



President's Message

Ralph Keller



It's Time

At the AME board meeting on January 16, I announced my retirement as your association president. My career as an operations practitioner spanned over 35 years and I have also had the privilege of serving as your president for the past five years.

I became a member of AME over 20 years ago and I have been a member of the Champion's Club since its inception 17 years ago. As a practitioner, I found my membership in AME priceless in helping me learn about lean manufacturing, continuous improvement, and enterprise excellence and I hope you do as well. I also used AME network contacts, events, and conferences to help train the organizations I worked for and to develop my operations subordinates. It's a resource for training and development in enterprise excellence that you can't find anywhere else. I encourage you to maximize the value of your membership by fully utilizing AME for yourself and your organization. I also highly recommend that you become involved with AME as a volunteer. Those who have served as a volunteer on AME boards, conference teams, or just organizing and hosting regional events will tell you that they, and their organizations, get much more out of their involvement than they put in. I know I did.

In looking back on my presidency of AME, I am proud of what has been accomplished in improving your association and positioning it for the future. The conferences that our volunteer teams put together continue to be the best learning experiences (I call them knowledge injection by fire-hose) you can find on lean manufacturing, process improvement, and enterprise excellence. The redesign of *Target* magazine and the move to full color with our 25th anniversary issue have enhanced its readability and it continues to be one of the most educational business publications for operations practitioners. In the background, AME's office was moved and services were enhanced with new staff in accounting, websites, membership, and marketing. We were also able to stabilize your association financially and build a small reserve to help insure its ability to continue to provide opportunities and learning experiences for you. We also fulfilled a long-term dream of the association with the establishment of The AME Institute, a registered charitable organization dedicated to expanding the body of knowledge related to enterprise excellence and to provide opportunities for interested college students just getting started to expand their knowledge and learn about opportunities in operations as a career.

I will continue to be a member of our association and I look forward to seeing you at AME conferences and events. It's been a pleasure serving you and our association.

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