

President's Message, January 2009

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday. We want to thank the membership for their support and encouragement for the coming year.

Under Geoff and the executive board's leadership, the chapter has put into place a strong strategic plan ensuring the chapter a virtual future for its members and the facility management profession.

With an uncertain business environment before us, the 2009 year holds challenges, but with more challenges come opportunities. I am sure that many members are asked to examine their facility areas and look for ways to help the organization's bottom line and I am sure this challenging assignment is not really foreign to many facility managers.

Albert Einstein quotes "*In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.*" The opportunities in the facility realm are available through IFMA and your local chapter. This year Orlando Florida is hosting the World Workplace, IFMA's premier conference and expo. The conference and expo will be held from October 7 to October 9, 2009 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Since 2001, I have been a regular attendee at World Workplace and have never been disappointed in the knowledge that I receive with which to enhance my facility area, along with my professional career. As details are shared, there will be abundant opportunities to participate, network, and become more deeply involved with IFMA at World Workplace.

There are networking opportunities and many other assignments that will need your help, ranging from the IFMA Fountain Gala, golf tournament, facility tours, kiosk attendant, session monitor, etc. We ask you to consider participating and being a part of this remarkable conference.

Even in this gloomy business environment, we know an organization's second major costs are physical assets and operating costs. Businesses need to make aware the importance of having a knowledgeable facility person that oversees those assets.

Making an investment in having the facility person attend World Workplace can provide a ROI benefit to the business' bottom line. But more importantly, it demonstrates the organization's commitment to the person that oversees and manages those assets, the facility manager.

We wish everyone a prosperous New Year; see you at the next IFMA Chapter event.

Larry T. Simmons, CFM
President, IFMA Orlando