President’s Corner

Wow, where has the summer gone! It seems like we just celebrated Memorial Day and now it’s almost Labor Day, which means the end of summer. Your board has been going strong during the summer months, brainstorming new opportunities for our chapter and looking at new programs.

One of the changes you will notice this year is taking advantage of electronic format. By that, I mean we will be capitalizing on communicating electronically. In a few weeks you will receive a short electronic survey that will be requesting your opinions on items including meeting days and time, programming, tours, communications, etc. We are asking you to take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back to us. This information is very important in that we will be using that data to plan our next year. On October 3 the board has a strategic planning session scheduled where we will be reviewing last year’s goals and coming up with some new ones for this year. The board is becoming very focused on providing a chapter that our members find valuable and worthy of their time. Another electronic feature this year will be an electronic ballot for the election of new officers. This will be a lot easier and should work better than the paper format used in the past.

We NEED your help!! We cannot do everything that is necessary to keep the chapter running the way it should. We need to have some volunteers that would be willing to become committee members for a calling tree, event planning, etc. The groups are not a big time eater but allow you to become involved. If interested let me know and I will put you in contact with the right person.

I am very honored to be your president and have large shoes to fill in taking this position from my predecessor Wayne Veneklasen, but I will do my best. The board is committed to its present chapter membership as well as attract-ing new members. If you have any suggestions or insights you can provide that would help us in that endeavor, please send me an e-mail or call me direct. 616-654-8988. Thanks!!

Dave Kuiper

World Workplace Shaping Up as a Texas-sized Event

Everything is bigger in Texas, so the motto states, and this year World Workplace conference and exposition October 19-21 in Dallas, Texas will be no exception. IFMA has partnered with several highly respected organizations to provide world-class speakers, educational sessions, exhibitors, networking and more. IFMA’s World Workplace and the Facilities America conference will be held together to create the largest, most dynamic event for facility professionals in 2003.

Yahoo! Chief Solutions Officer Tim Sanders will open the conference with his address ‘NSPS: Nice Smart People Succeed’ 1:15-2:15pm, Sunday October 19. Based on his New York Times best seller ‘Love is the Killer App!’ Sanders will share strategies on how to win business and influence friends through knowledge, network and compassion.

The closing keynote speech 8:30-9:45am Tuesday October 21 will be given by award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki, PhD. In ‘The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Real Bottom Line’, Suzuki will discuss the explosive changes that humanity has undergone in numbers, science, technology, consumption and economics over the past century and the effects on the planet. His expertise in sustainable ecology will support the overall conference theme of ‘Pure FM: The Business of Sustainability’.

In addition to IFMA and AFE, the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and the special interest groups from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) will contribute sessions to the educational program. More than 100 sessions will be offered in 12 different tracks: alternative workspaces; design/collaboration; energy; FM core competencies; future of FM; leadership; maintenance; operations; regulation of the built environment; security; sustainability; and technology. Session topics range from ‘Conquering Mold’ and What Owner’s Want from Architects’ to ‘Disaster Recovery: A Real Life Experience’.

More than 250 exhibitors will display leading FM products and services in the exposition hall. Other highlights of the expo include educational demonstrations, Online Alley and prize drawings. Hours of the expo are Sunday from 2:30-5:30pm; Monday from 9am-4pm; and Tuesday from 9am-4pm.

Attendees will have numerous opportunities to network. The welcome reception on Sunday, October 19 at Eddie Dean’s Ranch will be a true Texas experience, complete with armadillo races, mechanical horse and calf, and barbeque. IFMA and AFE will host a joint student reception on Monday night. AFE’s awards dinner also is being held Monday night, followed by IFMA’s Amazon rainforest-themed awards of excellence reception and banquet on Tuesday. In addition, exhibitors have organized several special receptions.

Visit the World Workplace Web site www.worldworkplace.org/northamerica/2003/, or contact IFMA headquarters at 713-623-3462 for more info.

Jim Hickey, CFM and IFMA Fellow Scheduled as September Guest Speaker

We have a wonderful event planned for our September monthly meeting. On September 17th at the GRCC Applied Technology Center we will have Jim Hickey present on ‘Leadership in Facility Management’, a core competency of facility management. ‘Leadership’ and ‘Management’ are not necessarily synonymous. In this session, attendees will examine what it takes to be an effective leader. Discover the characteristics of respected leaders and discuss how leaders inspire, not demand, respect and loyalty of their followers.

Jim Hickey is a business leader with over 30 years experience at a Fortune 500 company. His extensive background in Marketing, Project Management, and Facilities Planning and Management provided an excellent environment in which he developed expertise in the areas of long-range planning, project planning and implementation, and systemizing business processes and procedures.

World Workplace continued
After many months of planning, the IFMA – West Michigan Golf Outing started promptly at 11:47am August 20 at Boulder Creek Golf Course. It was a beautiful sunny day, the birds were singing, the grass was green and it wasn’t even threatening to rain. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. You’d think it would get easier after that! But no! They made me play all 18 holes, lose about four balls, drive the cart, drink multiple beers, eat way too many snacks, smoke cigars, eat a great dinner and then made me give away all kinds of cool stuff that would have looked really good in my golf bag. Hey, nobody told me it would be this much work!

I’m sure it was transparent to the attendees because everyone seemed focused on winning either the Pink Lady contest, the Longest Drive, Closest to the pin, Hole in One and various other competitions.

We had about 40 golfers attend including members, friends and vendors. We were very fortunate to have attracted numerous sponsors including Canteen Services, Grainger Industrial Supply, Herman Miller, Robert Grooters Development, Fishbeck Thompson Carr and Huber, Moss Telecom, Kent Underlayment, Curves, Century Flooring by Dupont, Modern Interiors, Work Squared, EPS, Jones Lang LaSalle, Design Weave Commercial and Van Andel and Flikkema, who donated a car for the Hole in One contest. Each golfer received a great goody bag with free golf balls, IFMA mug, and various other sundries. Our many thanks to all who donated and attended. It was a very successful day for our inaugural and made it worth all the work it required.

Actually, the work part was easy (for me!) because we had a tremendous Golf Committee comprised of Jill Wendorf, Mike Johnson, Janice Kitchen, Carson Cooper and Eric Bauer. Jill did a wonderful job of keeping us all on task and even hosted some of the committee meetings at the Meijer Cafe. She is a true leader! My sincere thanks to this team for their time, dedication and perseverance. A job well done by all!

Men play too slow, maybe they are networking?

Rick VandeKerkhoff

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IFMA West Michigan Logo-wear Is Here!

As our President Dave Kuiper has promised, we are offering our members more ways to show support of IFMA West Michigan. Our first offering is a Page & Tuttle cotton polo shirt with a high-quality no-curl collar. The shirts have the IFMA West Michigan logo and are currently available in black or olive at a cost of only $22. These shirts will be great to wear at World Workplace and for those casual days at the office or for fun on the golf course.

You can order your shirt online via our web site, ifma-wm.org, in the Chapter Chatter area. We will prefer to deliver the shirts to you at our chapter meetings and we will also have them available for sale at the meetings.

For more information on the shirts take a look at them online or contact Jim Corby at 616.246.9748.

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:

Darrell Oldham

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 2003-2005

Past President        Wayne Veneklasen  wvenekla@comcast.net
President            Dave Kuiper      dave_kuiper@hermanmiller.com
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Check out our chapter web site and view the newsletter in color!

ifma-wm.org