

CFM Round Table Notes

March 3, 2009

By David L. Dunn, CFM

Attendees: Fred Livingston, Tony Tate, James Smith, Lisa Lee, Mike Harris and Tarzan Frazier. Marca Barr showed up to deliver a Starbucks Gift card to be awarded in some fashion at the end of the class. (I naturally assumed she intended the STARBUCKS Gift Card to be awarded to me for teaching, but sadly I was mistaken.) Fred Livingston was the lucky winner!

I took a different approach this time because we were covering two competencies in one two hour session. I chose to go low tech and did not use Powerpoint to present. The competencies covered were Planning & Project Management and Communication.

I shared copies of the:

- Competency areas to be covered.
- Planning & Project Management section of the old CFM Study Guide.
- Communication section of the old CFM Study Guide.
- Planning & Project Management section of the New CFM Study Manual & Workbook.
- Communication section of the New CFM Study Manual & Workbook.
- Information about Project Management and Communication info and training on the www.mindtools.com website.

The method I used was to have the attendees go through the provided information and just answer the multiple choice questions. No time was allotted for reading the material, as the intent was to get a feel for the present knowledge base.

I explained the difference between what we consider to be the correct answer based on our real world experience and what IFMA considers the correct answer to be. I elaborated on the why's of this reasoning and the mindset that one must be in before setting for the exam. I referenced comparisons of this to the LEED-AP Exam that I sat for twice last year, scoring 3 points short of passing at both settings.

We then examined the questions as a group as I read the question and indicated the correct answer. During this process we stopped several times to discuss the whys of differing answers and the reason behind the answer IFMA sought as correct.

At the end we had further discussion about the material, the benefits of the on line assessment offering and the CFM Exam review.

This method proved to be successful in covering these two competencies in the allotted time and all present expressed that this was much more beneficial to them than some of our other applied methods of instruction.