

June 22, 2009

Dear IFMA Members,

This has been a very interesting year. Even though we have gone through some tough economic times, our chapter has been fortunate to see many accomplishments.

- Financial stability
- Membership growth
- Quality programs and networking opportunities
- Successful IFMA/BOMA/IREM Real Estate Expo

Now, after many years of trying to make it happen, we finally have Southeast Missouri State University offering a Facility Management Bachelor and Master Degree program at Florissant Valley Community College and Cape Girardeau campuses!

Where some other chapters around the country have been experiencing a slowdown in their local organization, we are moving ahead. I credit our success to the many things we are doing right, and I wouldn't expect anything less from a group of people that get things done – often pulling off the impossible.

I would like to recognize the contributions of previous and present executive boards, and the course they follow through their strategic planning. The spirit and character of our board members exemplify what facility management is all about. I am very excited about the newly elected board that will be serving July 2009 through June 2010. I can assure you that it just keeps getting better. The efforts of our committees - Ambassadors, Membership Development, Sponsorship, Public Relations, Web Site, Golf, Education and Programs, and the Museum Council, have helped keep us all engaged in the common cause of promoting the profession of facility management.

Saving the best for last, I credit the entire membership. Oftentimes there is more to success than just going through the motions. I have seen your resilience, skill, hard work, and determination in promoting a profession. However, there is more. I have had the privilege of experiencing long-time friendships with members, becoming a close-knit group of people that go the extra mile to promote and support each other. That is what makes the difference.

Please stay plugged into our web site so you don't miss something important. If you want to meet some people and have some fun, you can volunteer to serve on a committee. You can do that online at www.ifmastl.org.

Most importantly, please consider participating in our upcoming Golf Classic on September 28 at Whitmoor. This year, more than ever, we need everyone's support of this chapter fundraiser.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president this past year. It has been a learning experience, not only in the function of the office, but also in getting to know you better. I am sure you will be very pleased with the new executive board. You have another great year coming your way!

Sincerely,

John W. Von Fange, CFM
President, St. Louis Chapter of IFMA