

President's Message, June 2009

Attention Chapter Members!

Now is the time to go to your supervisor and express the importance making an investment in having the facility person attend this year's IFMA World Workplace in Orlando, Fl. Inform your boss that the conference and expo is a valuable ROI benefit to a business' bottom line.

More importantly, it demonstrates the organization's commitment to the professional and educational growth of the facility person, who just happens to manage the organization's second largest asset, its buildings. This by the way directly affects the organization's largest asset, its employees.

In the effort to help leverage your request for attending World Workplace, if you would provide me with your supervisor's name, title and address, I will see they receive a personal letter from me on behalf of the chapter to help them understand that ongoing professional development for employees is an expense that companies cannot afford to cut.

On another note, as most of you know, I work for the City of Orlando. You are also aware that like businesses, state and local governments are dealing with reduction in revenues causing programs to cut operating budgets.

This situation is a first for me in my facility career, I had to notify employees that there might be a possibility their positions will be eliminated at the end of the fiscal year. They are good employees and the decision was based on the position's significance to the division's core mission and was no reflection of these employees' work habits.

We wanted to remind everyone that several of our chapter members have lost their jobs. We encourage everyone to have a keen ear and look out for employment opportunities for our unemployed members.

In an effort to assist our unemployed chapter members, the chapter board has approved offering a reduced luncheon rate for those unemployed members. The rate will be \$12.50, half of the current member's rate. Also we encourage members to check with IFMA HQ as they do offer a reduced membership fee and payment plan to spread out those costs.

A final note even though you may be unemployed; we cannot stress enough the importance of you remaining active with your IFMA chapter. The Orlando chapter board of directors is dedicated to providing its members with educational events and promoting your professional career.

I leave with a quote from Viktor Frankl. If you are not familiar with Dr. Frankl's life, I suggest you read his story and know in difficult circumstances that life has potential meaning:

Don't aim at success - the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue... as the unintended side-effect of one's personal dedication to a course greater than oneself.

Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

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

Larry T. Simmons, CFM
President, IFMA Orlando