

Let us keep the momentum going.

For most companies, 2017 was a very successful year. It does not matter whether you like the President or not, you cannot deny that our economy is going in the right direction. Sales for most companies are up. Unemployment is down, and almost to the point of where it's tough to find quality people who are not already employed. Now more than ever, companies are doubling down on their current employees, trying to make sure that they are happy and not looking elsewhere for a better offer.

All of this economic growth should be a boost to the Paint and Coatings market. It does not matter if you are a producer of coatings or a raw material supplier; the demand is up and seems to be the outlook for our short-term future.

So, with all this good news, let us keep the ball rolling. The CPCA had a great year in 2017 and we are looking for an even better 2018. With plenty of activities and charity events, there should be something for everyone who is interested in participating.

I guess the way I would measure the success of the CPCA isn't just by making sure that we don't have any events that lose money, but making sure that we get as many people and companies involved. Success of the CPCA is measured by your participation. You do not need to go to every event, but you should be able to find a few activities that interest you and your customers or employees. We try to spread out the activities throughout Chicagoland.

Get involved. It's fun and rewarding. In 2017, I was able to participate in Paint a Brighter Chicago and Feeding the Families at the Ronald McDonald house. Those might have been the best events I attended all year long. It felt so good to give back to the community and help others in need. I am not saying that I did not have a great time at the Wolves game or the Wine Tasting at Valentino's Vineyard, but there is something to be said about giving back...

I ask all of you to try and get involved. Participate. It can be going to a Chicago Fire Soccer Game (Something new in 2018) or going to the golf outing at The Bridges of Popular Creek Country Club. Everyone is busy, and I understand that... Take the time to see some old friends, meet some new ones and get involved. And put down that phone....

It's a lot of fun...  
All My Best- Mark Polen  
CPCA President  
EMCO Chemical Distributor, Inc.

