

President's Message, September 2009

Attention Chapter Members!

If you do not know by now, either you have not been to a monthly luncheon or read our chapter web page. Shame on you for both! This year the Orlando Chapter has been selected as **The Chapter of the Year** (small chapter) and one of our devoted associate members, Cubix has won the **Associate of the Year** award!

We submitted four (4) awards, but two were not chosen. In all, a pretty good haul. The awards are results of the combined efforts of many people devoted to having the Orlando Chapter accomplish great things. If you have been an active and attentive member, pat yourself on the back for a job well done. **Now on to World Workplace and beyond!**

Again, let's congratulate the three chapter members; Darlene King, Jim Tofanelli, and Tarzan Frazier, who found the discipline and braved the academic scrutiny to achieve the distinguished credential of Certificated Facility Manager (CFM). Well done!

As for me, this past quarter has been very active and naturally challenging. The good stuff first: Karen and I did some traveling during the past few months with several trips to Ohio and one to Boston. The Ohio trips were for visiting family and friends and special events. One milestone event was my 40th year class reunion.

Now if you want to put some perspective to your age, just go to your high school class reunion. Here are some of my observations;

- It's amazing what hair coloring for both men and women can accomplish!
- Somehow, a lot of people ended up look like their mother or father.
- It's nice when your wife tells you have more hair on your head than the class president.
- A lot of people did not know I moved to Florida 22 years ago. Guess I wasn't all that missed.
- 17 class members have died.
-and we had a nice time.

The Boston trip has been a wish of mine (Bucket List), to see the Red Sox play in Fenway Park. Now I suppose carrying a childhood wish at my mature age might seem a bit opulent, but let me reflect on this event as it relates to our facility management career.

"The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want" Ben Stein

Now this unpretentious quote may appear to be a simple task in one's life. Mr. Stein's sage-like verse is direct and to the point. So why did I go to see the BoSox? Easy - it is what I want! Sometimes in your career, you don't know your aspirations.

I am always amazed when I observe that some people climb the corporate ladder, while others, no less talented, do not. Some of it is talent, but I believe a significant share is knowing (deciding) what you want.

So how does someone decide what they want? One suggestion is to have a mentor. I believe there are a number of chapter members who would be willing to be a mentor. Think about it and decide if a mentor could help you decide what you want.

On a final note, I would like to use this newsletter as an opportunity to be a little brash and point out a facility issue affecting the City. As most of you know, I work for the City of Orlando Facilities Management and I am responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Lake Eola Fountain. If you have kept up with the news, you know the Fountain's current condition.

As the City determines the best plan of action to restore the Fountain, you can help by donating to the Restore the Lake Eola Fountain fund. To contribute, go to <http://www.orlandotrust.org/>. It will take many different funding resources to pay for the Fountain's restoration and you could be a part of making it happen.

We'll see you at the next chapter event and at World Workplace...

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