

President's Message, March 2009

March certainly came roaring in like a lion. The cooler temperatures in Florida were not unwelcome to us, but much more desirable when compared to our Northern facilities friends who are likely dealing with clearing snow off of sidewalks and parking lots.

Last month, I attended the IFMA Regional Leadership Workshop. The workshop provided valuable information on topics of volunteerism and social networking.

Volunteering allows a member to receive the maximum benefits from his or her IFMA membership. We do not mean it requires oodles of time from you. We, too, have a life outside of IFMA and our jobs, (please don't tell my boss that!).

A bit of information about volunteerism; you can volunteer and it can be time and task specific. Many of our members have always shown a willingness to participate in the upcoming World Workplace here in Orlando. So you have been fore warned, when you receive a phone call or approach at the next monthly luncheon, don't just duck out or avoid the opportunity. Remember, the opportunity could benefit you personally and professionally.

The next topic discussed at the workshop was social networking. Now until I attended this workshop I thought when someone talked about FaceBook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, they were referring to a photo album, the 16<sup>th</sup> president and a stereo system component. Was I out of touch?

The lecture made me aware that understanding and knowing the value social networking can offer a facility manager a connection to a realm of knowledge never before available.

As an IFMA member, you have your own Online Community page. The web link is <http://ifmacommunity.org/>. We strongly recommend you login in your home page, set up your profile, get connected, and make friends.

**Dale Carnegie, the great writer and lecturer is quoted, *"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."***

On a final note, we know several of our chapter's members are either out of work or working reduced hours and budgets. With the current volatile business environment, let's all be sensitive of possible career/business opportunities for our afflicted members.

Let's have a good week and we'll see you at the next chapter event.

*Larry T. Simmons, CFM  
President, IFMA Orlando*