

# HAPL Officer Forum



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## Make a Commitment. Make it Happen.

### The Success of HAPL Depends on Your Commitment

It is with a little sadness, but also a little joy, that I submit my last HAPL Officer Forum article. As a member of HAPL since 2009, it has been my great honor and privilege to serve in one capacity or another, either as a member, on a Committee, as a Committee Chairman, Director, Officer, President, and now as Immediate Past President. My involvement with HAPL was a commitment I did not accept lightly, but one that has provided me with more blessings than I deserve. Blessings in the form of special life-long friendships, trusted mentors, new career opportunities, valuable education, honored achievements, and wonderful memories, none of which would have been possible, if I had not made the choice, and even the sacrifice, to embrace my commitment to HAPL and its members.

This year's theme by our extraordinary President, Vernon Henry, is "*Make a Commitment. Make it Happen.*" I remember sitting next to Vernon when his face lit up in excitement as he formed this theme and subsequently made his own promise to the continued success and growth of HAPL. As he previously stated in his President's message, his promise ignited his passion for leadership and embarked him on a journey of continuous learning and self-discovery. But what about you? Will you *Make it Happen*? Have you set goals in your career as a land professional and prioritized your life to be a more active and diligent member of HAPL?

Many of you have made a certain level of commitment, without which, HAPL would not be able to provide its over 1,000 members and the Houston community with the significant amount of networking and sporting events, educational opportunities, community service, mentorship, renowned executive and awards evenings, as well as the continued leadership of the HAPL Executive Board. It has been said that we offer more benefits and events than any other local land association, maybe even too many. But we cannot continue to successfully serve our members without your commitment and dedication to one or more of the above.

So how do you make it happen? Making a commitment to HAPL involves a few specific actions on your part:

1. **Set a Goal** – Identify a clear vision of what you want to achieve as a member of HAPL. Is it to network and build professional relationships? Is it to serve on the Board, making important decisions on behalf of the membership, or adding to your professional resume? Is it to serve others and do more in your industry than just work? Is it to strive towards a specific plan that focuses on transforming your character, your values, your purpose in life? No matter your vision, do whatever it takes to establish, preserve, and achieve the goals you set with HAPL.
2. **Be Specific** – Make your commitment detailed and measurable. What are you capable of in terms of your personality, attitude, time, and availability? Where do you best fit within HAPL? Do you like to attend social events or are you more of a sports person? Are you good at communication and raising sponsorships or are you organized and a "nerd" with google spreadsheets? Are you a born leader, great at delegating tasks, or do you want to serve on the Board and further the mission of HAPL? Take some time to review the HAPL website, learn about its rich history, its mission, and its purpose. Attend upcoming events and luncheons, meet other members, and then determine where you fit best.
3. **Create a Plan** – Having a plan in writing makes it easier to follow through with your commitment. Identify the role you want with HAPL, break it into actionable steps, reach out to current Committee Chairmen and Officers, and make

a targeted effort to be involved. I also encourage you to reach out to our wonderful Executive Administrator, Lindsey Griffith, who will be happy to answer your questions and get you involved with the best position for you.

4. **Make Time When There is None** – I know we are all super busy, and it often seems there is not enough time in the day to meet all of our obligations. Our industry is doing well, everyone has more projects than they can handle, we have families, and of course...laundry! So, determine how much time you can commit to HAPL and your position. Be flexible with your schedule. Anticipate potential challenges or conflicts and choose a dedicated and fun Committee to share in the responsibilities.
5. **Make a Promise and See it Through** – Once you make a commitment, it is important to stay focused, motivated and consistent. Remind yourself of the reasons you chose to volunteer with HAPL, and the benefits you are reaping through your position, both professionally and personally. Then seek support and encouragement from family and colleagues to help you reach your goals.

Having a more active role and position with HAPL, will not only contribute to our growth, thereby impacting our industry and community, but will help you also develop deeper connections, more valuable education and resources, and enhance your professional skills. Remember, making a commitment requires dedication, effort, and perseverance. Remain committed to your role and position within HAPL, even when faced with challenges or hardships, as that is when it can be the most rewarding. But above all celebrate your achievements along the way!

Thank you for humoring me in my last opportunity to offer a little inspiration and advice as your HAPL Immediate Past President. I encourage each of you to make a pledge to serve on an HAPL Committee and to take advantage of the many opportunities HAPL offers to its members. Much like the *strong roots* and *many branches* of a 100 year old oak, member participation in our events and in our committees continues to provide exceedingly valuable benefits to HAPL's many community efforts.

Finally, I am eternally grateful for the bonds I have formed as a member and leader of HAPL, as well as the ongoing support, counsel, expertise, and relationships I have built along the way with the many Board Members, Past Presidents, Committee Chairmen, and members. I would be remiss without thanking my beautiful friend and mentor, Christine Touchstone, as well as our amazing HAPL Executive Administrator and my dear friend, Lindsey Griffith, without whose tireless efforts and dedication, HAPL would not be the success it is today. In addition, I would like to thank the lovely Diane Snyder, the prior Executive Administrator, who encouraged me to join HAPL in 2009 and also helped pave the way for my success.

If I leave you with one thought, may it be this: *"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal(s)...a commitment to excellence...that will enable you to attain the success you seek"* – Mario Andretti.

Thank you and God Bless!

