Presidents Corner

Periodically I get questions from our membership relating to councils, what they are and their value to individual growth. To me councils put the frosting on the IFMA experience. If you look at IFMA corporate, they list five benefits to members who become part of councils. The first is Focused Networking or hanging out with individuals who share “like” work experience. Targeted Information is number two. This allows access to information that would be helpful such as documenting work experiences and perhaps case studies. The next benefit is Community of Interest or folks who understand the struggles or triumphs that you are going through. Information Sharing is another benefit that allows you to bounce ideas off from another professional working in the same business sector as yourself. Finally it heightens your marketability by staying on top of current trends. Other benefits include newsletters, membership directories, listserv, teleconference meetings and seminars/conferences. To date IFMA has 16 councils and they are:

- Academic Facilities
- Airport Facilities
- Banking & Credit Unions
- Call Centers
- Corporate Headquarters
- Corporate Real Estate
- Environment Health and Safety
- FM Consultants
- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Legal Industry
- Manufacturing
- Museum/ Cultural Institution
- Public Sector Facilities
- R&D Facilities
- Utilities

The cost to be a part of each of these is $30 per year, which is an incredible bargain when you consider the exposure you receive as a member. If you’re interested in finding out more see: https://www.ifma.org/secure/council_app/coun_applic.cfm.

ListServ is Here!

I am happy to announce that our chapter will be participating in a program that is supported by IFMA called “List Serve”. This program is a computer e-mail system that would get sent to all the members that want to be a part of receiving information. If you had a question about a facility issue all you would have to do is to create a list serv and the question would go to all the members. All members would have the opportunity to answer the question. Responses would go back to everyone. This will be a great tool to “spread the knowledge” of our members. If you prefer not to be a part of this group your name and e-mail address can be removed easily. Stay tuned for further details.

Call for Chapter Award Nominations

Each year at the March Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet we award a student from Ferris State University a $1500 scholarship and we present various member awards. In the past the Board would nominate and vote on the award recipients, but this year we are asking for your input. We are looking for nominations for the following awards:

- Member of the Year
- Associate Member of the Year
- Special Achievement Award
- EverReady Award

For more information on the awards or to nominate a member, please contact Dave Kuiper. His email is dave_kuiper@hermanmiller.com.

New Chapter Promo Items

There are several folks in our chapter already involved in Councils. Jim Corby is a member of the FM Consultants Council, Rick VandeKerkhoff is in the Manufacturing Council, KC Mitchell is a member of the Museum/ Cultural Institution Council and I am a member of the Information Technology Council. If you have any questions about these or any others let us know.

Jim Corby
Toys for Tots Holiday Mixer

For those of you who did not have the chance to make it to the annual Toys for Tots event this year, the format was changed from a luncheon to a holiday mixer. The location selected was very nice, the Wallinwood Springs Golf and Country Club in Jenison, right along the Grand River. Over 25 members and their guests had the opportunity to donate a toy as their cost of admission. In addition, the West Michigan chapter donated nearly $200 worth of toys for Toys for Tots.

The event format was less structured this year. The chapter hosted an hors'douvres buffet and cocktail mixer with plenty of holiday music to get everyone in a festive mood. The main presentation was a speech by Tim O'Connor, a long-time Toys for Tots local leader, on how your support of Toys for Tots can ensure less fortunate children in West Michigan have a new toy for Christmas. Other than that the night was open for casual discussions and networking. A fun time was had by all who attended. Thanks to everyone who attended and brought a toy!

A Special Thanks to Supporters

The food and drinks at the Holiday mixer were fantastic and most of it was given to members FREE! How was this possible? Well two of our members and their companies were kind enough to make donations to help defray the costs for the chapter. A special thanks to Jim Thompson from A-1 Building systems and Tim Marcus from 3D/I who arranged for donations to help pay for the food and beverages at the chapter event. Without their support we could not have made the event such a success!!!
Fall Programs in Review

We had a busy Fall program agenda and the member attendance has been fairly steady at about 25-30 per event. As mentioned in September, Workplace Ergonomics started us off. In October we had a tour of the Grand Rapids Press new printing and operations center in Walker, located on the north side of I-96 as you head towards Muskegon. It was a very interesting tour for those of us who knew nothing of the newspaper printing business. The new printing presses are fully computerized and all the supplies are stored in a fully automated retrieval storage room.

Next we had a surprise tour of the new Spectrum Heart Center. I was not able to attend since I was at Word Workplace, but I heard it was a well designed building and worth the time to tour.

In November we had a guest speaker, Michael Kaszubski, from ReGroup Advisors, Inc. Mike did a recap of the breakout he presented at World Workplace entitled “Effective Networking: It’s Not Just For Selling”. A very entertaining and educational session on personal networking. A quick hint, if you meet Mike at a party and he brings you over to talk to his wife and leaves, you are in trouble.

To wrap up the Fall, we held our annual Toys for Tots fundraiser. We changed the format from a luncheon to an evening mixer. Check out the details and the photos on page 2.

You can look forward to some great session in the Winter. For more on the Winter agenda check out the calendar on our chapter web site ifma-wm.org.

West Michigan Logo Shirts

I saw lots of West Michigan shirts at World Workplace, but we need to see more of our members at next years World Workplace in Philadelphia. Show your chapter support and purchase a shirt to kick off the new year! The shirts are a cotton polo shirt available only in black. The cost is only $20 per shirt. To order your shirt contact Jim Corby at 616.246.9748 or by email at jcorby@steelcase.com. We need to know the 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:

Patrick Gorenchen, Western Michigan University
Michael R. Obrecht, Custer Office Environments
Randall S. Smith, Ferris State University - Student
James K. Thompson, A-1 Building Services

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.

West Michigan Board 2004-2006

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Jim Watrous 616.490.4781 or Wayne Veneklazen 616.890.8211
Upcoming Events

Monthly Meetings & More...

January 19, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm
Location: GRCC Applied Technology Center
Topic: Workplace 2010

February 16, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm
Location: GRCC Applied Technology Center
Topic: TBA

March 16, 2005, 6:00-10:00pm
Location: Fredrik Meijer Gardens
Topic: Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

April 20, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm
Location: TBA
Topic: TBA

We're on the web!
www.ifma-wm.org