

Of Piercing and Change

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In July I decided to get my ear pierced. My family and I were on a mini vacation, and, well, the rest is history. Why did I do it? What was I thinking? Perhaps it was a mid-life crisis. I don't think so. That don't confront me. Maybe I didn't want to feel left out. The rest of my family was getting pierced, why not me? NOT! Maybe I needed a change.

Perhaps this old fool was just trying to keep up with the times. Trying to stay current. Changing. Hmmmmm! I might be on to something here.

Bob Zimmerman once said, "Times they are a changin". As times change, so must we. What worked before, may not necessarily work now. There are many new rules and regulations on the horizon, new treatment techniques and the challenge of how to use these techniques to meet the regulations. Are you ready? Will you be ready?

In order to stay current, we must first change our mindset. One of the best ways to remain up to date is through training. I don't care if it is our training, WEF's, DEC's or whoever. "I've got all the hours I need" is no excuse for passing up training.

Training is about more than contact hours. Training is about refreshing your memory, exposing you to new ideas, techniques and explaining upcoming rules and regulations. Training gives you the ammunition you need to carry out your responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner. Let's not get caught up in the contact hour thing. JUST DO IT.

Elected officials need to be more aware of what it takes to keep our plants running. I am pleased to report that in the past year or so, I have seen a change in the make-up of local government. I have seen more open-minded people being elected to local boards. In some instances you, the operator, have told me about the positive changes in your board. Now mind you, this is not happening everywhere. We still have people running with personal agendas, such as not raising taxes no matter what, but the trend seems to be toward individuals with a sincere desire to do what is best for the municipality running for office. I'm not sure what brought about this change. I do feel these municipalities are keeping up with the times. As costs increase and budgets get tighter, regulations get stricter and funding options wane, these municipalities need to have board members who can make knowledgeable and well informed decisions. "Times they are a changin".

How often have you answered the question "why do

you do it like that?" with "we've always done it that way"? STOP. You're killing me. Do you know why you do it that way? If not, why not? Maybe it's time to find out. Use some of that information you gathered from a recent training session. See why it works or, if it doesn't, why it doesn't. The plant doesn't run itself. You have the ability to change the way it operates. With phosphorous limits getting lower, wouldn't it be nice to see how much you can remove naturally before you are made to chemically? A simple process change may be all it takes to optimize biological phosphorous removal and lower the amount of chemical required to meet the limit. A simple change could save money and you would be a hero (yeah, right).

Keeping up with the times. Changing to meet the changing times. Being informed. These things go hand in hand today. The ability to effectively and efficiently run your plant hinges on how well you adapt to change. Don't be a dinosaur. Stay informed. Make informed decisions. Don't be afraid of change. "Times they are a changin", and so must we. You see, keeping up with the times and changes are like getting your ear pierced. Unless they are done for the wrong reason. Like a mid-life crisis. Which would make this article meaningless. But it wasn't. Honest. ♡