee regarding APPA subject matter, and an opportunity that is not being properly exploited to bring military-trained facilities management expertise into Higher Ed.

Bob Eckels
CAPPAs Immediate Past President