

Driessnack Acceptance

EVM World 2014

I was notified last fall of my selection for the award by CPM's President, Gary Troop. I was thrilled. The Driessnack Distinguished Service Award is one for which, in my wildest brain storms, I never thought I would be, even considered.

A few months later, after Mr. Troop's phone call, I began to think about attending the conference to receive the award. In my short discussion with Gary, he indicated there was no plan in the conference agenda for remarks from me. And so ...with no requirement for me to say anything and because I was not making a practice symposia presentation at this conference, there did not seem to be much reason to attend for the award presentation.

...Perceiving little need to be here in-person, I could not reconcile the cost of travel and hotel. As many of you know, I am retired and do not have company support for these expenses.

My initial reaction, then, was to forego the award presentation ...and have someone attending accept it on my behalf. ...When I sought a person to receive the award ...people were shocked ...and told me outright: "No, you must be present. It is too important."

Then, after an extended periodI had an epiphany. I came to realize that individual awards aren't solely for the named person. It is more so a recognition of an idea or an ideal. Yes, of course, the named person has a significant role ...but, there is a much larger recognition.

Here is a reflection to illustrate my thought. It is at the extreme ...nevertheless, it makes my point. In 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Prize for Peace. As I am certain you know ...Dr. King promoted equality of opportunity ... social justice achieved through the act of peaceful protest.

...What did his acceptance of the award mean? Was it an honor to him ...only?

When I pondered those questions, I came to realize the award recognized more than Dr. King and his influence. It was an endorsement of the ideal of equal opportunity, reconciliation between races of people, and the process of peaceful protest.Furthermore the award has an implied recognition ...It became the validation for those who made the investment to participate and uphold, in a peaceful manner, the ideal of equal opportunity. The individual award in this way says to all ...not just to those directly involved ..."This is worthy." ...There is higher principle at stake.

And so ...I am here. I am here to accept this prestigious award. It is an award ...not only for me ...but for all who have participated and made the investment to apply, research, and support Earned Schedule. It is a validation of the idea. With this thought, thanks to all in their support of ES ...and me, as well. Finally, I am reconciled. ...Thank you CPM for this recognition. It is a great honor.