Sometimes I get into conversations with our membership about the basic difference between professional and associate memberships. According to IFMA a professional membership is open to “facility practitioners and educators whose primary responsibilities are to provide, oversee or teach one (or more) Facility Management core competency”. An associate membership is defined as “individuals whose primary responsibilities include: business development, sales, and/or marketing as a consultant; representation of a manufacturer, vendor, dealer, distributor; and/or provider of facility related products and services.” How does that affect the West Michigan chapter? Well, of the 95 members that we presently have there are 24 that are classified as Associate’s. The West Michigan Chapter is very fortunate to experience the diversity that this entails. Our associate membership represents individuals from construction, plumbing, electrical, office furniture, building services, signage, consultants among other trades. As a chapter we are trying to make very public the members who support this chapter as associates. We have created a special page out on our website called the Associate Page which lists all of our associate members and the businesses they represent. We are trying to promote these businesses so that when a need arises in your building or some construction is required that you will look at our Associate members first to give them first shot at the work. Our Associate friends have been very good in the past helping to sponsor events and also chapter sponsorships. If you see an associate member shake his or her hand and say thanks for being a member of the West Michigan chapter.

Dave Kuiper

Golf Outing August 18th 2005

3rd Annual IFMA - West Michigan Chapter

Reserve the date now. Don’t let your golf calendar fill up without this date on it. This year’s event is anticipated to be the best yet. Proceeds fund our IFMA student scholarship awards. Make this the year you bring out your team for some great fellowship and networking all for a good cause. More information to follow in the coming months.

World Workplace 2005
25th Anniversary
Philadelphia, PA
October 23-25
March Awards Banquet

The annual scholarship and awards dinner was held Wednesday March 16 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens. The event started with a social hour followed by a fine dinner complete with dessert.

After the wining and dining, it was time for the awards. This year the annual Kathy Pruden Memorial Scholarship was presented to Kim Rozga, a Senior at Ferris State University. Kim’s list of accomplishments is extremely long and she was a very deserving scholarship winner. She will make a great FM after she graduates and starts her career.

One of last years award winners did it again, proving she is a definite over-achiever. Janice Kitchen, FTC & H, was awarded a Special Achievement Award. This past year she received her LEED Certification from the US Green Building Council, served on the chapter Golf Committee and is currently on the Programs Committee.

The next award was the infamous EveryReady Award. This award was presented to Al Jano from Kent County. Al has been involved in or was the project manager for the following County projects: Health Department Renovation; North County Clinic Complex; Fuller Campus Master Plan; Animal Shelter Study; various Safety Programs; County Ownership Transition; Downtown Parking Strategy; and, Potential Service Center Strategy. In Al’s spare time, his FM duties include overseeing the Juvenile Detention Projects, Family Independence Agency projects and all Health Department Projects. Keep those batteries charged Al!

Receiving the Associate Member of the Year award in abstentia was Tim Marcus, 3/DI. Tim was a new member last year, but has really become involved with the chapter. He attends meetings on a regular basis, his company sponsored the Christmas Party, they are also a Bronze Chapter Sponsor, and he will be presenting at the May educational program.

The final award presented was Member of the Year. This year a very deserving Larry White, CFM, who manages the local Veterans Home, received the award. Larry has served on the Golf Committee, serves on the Program Committee, regularly attends all chapter functions, and coordinated the upcoming John Ball Zoo Tour.

A special THANKS to all these members who have earned these awards and the respect of their peers.

We also had the honor of a special guest speaker, Dave Armstrong, CFM and IFMA Fellow. Dave was an original founding-father of IFMA and told the story of how he changed careers from education to FM practitioner. Along the way he helped start the Facility Management Institute at Herman Miller, which eventually evolved into IFMA. His retelling of this history is quite fitting since this is the 25th anniversary of IFMA. Dave is truly a visionary that helped increase the importance of the FM within corporate America.

Jim Corby
We have recently expanded the variety of chapter logo items to help members show their support of the chapter. We added a BicClic pen, lapel pins, gray T-shirt, and deluxe travel mug. One of each of these items will be given to each member at the first chapter meeting they attend this year. After that, members can purchase additional items. The pens are $1, the lapel pins $2, the T-shirts $5 and the travel mugs $5. (see photos below and right)

The cotton polo shirt, available only in black, is still just $20 per shirt. To order your chapter logo items contact Jim Corby at 616.246.9748 or by email at jcorby@steelcase.com. He’ll need to know the item name, quantity and sizes you would like and then will coordinate payment (check or cash) and delivery.

Welcome New Chapter Members
We are pleased to have you join us and look forward to your involvement and participation in the IFMA West Michigan Chapter:

Lucio S. Farias, Muskegon Community College
Kurt B. Forrest, Interphase Office Interiors Inc.
Suzanne Haas, Williams Group
Bradley T. Petty, Thermal-Tec/Michigan Inc.
Charles H. Stamm, Midlink Business Park
Joseph A. Taber, Langerak Roof Systems Inc.
James B. Tideman, Pinnacle Construction Group
David L. Underwood, Sales Consultants of GR
Kathy L. Wischmeyer, Milliken Carpet
Keith J. Szajnecki, Pine Hollow

Our Chapter Mission:
The West Michigan Chapter of the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) is a professional association to promote the advancement of the facilities management profession at the local level by providing opportunities for education and creating an environment that encourages its members to share knowledge and experiences.

New Chapter Logo Items
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April 20, 2005 3:30-5:00pm  
Location: John Ball Park Zoo, 1300 W Fulton  
Topic:  Behind the Scenes Facility Tour

May 18, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm  
Location: GRCC-ATC  
Topic:  Facility Assessment Program, Tim Marcus 3Di

June 15, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm  
Location: Kalamazoo or Battle Creek TBA  
Topic:  TBA

July ??, 2005, TBA  
Location: 5th/3rd Ballpark  
Topic:  Annual Chapter Whitecaps Baseball Game

August 18, 2005, TBA  
Location: TBA  
Topic:  3rd Annual West Michigan Chapter Golf Outing