

Dear IFMA Members,

As we approach the end of the year, I want to reflect upon the accomplishments of the St. Louis Chapter in 2009.

First off, I think it is important to point out that even though the economy is down our chapter membership has not declined. This is not the same for other organizations or even other IFMA chapters. This highlights how valuable our members view being part of our chapter. The chapter leaders are working hard to provide that value through networking opportunities, educational programs, and an outlet for all things FM related.

Secondly, I like to point out a few other statistics over the past year.

- Twenty-four members attended World Work Place in Orlando, Florida last month
- The annual golf tournament had 160 golfers and raised \$16,238.00 for the chapter
- Fifty-two new members in 2009
- Four additional features added to the IFMA STL web site
- One new CFM in 2009 – currently 28 CFMs and 5 FMPs in the St. Louis Chapter - 21% of our professional membership
- The chapter sponsored a \$1,500 scholarship through the IFMA Foundation to a FM student from BYU at World Workplace

The above statistics show that we had a great year as a chapter and many of those accomplishments will continue to serve our members in the future.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the enhancements made to the IFMA STL web site over the past year. As noted in the statistics above several things have changed in 2009, all in an effort to make our web site your first stop for FM resources. First off, the address to the web site is www.ifmastl.org. One major addition to the site is the "Forum". This is for sharing knowledge, and discussion focused on FM related topics. The "Forum" is a place to discuss issues we face each day in our jobs and have other members read, comment, and provide suggestions. There is now a tab labeled "Get Involved", which gives you the opportunity to read a brief description of what our committees do and a chance to volunteer to be a part of them. The Associate Member link now has the ability to place your company in two categories for easier searching. Please email Karen (kshy4@aol.com) at the IFMA Office to let her know which categories you would like. In addition, the Calendar of Events located on the bottom of the home page notes our programs for the next four months.

For 2010, our program committee has put together an outstanding line up of programs. The first event for the year will be on January 20, and will cover the topic of "Distributed Work-What Works and What Doesn't in Today's Corporate Facilities".

Thursday, December 10th is our annual holiday social. This year we are also giving back to the community by participating in the Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program, sponsored by St. Louis Children's Hospital. Each of you received an invitation to the holiday social that included instructions on how to donate to our family.

In closing, I want to thank all of the chapter members for making 2009 such a success. It looks like the economy may be recovering in the year ahead. However, as facility managers and the associate members that support them know, our industry is always a challenge. With the support of IFMA International and the St. Louis Chapter, those challenges should be easier to embrace.

Thank you,

Grant Lanham, LEED® AP
President, St. Louis Chapter of IFMA