



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance

March 2018

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

As we kick off the 2nd quarter, it is a good time to take stock of where we stand as compared with our goals. Have you thought about what you'll accomplish this quarter? Speaking of goals, they must tie back to vision and values. Read our article about these and the key to successful operations.

We are also really excited about how HOT manufacturing is this year! Are you prepared to leverage this opportunity? Join us in Claremont for an executive panel and networking symposium on how to manage rapid growth when manufacturing and supply chain is hot.

And, of course, check out our many training courses in your local APICS chapter.

Top Management's Vision & Values - the Key to Successful Operations!

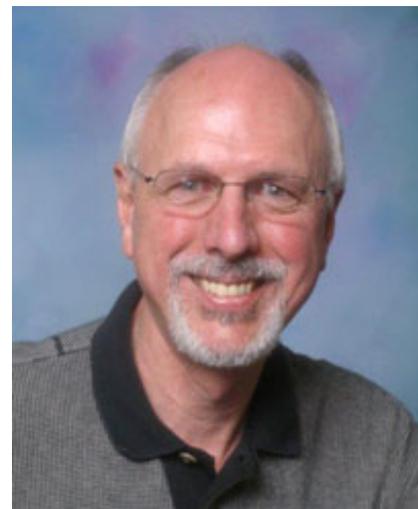
By James P. Strong, CPIM, CPM, CSCP

Ellen and I recently participated in an APICS sponsored plant tour at a local internationally renowned manufacturer of CNC machine tools.



During the orientation someone asked if they "used" Lean, and our guide's answer was "Yes, but we don't necessarily call it Lean, it is just a part of our culture". While touring the shop floor we saw extensive evidence of Lean practices in place; including a highly organized workplace, standardization, SMED (Single Minute Exchange of Dies), a passion for quality, and employee

The ACA Group Partner Spotlight



James P. Strong, CPIM, CPM, CSCP

Focused on "Supply Side" management, a strategy for

empowerment of their operators, (i.e. Lean).

When the question was raised: do you have an ERP system, our guide answered: "Yes, but we use it more for business and operational planning than as a tool for scheduling the shop". This company truly has an understanding of how to use ERP systems and Lean tools properly.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

Manufacturing is HOT

By Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP



In the last week, not only have there been several articles about the positive strides manufacturing is making but it also has come up in several presentations we've attended such as the Inland Empire Economic Forecast.

Here is a compilation of just a few of the HOT topics and trends:

- There are plenty of customers and consumers are in the U.S. - with the [Amazon Effect](#) (customers expecting rapid deliveries, customized product and 24/7 accessibility), locating closer to the customer is advantageous.
- Automation and technology are gaining rapidly - the more technology that makes sense in our factories, the less lower-skilled people required. That makes U.S. factories more competitive!

[Read the rest of the article](#)

The ACA Group:

Additional Resources

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).

improving profitability and competitive advantage.

Jim Strong is an independent consultant and trainer. He has over 20 years management and consulting experience, and has product knowledge in pharmaceuticals, electronics, plastic and rubber molding, metal fabrication, and aerospace products. [more](#)

Service Focus:

Supply Chain Management

Deliver Bottom Line Results



Our view of the supply chain is from our supplier's supplier to our customer's customer inclusive of all elements in-between. It's no wonder executives are turning to their supply chain leaders to find out how to:

- Compress lead times
- Elevate service and delight customers
- Improve margins & profitability
- Accelerate cash flow
- Increase productivity and profitability

We partner with our clients to achieve results and align sourcing with business objectives!

Learn more [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

SoCal E-Commerce & Logistics Summit

April 26, 2018

Pomona, CA

APICS-IE Executive Panel & Networking Symposium

May 5, 2018

Claremont, CA

APICS 2018

Sept 30th - Oct 2nd, 2018

Chicago, IL



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain management experts who partner with organizations to improve business performance



The ACA Group

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