

Wow, what a whirlwind month October was!

At work: The 09 budget.... yeah I think we're all looking at the same type of forecast, do more with less, work smarter not harder, think outside the box, collaborate, just get by to 2010!

My review was a pleasant conversation. Objectives for next year?

Provide a world class office environment

Green the office

Contain costs

A few challenges embedded in there, but sure to make for a lively and busy 09. With work looking about as it can in this economy, onto IFMA involvement!

I have 2 more months as Chapter president. It's been the kind of a journey for me, that I cannot imagine not being so active in the chapter next year. Soooo an opportunity came up that matched a very important item on our strategic plan, and that is to offer CFM exam reviews at least 1x per year, every year. We've had such a great experience with the CFM roundtables that we think this is the next step to helping more people achieve their CFM's. So far this year we have added about 10 new CFMS.

The CFM train the trainer class was offered prior to WWP, and the board supported me extending my WWP stay the extra 4 days to take the class. It made for an 8 day trip, and yes I am still married...! Training was Saturday, Sunday, Monday 8-5 with homework! 9 people, 4 experienced trainers. Each of us presented a section each day and were critiqued by others. Following class, Tuesday morning, we observed the trainers in action at the Fall Symposium. I've received my trainer packet, but need to co-teach a session or two before going solo. That's OK, because we can still schedule our Orlando reviews next year and help more people get their CFM in 09!

After the training observation, I rode the metro train and bus up by White Rock Lake park to Richardson Bike Mart. They set me up with a fast Trek road bike and showed me the path around the lake, which I circled once then went exploring northeast Dallas. 3 hours later, I had gotten my fix for riding so time for dinner and bed and World Workplace starts in the morning!

World Workplace was a real trip! We all had a great time (about 16 from our chapter) and there were many highlights, but that will be further explored in an upcoming newsletter article, suffice to say after 8 days it was great to be home.

Back in Orlando, the following week we had our October program, CJ the finance guy. He was awesome as usual and it was nice to see the room filled.

A conference call on social networking sites (soon unveiled by IFMA National for all to use) and we're really looking forward to that as a tool to better communicate and stay in touch for those that are not close enough to make the regular events.

We finished off the month with the slate and vote for the 2009 board of directors, 11 strong! I'll continue on as Past President, and keep involved with an emphasis on CFM development and mentoring... but more on that later.

I still managed to get in 323 miles on my bike (my goal is always 300) due to a couple long rides on the weekends, so a busy, healthy, and profitable month it was!
Gef