

ARE WE EVER...?

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Are we ever too good?

Are we ever so complete that we can stop going beyond?

Are we ever so content that we don't "venture forward" any more?

Are we ever so big, so powerful, so pompous, so elite that we above all others? Exclusive? Self-contained? Self-satisfied?

Are we ever in a place where no more exists, and no more need be done?

Are we ever in a place where we can just sit back and simply let others search and find us if they need something in our field?

I submit that we are NEVER any of these! If we ever feel that we are, we are then so full of ourselves that we are reclusive without knowing it and beloved by none. Sad affair!

Nothing in the world -- neither man, woman nor organization - is ever at this stage of existence without being on the brink of failure, if indeed failure has not occurred already. For we then have lost the touch of caring, the incentive to excel, the penchant to nurture, and the simple pleasure of giving and helping.

Our part may well be perceived as small in the larger picture, but still what we do has a direct and important impact on others and on the works in which we all are engaged. Requirements and formats may change; the flow of information may take different routes, but still that information must be available -- and well crafted in a continual flow.

The importance of what we do should be recognized and respected. But respect has to be earned. To do that we need to be different in our approach; dedicated but more open to trading information and to including others in our purview through education and cooperation. This is not advocating a drum-beating program, but one of "taking the message to the streets", so to speak, whereby we pragmatically expand our viewpoints, our cooperative spirit, and our ability to assist and inform, and share our professional resolve. We need to reach out to make the others in the construction industry not only aware of our work and expertise but of their relationship to those things, and how by working together we can make better and better projects.

Of course, we need to stay in touch with the rapidly changing world around us in regard to formatting, transmission of information, scheduling, project delivery systems, etc., but in that there is need for us to maintain our relevance, our influence, and our integral contribution.

The more we open ourselves to, and support others, and the more insight we offer about our work and abilities, the more we will gain their understanding and respect -- and our organization will receive increased status and prestige. By being willing to share our insight and expertise, from the top of the organization down through each chapter and member we will bring ourselves better relationships, and a network of professionals who are seen as valued assets to every project.

Of course, we need controlled programs to protect and ensure our work and members. But merely adding a very professional approach brings that control while at the same time displaying a willingness to share and participate as a fully equal participant in educational programs, outreach programs, and in the

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day-to-day work. We can help the others become better, as we make ourselves better by being aware of their work and problems.

Are we ever... done? NO!

We should never get to the point where we say, "That's all". We need to keep asking, "What else can be done?"