

## 2009-2010 Incoming President's Speech

What one word did you hear over and over again in your officer's charge of duties?

Commit – Commitment

Our IAAP theme next year is **“Power of Commitment.”** Commitment can be...

- a personal vow we make to ourselves
- a pledge as a member of an organization/association
- a vow to another, i.e. marriage commitment

Last year the IAAP association-wide theme was “Excellence in Action.” We learned that excellence can be achieved by constant repetition of what we want to achieve. We are what we repeatedly do. Therefore, excellence is not an act but a habit. In order to achieve excellence, one has to be committed.

The word commitment means to do something in the future. For example, our new Division Board are committing themselves to their responsibilities for the 2009-2010 year. The word commitment means to be bound emotionally, or intellectually, to a course of action. The word commitment indicates a trait of sincerity and focused purpose.

Commitment takes discipline. We discipline our children/teenagers, employees and ourselves (which is the hardest). In disciplining ourselves, we have no accountability to anyone. Who cares...only you. We need drive to make ourselves disciplined.

Commitment is being prepared. Commitment is being focused. Commitment is persistence and determination. Commitment is passion about something. Are we passionate about IAAP, our Association, our Division, our Chapter?

IAAP's Mission Statement says

“Enhancing the success of career-minded administrative professionals by providing opportunities for growth through education, community building and leadership development.”

This indicates the determination and focus of the leadership of our members. The word commitment may also mean “locked away”....committed. This is not the definition the Alabama Division will consider!

As our association moves along its strategic plan, we want to commit to making IAAP a remarkable association by 2010. Remarkable is outstanding, well-known and excellent in every way. What makes us remarkable?

- Are our Chapter meetings remarkable or are they just “okay?”
- Do we have a need for certification?
- Do we perform 100% for our employer?

Last week I learned our plant was closing and our jobs were moving overseas to Singapore. I began thinking “what makes me hireable”? What makes me remarkable? How do I go about looking for employment? I began to look for any “niche” that I had. Commitment – I must be diligent, determined, focused, prepared and persistence.....committed to finding a job. Three months ago I was concerned about leading our Division. I needed more time....now I may have some!

In closing, I want to read an excerpt from the book *Walk the Talk* by Eric Harvey and Steve Ventura says...

“Life is an ongoing process with many beginnings and continuations, and lots of possibilities.

There’s no point at which we’ve learned everything we ever need to know, become as healthy as we ever need to be, or done every good thing we could possibly do. There’s also no point at which we’ve lived as true to our values as we ever need to live. That’s why walking the talk, like life itself, is a journey rather than a destination.

There’s always another road to travel, another new path to take. The goal is not to “get there” but instead to make sure you keep moving in the right direction. And to do that, you need a combination of faith and conviction.

You need to....Believe that walking the talk matters and, most importantly, you need to....Believe that you can make a difference.”

Get ready to feel the **“Power of Commitment.”**