

The Relationship between Privilege and Responsibility

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Privilege - to have special advantages or benefits.

Responsibility - to hold one's self accountable for a debt or obligation.

As members of FSPA, we all share the inherent privileges which come along with membership. There are, however, many privileges realized by the members of FSPA are able to be utilized by all industry professionals at large, regardless of "membership" status.

This situation, as it is, should bring us back to the question of how membership should be defined. When defined as one's belonging to a professional organization where all those involved share common goals and interests, membership could be looked at in terms of the industry as a whole as opposed to just the governing body of that industry. When viewed as such, those who realize the aforementioned privileges become grouped not as members and non-members, but rather as those who accept the responsibility that comes along with such privilege and those who yet have not.

All be it a harsh analogy, I profess this thought not with contempt, for we have all known the tough times which dictate hard decisions, but rather as a call to action. Regardless of membership status, we have all profited from the works of our governing body. We have all benefited from legislation, which could have ended up much less favorable, had we not had the forethought to invest proactively when investing in anything was an easier decision.

Now is the time when a commitment to do the right thing becomes paramount. When commitment is defined as doing what you said you would, long after the spirit in which you said it has passed, and when doing the right thing needs no justification other than simply being the right thing to do, it becomes amazingly clear to all resolved that a great organization can truly only show it's strength in tough times. So let us welcome the opportunity to prove our strength.

Like a clay pot, which can only show the true worth of its creation when put through the fire, so must we hold it all together if we wish to come out glorious on the other side. Otherwise, it was all for naught. The only other option would be to give up our voice in the democratic process and have our future dictated to us by those who would have a much different purpose behind their agenda.

So in closing, I pledge for myself, and implore from all of you, the following: As a member, not just of the FSPA, but rather of the swimming pool industry as a whole, I recognize the privileges of which I have been a benefactor through the hard work of the FSPA and therefore dutifully pledge my responsibility in return to my local chapter, to my state organization, to PIPAC, to community awareness and to all those who have invested one minute or one dollar towards the preservation and betterment of our industry.