Time for a little review

By Paperitalo Staff

Recently I was talking to a friend that was telling me about some disturbing behavior in the morning production meeting of a mill in which he was a guest. This is territory that we have covered in this column before, but perhaps it is worth a bit of a refresher. I will try to take a slightly different angle than I did the last time.

The disturbing behavior was that people were showing up without a pad and pencil, or any other way of recording anything that happened at the meeting.

What does this mean? First of all, it shows great disrespect for the leader of the morning meeting, for if you show up without a way to record anything this person says, you are essentially saying this person is not going to say anything important.

Secondly, you are saying that no one in the meeting is going to say anything that is important to you. If this is true, why do you go to the meeting? You are wasting your time and that of everyone at the meeting.

Finally, if you are going to pull the old line, "I'll remember what is important" forget it. No one has that good of a memory, and even if they did, no one would believe them anyway. The morning production meeting serves a very useful function when properly managed (yes, the manager in the example is at fault, too, for not enforcing the pad and writing instrument rule on his or her own). It is a place for eye-to-eye exchange of key data and assignments for the day. No computer has replaced it yet, although I think it can be conducted via video conference, the next best thing to everyone being in the same room.

So, this is short and sweet, but an important lesson. Show up to play the game, not just be an observer. The mill you keep in business with your active participation just may be your own.

Of course, when it comes to safety, we know that none of us are just observers. This is an old lesson, too, but one we must remind ourselves of each and every day.

Be safe and we will talk next week. ##

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