Presidents Corner

In some ways it seems like yesterday that I took over as the President of the West Michigan Chapter. In others, it seems like we have been at it a long time. In reality, I am feeling a little bittersweet about leaving, but need to make way for new ideas and opportunities. The last two years has been very exciting for the chapter. The attendance at our meetings has improved significantly, based on feedback from you, our chapter members. Together we have created a better way to communicate through our web site. We have put in place a chapter newsletter that outlines issues and have several working committees in place doing a phenomenal job. The chapter has also put in place a sponsorship program, which has generated extra cash for the chapter, which means we can continue offering low or no cost meetings to our members. I believe we are getting more information out there that will be worthwhile in your profession. The cornerstone has been laid. Your board is committed to serve the membership in any way that we can.

In July a new board will be taking shape. Jim Corby our past VP of Public Relations will be sliding over into the President position. You will find him to be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with lots of ideas. I will be taking the position of Past-president. KC Mitchell has been re-elected to the position of Secretary and Mike Johnson was re-elected to be our Treasurer for another 2 years. In September we will be having a strategic planning session with an IFMA staff member. It has been several years since we met with staff in this way and we are looking forward to it. In order to make these meetings effective, we need to send out a survey, which we will do again this year electronically. The information we receive from you is invaluable as we plan the year. We will be looking at some new things again this year to see what might work to keep the chapter interesting and worth your time. And finally I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Wayne Veneklasen for his many years of service not only on the board but also as a chapter member. He has been a rock both professionally and personally. His counsel has benefited the chapter time and again.

Thank You Wayne!!

Dave Kuiper

Golf Outing August 4th 2005

3rd Annual IFMA - West Michigan Chapter

Another great event is being planned that you will not want to miss. Sponsors are signing up and gifts are being collected. I hear the food is going to be excellent as well. If you have not signed up as an IFMA member, please do so ASAP. This is a fundraiser for our chapter for our student scholarship fund. Your participation is encouraged even if you don’t golf. If you want to play donate a prize, or want to help out, please contact any committee member. Check our web site out for all the details!
A Board Member Moves On...

After more years than I remember I am finally leaving the Board of the West Michigan Chapter. Over those years the chapter has gotten very much stronger. One of the indicators of that strength is the number of CFMs in our chapter. The ratio of CFMs to the chapter membership is the highest in all of IFMA. That says a lot about our chapter and the quality of our members.

I know a lot more of you are thinking about taking the exam and I encourage you to do it. Take the prep session first, it is worth the time, effort and money. On top of that the chapter underwrites a large portion of the cost. And the success rate has been 100%. I know of no one in our chapter who has not been able to pass the exam.

The programs have stayed strong and we have reached out to other cities in our area, such Kalamazoo (the upcoming June meeting) and Benton Harbor where we have members who can’t always drive up to Grand Rapids to the monthly meetings. To make these trips as hassle-free as possible, the board tries to get vans donated so that we can ride together. If you haven’t made one of these trips yet, come on along.

We have seen the membership stay stable in spite of the economic war zone of West Michigan. Over 30,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in the past 4 years and another 5,000 white collar jobs on top of that. AND the bleeding continues. Many of those were members of the West Michigan Chapter. The board has also tried to ease the financial burden for those who have lost their jobs but maintained their IFMA membership by underwriting the chapter dues. The value of the chapter meetings is the networking possibilities and they become even more important when looking for employment opportunities.

There have been lots of changes in our chapter since I joined IFMA 23 years ago. Not all of them have been fast paced changes but they have all been positive ones. We have had great boards and the present one has been probably the best one I’ve seen and had the pleasure to work with. I want to thank them and you for the cooperation you have all been so generous with and the fun it has been for me.

Wayne Veneklasen

...to a New Post!

So you thought Wayne was leaving the Board, not so fast! A new position was created entitled Sergeant at Arms and Historian. This is a new non-voting Board appointed position. The final duties are being ironed out, but in general he’ll be like a Walmart greeter with a camera and a LOT of knowledge on the history of our chapter. Congratulations Wayne...glad you are still on Board!
Spring was Sprung

In April we were given a behind the scenes tour of the John Ball Park Zoo aquarium and chimpanzee exhibits. In May Tim Marcus from 3D/I spoke on how Facility Condition Assessments can help make your case for Increased deferred maintenance and capital renewal funding. To wrap up the Spring our final event was a presentation and tour sponsored by Western Michigan University. I was really impressed with how they are using energy management technology and wireless PDA’s to save thousands of dollars each year and provide improved level of service to the occupants of over 8 million square feet of space. Some great Spring events and we are looking forward to fun Summer!

Show Your Chapter Support

Show your support of the West Michigan Chapter by wearing and using our logo items. We have BicClic pens, lapel pins, gray T-shirts, black polo shirts, deluxe travel mugs, and the NEW chapter baseball caps (see photo below). The pens are $1, lapel pins $2, T-shirts $5, travel mugs $5, polos $20, and the NEW caps are only $8 (check www.ifma-wm.org under Chapter Chatter for pictures of all the items).

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 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:

Keith J. Szajnecki, Pine Hollow in Elk Rapids
Jack Bartholomew, Waters Corp., Grand Rapids

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.

2005 Board Election Results

There were three board member positions up for election in June 2005: Secretary; Treasurer; and, President. The nominations were KC Mitchell for Secretary, Mike Johnson for Treasurer and Jim Corby for President. All ran unopposed and won by a wide margin (100%), and exactly half of the chapter members voted. They take office in July 2005 for a two year term. Congratulations KC, Mike and Jim!

KC Mitchell
Secretary

Mike Johnson
Treasurer

Jim Corby
President

West Michigan Board 2005-2007

Sargeant at Arms Wayne Veneklassen wveneklas@comcast.net
Past-President Dave Kuiper dave_kuiper@hermanmiller.com jcorby@steelcase.com
President KC Mitchell kcmitchell@meijergardens.org
Secretary Mike Johnson michael.johnson@priority-health.com
Treasurer Marilyn Gould mgould@ameritech.net
VP Membership OPEN
VP Public Relations
VP Programs Rick Vande Kerkhoff Rick.vandekerkhoff@am.jll.com
Monthly Meetings & More...

July 13, 2005, 7:00pm Game (be there at 6:30pm)
Location: 5th/3rd Ballpark
Topic: Annual Chapter Whitecaps Baseball Game

August 18, 2005, 8:30am Shotgun Start (registration at 7:30am)
Location: Scott Lake Golf Club
Topic: 3rd Annual West Michigan Chapter Golf Outing

September 21, 2005, 3:30-5:00pm
Location: TBA
Topic: First Fall Chapter Meeting TBA

October 23-25, 2005
Location: Philadelphia, PA