

PRESIDENT'S MONTH IN REVIEW

February 2008

Another month passes by and we're approaching the end of Q1 08! Time flies when you are busy!

February had several highlights for me. First I was honored to be asked to participate in the World Workplace Program Committee for this and next year. This entailed a substantial time commitment, requiring review of over 240 abstracts, grading each against standard criteria, and offering supporting comments. All completed in January, we convened in Houston Feb 7-8 to select the final 78 programs that will constitute the sessions at World Workplace. The process is not yet complete, so I can't provide much more detail... but it was an enlightening experience I am happy to have had a chance to be a part of. The IFMA leadership is dedicated to getting a good cross-section of speakers in all levels of expertise and a broad array of perspectives to help FM's broaden their knowledge at World Workplace. Looking forward to Dallas Oct 15-17 find out more at <http://www.ifma.org/>.

The FM-3D 3 day event in Houston at the end of the month provided another opportunity to interact with the IFMA National Leadership, and also more than 150 chapter leaders, IFMA members and fellow FM's from around the country. Day 1 was best practices, day 2 a management summit, and day 3 chapter and council leadership. Besides national class speakers in Association Leadership, Cross-cultural communication, and Interpersonal Leadership skills, numerous sessions and speakers each day (including chapter leaders and FM's with their best practices), dine-a-rounds, 2 world class facility tours, provided a great opportunity to network with peers about chapter leadership and FM issues. I was asked to participate in a Panel on strategic planning and answer questions about our experience in Orlando, in front of 150 people or so (uh a little nervous oh yes!) but at the end of it all I think we find that we are doing a lot of things right here and nationally our recognition is growing. Other panelists were from Silicon Valley, Washington DC, Boston, and the Medical Council, all larger organizations that we are, but I think we compare pretty good in that company. One oddity while Alan Thomas, COO of IFMA was talking about genius and asked the audience for examples of who was an example of genius... besides Einstein, Edison, Ford maybe, from the back of the room comes a "Mark Knopfler, Dire Straits"! , who, it happens has just announced 2 concerts in florida this summer (Clearwater July 30 and Miami July 31) I took that as a sign and bought 2 tix for Miami...we'll take the train down and wish for some genius to rub off !

OK so enough about my exploits, meanwhile, when I was in Houston Terry Smith presented a great program on credentialing at Dubsdread and I hear the food was great! Membership has had a number of new members join up, we are up to 186 now... 200 is large chapter status, maybe this year.

The new board, now seasoned veterans in their 2nd month... have presented some excellent ideas for programs and more socials, more networking events, and how can we get a CFM exam review scheduled in Orlando!

We were fortunate to have a new webmaster Jaime Hayden step forward. Jaime has some exciting ideas for getting more, and more interactive content onto our website over the next few months, and oh Jaime will serve as PR chair as well.

We pre-booked about 15 rooms for World Workplace, so if you're thinking about going and want to share a room to defray cost let Renee know! We can make some of them doubles. And also I've communicated with the 3 other Florida chapters about sharing the cost of a hospitality suite at WWP this year and again next (**WHEN WORLD WORKPLACE IS IN ORLANDO!**) so our members will have an opportunity to meet and interact with them at least twice in the next 2 years. As an outgrowth of that communication South Florida chapter extended an offer for me to visit one of their board meetings this year and I reciprocated to their president.

So I could go on and on... but I've already passed my one page limit and I know how busy you all are...if you are still there by now... see you next month !

Best,
Geoff

