

Jeannette Peters CAP
Incoming Division President's Speech
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Tonight I'd like to talk a little about myself, the incoming international president's theme and my interpretation of it, and the incoming division board.

Since I'm introverted and a many of you don't know me very well, I'd like to share a little about myself with you. I have a broad sense of humor and will laugh at almost anything. My favorite type of humor is the pun. In fact, I love puns so much I recently entered a local newspaper's pun contest. I sent in ten different puns, thinking that at least one of the puns would win or get an honorable mention. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did. More about puns later...

Every year IAAP's international president develops a theme. This year's theme is Power of Commitment. I'd like to remind our members that this theme remains in effect through the international Education Forum and Annual Meeting (EFAM) in July.

The theme of incoming international president Mary Ramsay-Drow CPS/CAP is Passion & Purpose. Mary says to focus your strengths on what you can accomplish. She also suggests that you spread your passion to prospective, new, and less active members by letting your actions speak for themselves.

I challenge you to remember why you joined IAAP and to consider why you are still members. Obviously, you are all passionate about IAAP or I'd be talking to myself tonight. It's great to see so many long-term members here. In my case, I joined IAAP to improve my self-image as an administrative assistant. I work at a great company, but at the time I joined, I worked in a group with a lot of young people, right out of college, who didn't have an appreciation of, or sometimes respect for, administrative assistants and what we could do. I'm still a member because all of you gave me back my good self-image. I learn from you constantly and am grateful that I've gotten a lot of support from my chapter members and others in the division. I wanted to serve on my chapter and the division boards to give back and to spread the passion of IAAP to newer members.

Here's a quote about passion that I think is appropriate. It's from Alister Cameron (AlisterCameron.com), who calls himself a Blogologist. He writes a blog and coaches others on writing blogs. The quote is: "Until you discover your "fire within" you will remain condemned to a life only endured, not lived; to delicacies only tasted, not devoured; to joys only imagined, not experienced."

Consider how you can use your passion to the benefit of your chapter and or division? Many of you are already doing this. We have talented artists, writers, people good at marketing, public speaking, numbers, event planning, and people good with people. By sharing your talents with IAAP you are benefiting yourself, because you are doing something you love and showing, by example, that it's great to volunteer for a committee or board position. New members will see that it can be beneficial to them personally and professionally. In addition, you are giving your passion a purpose.

Now I'd like to talk about the incoming division board of directors. I believe we will be a great team and will work well together. Diana Hampton, CAP, has done a fantastic job on the division newsletters this year. She is full of great ideas, gets things done, and has helped keep us on track this year. Marie Herman, CIWD, ATM-B, has conducted seminars all across the state and is well known throughout the association through her blog on IAAP's Web Community. She frequently asks questions that makes people think and answers others' questions. For the last several years, she has organized a brainstorming breakfast at EFAM, where people from across the association come to bounce ideas off each other. Tonda Stewart, CPS/CAP, is very detail oriented and organized. I understand she will go out on a limb for IAAP. For a membership drive, she dressed up as the Doublemint twins. Lisa Olson, is a real go-getter and has a thirst for knowledge. She took charge of the procurement committee for IDAM 2009 and did a fabulous job. I believe that the incoming board will inspire passion throughout the division.

Remember that we are here for you. We are open to your suggestions and feedback and we will do what is best for the division.

Now back to the pun... Have you heard of the concept of using an anchor to help you focus? Weight Watchers and some other groups suggest that you use a symbol or an image to help you avoid temptation. You are probably wondering what that cheap plastic dolphin key chain is doing on the table in front of you. Actually, that's not a dolphin; it's your passion porpoise. When you're frustrated, tired and at the end of your rope, I want you to focus on your passion porpoise, laugh, and remember why you joined IAAP... If that doesn't work, call one of us on the board and we'll do our best to help.