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Letter from the President

It seems like spring was mild and wonderful, and then summer hit with a vengeance. It appears that the “dog days” of summer are not waiting until July or August, as we have had several days of record temperature in the triple digits and over 135 days of no rain to speak of. Perhaps this weather is preparing us for the coming World Work Place in Phoenix.

As some of you may know, the Houston Chapter of IFMA is changing the time of our yearly election for the Executive Committee of our Board of Directors. Many of you voted for the slate of new officers, and I thank you all for taking the time to place your vote. Our new slate of officers will take the helm beginning this July and our chapter elections will now coordinate with the majority of other IFMA chapters that change out officers in July instead of January. This also correlates well with other activities that local chapters perform in conjunction with IFMA International such as re-certification.

Sadly, this will be my last letter to you as your President. I would like to congratulate the incoming officers: Sheri Knesek, President; Rene McNeil, Vice President; John Carey, Treasurer; Kathy Edwards, Secretary, and Herman Kluge, Chapter Liaison and me as Past President.

Similarly, I want to recognize the service of the officers who are leaving the executive committee: Bill Livingston and David Ricke have both have served on the Executive BOD for many years and volunteered unbelievable hours to our wonderful chapter. Thank you both very much.

I also want to recognize the contribution of our sponsors for their support. Their continued support is essential for the success of our chapter.

I want to encourage all facility management professionals and associates to support the new officers and provide feedback to them about the chapter and the services and events we provide. Another reminder to all – we have several vital and important committees that are looking for new members. Please consider volunteering some of your time and helping out one of our committees!

I am very proud of the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for the work they have done and the committee’s. We made changes and created new committees under my presidency and I am very proud to have worked with all of you for the last year and a half.
A number of things noteworthy for this last time around:

April 12th, George Graves and his crew, and our Social Committee for a great (and delicious) Fish Fry at the Saint Arnold’s Brewing Company. We had quite a turn out with over 130 people and Herman was late and did not get any fish. Thank you Jim McKay and Kim McFarlane for coordinating this wonderful annual event.

April 18th, our golf tournament was a great success this year, with all teams and sponsors enjoying the true golfing ambiance of Tour 18. Look for more information provided by our Events Committee in the rest of this Connection. Thank you Kathy Edwards and everyone who helped with this successful event.

April 23rd, The Community Relations Committee provided another special spring event in the Easter Party at the Salvation Army Family Residence Center. The kids had a really fun time and I want to thank every one that showed up to help with this wonderful event.

May 12th, Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Professor of Sociology, and Co-Director of Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research provided an informative presentation on the Houston Survey. We had over 135 people attend this program luncheon with Crew Members invited also. Thank you Programs Committee for organizing this program.

We note that the Emerging Leaders’ Committee, chaired by Kim McFarlane and Craig Battle, are getting fantastic feedback from the younger members of IFMA Houston and their membership is growing. Do check them out.

And coming up this summer:

June 9th, our luncheon seminar moves to the Junior League with a presentation by Loren Steffy, business writer for the Houston Chronicle. Thank you Programs Committee.

June 14th, a fantastic tour of the new state-of-the-art physics building, Brockman Hall, at Rice University, combined with a presentation on Sustainability. Thank you to the Professional Development Committee and Corrine Maddox for all their hard work scheduling this event.

June 23rd, come join us to celebrate the 3rd Annual World FM Day, sponsored by IFMA International, including a tour of the amazing Conoco-Phillips facility out I-10 West & Dairy Ashford and lunch. Thank you Steve Moskowitz for hosting this event.
President’s Letter - continued.

would like everyone to know the Houston IFMA Chapter is one of the most active chapters with our committees, programs, and functions. Our Chapter is considered a leader with all the chapters and we seem to be on the right course.

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL CHAPTER AND YOU THE MEMBERS ARE WHAT MAKE THIS CHAPTER SO SPECIAL!

Thank you,
Donna Anderson
(Soon to be Past-) President, Houston Chapter of IFMA
For everyone that participated, we thank you and hope you had a great time!

The weather cooperated and we had an incredible event at Tour 18. The final amount raised was $11,181.53. John Carey, Associate Committee Chair, raised $605 of these dollars with a Pro Drive donation on the treacherous hole # 2. These funds will be donated to the IFMA Foundation! All remaining funds of $10,576.53 will go to The Doug Underwood Scholarship Fund.

We would like to recognize and thank the following tournament Sponsors:

Abintra, AHI, Allied Barton, AMB Architects, ARC Management Services, Armstrong

Blackmon Mooring, BP, Chevron, Corporate Care, Corporate Floors, CORT, Debner + Company

Empire Roofing, ESS Executive Security Systems, HIS Houston Installation Services

IFMA Golf Tournament, Interface/FLOR, JCS, JDM Commercial Services, KBR, KC Rep Source, Knoll

Maintenance of Houston, Mannington Commercial, Men’s Flag Football League, McCoy

Office Pavilion, The Ofis, Paul Davis Restoration, PJS, Rapid Recovery, Schlumberger, Southpro Restoration

Tandus Flooring, TD Industries, Teknion, Texan Floor, The Mohawk Group – Bigelow/Lees/Karastan

UGL Services, United Protective Services

Contest Winners:
1st place team: Carlisle, Lowe, Weber & Rotan
2nd place team: Creps, Jefferson, Lane & Harnatuk
3rd place team: Shimaitis, Casey, Ernst & Cooper
Closest to the pins: Austin Creps, Stan Bunting, Sean Greenway & Chris Dienna
Men’s Longest Drive: Robert Mann
Straightest Drive: Chuck Cervas
Putting Contest: Clay Rotan
50/50 Raffle: Larry Blume and Wayne Paterson

Committee Members:
Kathy Edwards, Corporate Floors (co-chair), Stacy Dobbs, Texan Floor (co-chair)
Joanna Benjamin, Empire Roofing, Aaron Chadwick, Maintenance of Houston, Kathy Craven, KC Rep Source, John Montgomery, Armstrong, Kennen Smith, Hi Touch Services, Jennifer Van Nort, ESS Executive Security System
Volunteers:
Jennifer Bachelor, Joanna Jackson, Donna Koks

I personally would like to thank Shari Wix for the great graphics and Logan Wright for all of her hard work and dedication in tracking, communications & registration.
RFID and the Facility Manager

Radio-frequency identification (RFID) is an exciting technology that employs communication via radio waves for transfer of data from an electronic tag attached to an object, and a reader for the purpose of identification and tracking. Some tags can be read from several meters away and beyond the line of sight of the reader.

Most of us are familiar with the strange little tags or small white rectangular chips that are adhered to packaging or books that we purchase at the store. These are RFID tags that permit a store or business to track inventory. The operative words here for the facilities manager are “track inventory”. Similarly, if you cruise the toll roads, you have a mobile RFID tag that identifies your vehicle and communicates the toll charges to your account. RFID tags are also placed in library books to keep track of book availability and borrower’s.

The RFID tag system typically contain at least three parts. One is an integrated circuit for storing and processing information, modulation of a radio frequency (RF) signal, and other functions, an antenna for receiving and transmitting the signal, and a transceiver with electronics to decode the data on the tag.

There are three types of RFID tags: passive RFID tags, which have no power source and require an external electromagnetic field to initiate a signal transmission, active RFID tags, which contain a battery and can transmit signals once an external receiver has been successfully identified, and battery assisted passive (BAP) RFID tags, which require an external source to energize the tag but have a forward link capability for greater data transmission range.

The image below is a scan of an actual RFID tag that is commonly used for inventory control and sales tracking for a retail bookstore. With that in mind, and knowing that these devices are unobtrusive and easily applied or removed, how might a Facility Manager use them?

Imagine that you could walk up to any given room or office in one of your buildings, scan a tag adhered to the jamb of a door frame and know immediately what the inventory of contents for that room includes. This would work quite well for offices, conference rooms and work rooms. RFID data could also be used to keep inventory records for copy rooms and break rooms.

Similarly, rooms such as laboratories could have equipment inventories recorded on a tag as part of a lab manual. Audio Visual closets could have tags that list the A/V equipment, inventory number and serial number. The largest big box retailer, Wal-Mart, led the push for RFID for inventory tracking, product availability, and management. Best Buy and Target are two additional examples of big box retailers that employ RFID. This system is heavily employed for security in stores to reduce shop lifting and pilferage.
Social at St. Arnold’s Pictures

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IFMA Houston • Connecting the Workplace
Loren Steffy Bio

The Houston Chapter of IFMA
June 9, 2011 Lunch Program

Speaker Biography

LOREN STEFFY
Journalist

Loren Steffy is the business columnist for the Houston Chronicle. His column appears on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and he writes a daily blog that discusses business topics. He has appeared on CNBC, Fox Business, the BBC and the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

Before joining the Chronicle in April 2004, Steffy was Dallas bureau chief and a senior writer for Bloomberg News in Dallas for 12 years. He covered a variety of business topics in Texas and across the country, including the collapse of Enron. Before joining Bloomberg, Steffy worked at the Dallas Times Herald, the Dallas Business Journal and the Arlington Daily News.

Since joining the Chronicle, Steffy's columns have received awards from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, press clubs of Dallas and Houston, the Associated Press Managing Editors and the Hearst Corporation. He received the Chronicle's Jesse Award for Commentator of the Year in 2006.

He won the Dallas Bar Association's Stephen H. Philbin Award for Excellence in Legal Reporting in 2001 and 2003. He also was a 2002 finalist for a Gerald R. Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism sponsored by the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.

Steffy's reporting on the collapse of Arthur Andersen was selected for the 2003 edition of the "Best Business Stories of the Year."

He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas A&M University and lives in The Woodlands, Texas.
Salvation Army Family Residence Center - 2011 Easter Party.

It was a wonderful day for volunteers and the children of the Family Residence Center. The volunteers arrived early to set up all of the activities. From a simple Easter Egg Hunt, this event has grown into a fun filled carnival. Outside activities included a Bounce House, Basketball, Hula-hoop and Jump Rope Competitions with trophies and ribbons for all participants, Duck Pond Fishing, a Popcorn Machine, and a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

Inside, the children were busy with Face painting, Cookie decorating, a Spin for a Prize Game, Go Fish (Prizes for All), Easter Bag decorating, and a photo with the Easter Bunny. It was amazing to watch the older children, especially the boys, decorating their Easter cookies.

None of this would have been possible without the help of all the wonderful IFMA volunteers and friends. Although we are not allowed to publish the photos of the children, there were plenty of smiles as children left to go back to their dorms carrying their prizes, and Easter Bags. It is important for organizations like IFMA to continue to give back to the community and to help brighten the lives of children who have lived in a world of fear and abuse.
Living in the Future - Function & Dysfunction.

Future Work.

In a previous article on QR codes, your writer cited Nick Bilton’s techno expose, “I Live in the Future and Know How It Works” (“Why Your World, Work and Brain are Being Creatively Disrupted”) ©. In this article we provide a review.

As we are now frequently bombarded by information from various digital and electronic sources, you may have noted that it is more difficult to keep your focus, concentrate, or engage in meaningful person-to-person social interaction. The abundance of news and information from both traditional and non-traditional sources strains the concentration and vexes your efficiency, as this myriad of data requires intensive and rapid sorting and evaluation.

Nick Bilton, through comparison with social and technological innovation of the past explains how anxiety levels increase as new technology supplants machines and methods that we have relied on and our familiar with. Bilton’s expose details the technological changes under way and how they are transforming business and society.

Radical changes in how we receive, use and filter our informational media is predicted to have a substantial influence on human behavior:

The book examines how immediacy of information and the adaptation of human behavior and intellect is change social interaction. The traditional definition of community is undergoing radical metamorphosis. The abundance and push of digital media are changing the way we determine what sources to trust and also rely on others in our social network group for interpretation of information.

Bilton coins some interesting phrases like “consumnivore”, and he also uses “semacodes” (the previously mentioned “QR Code”). We encourage all facility managers to read this book for a glimpse and understanding of what the future facilities world will encompass. One need only explore the immense number of “apps” that are available for everything from digital media players, tablets and smart phones to understand that the new digital accessibility is transformative and handy.

Here is a link to Mr. Bilton’s web site: http://www.nickbilton.com/
PM POINTERS
by Corinne Maddox, CFM, The Maddox Group, Inc.

How to get Corrections done at the end of a Construction Job.

As in most endeavors, the final 5% can be as difficult to achieve as the first 95%. For construction, it often represents the difficult, the controversial and the costly issues. Rather than waiting until the end of the projects, Project Managers should address construction deficiencies as early as possible before the problem becomes repeated throughout the job.

For instance, it is much easier and cheaper to correct a shade of paint after only a few walls are painted, rather than hundreds. Likewise, since construction is done in a sequence, early identification and correction prevents subsequent work from being affected.

For interior construction, there are several points where specific inspections are critical to avoid these problems – partition layout, electrical rough-in, drywall just prior to painting, and first finish applications, to name a few.

Problems missed earlier should be addressed in the final punch list, a formal written space-by-space outline of deficiencies, done at the end of the job. The punch list is prepared by the architect and/or project manager, and sent to the contractor for corrective action. It should be done promptly, before the consultants’, contractors’ and subcontractors’ attention is diverted to new projects.

It usually takes more than one follow-up inspection before corrections are made, and often requires some give and take among the team to find an acceptable solution. Make sure remaining progress payments will cover the cost of incomplete work, and final payment should be delayed until corrections have been made to your satisfaction.

2011 Calendar of Events

June 9, 2011
Business Lunch Program
Location: Junior League of Houston
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2011
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

June 14, 2011
Tour of Rice University Brockman Hall
Location: Rice University
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2011
Time: 5:00 - 6:45 PM

June 23, 2011
World FM Day Celebration
Location: ConocoPhillips
600 N. Dairy Ashford
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2011
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

July 13, 2011
Annual Summer Social
Location: TQLA - 4601 Washington Ave.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

August 11, 2011
Business Lunch Program
Location: Junior League of Houston
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

August 13, 2011
Shoe Shopping with the Salvation Army
Date: Saturday, August 13, 2011

September 8, 2011
Business Lunch Program
Location: Maggiano’s
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

October 2011
WWP Social
Location: TBA
Date: TBA
Time: TBA

October 19, 2011
Halloween Costume & Bowling Fundraiser
Location: TBA
Time: TBA

November 10, 2011
Business Lunch Program
Location: Maggiano’s
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

December 8, 2011
Business Lunch Program
Location: Renaissance Hotel
Date: Thursday, November 8, 2011
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Facility Management Information

If you are connected to the Internet and are viewing this on your computer, click on the links below. These links may be beneficial to you and your associates. If you have a favorite FM link, please email it to infobob@swbell.net.

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Weather Forecast
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Houston Geographic Info

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AIA
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Houston Building Permits
Houston Code Updates
Houston Building Inspections
Houston Document Center
Houston Planning Department
Houston Planning Dept Site Map
Houston Fire Department
Houston Code of Ordinances

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Harris County Fire Code
Harris County Fire Marshall
Harris County Flood Control District

Harris County
Harris County Fire Code
Harris County Fire Marshall
Harris County Flood Control District

Facility Sites
Building Products
IFMA BUYER’s Directory
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Facility City
Today’s Facility Manager (TFM)

Sustainability & Green Design
Green Building Council
USGBC - Houston Chapter
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Aaron Office Furniture
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Blackmon Mooring
Caprock Electric
Coil Cleaning & Restoration
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Vice President: Bill Livingston, Resource Studios, Inc.
President-Elect: Sheri Knesek, Mace Macro, Ltd. working w/ Invesco
Treasurer: Renee McNiel, Corporate Move Consulting, Inc.
Secretary: Kathy Edwards, Corporate Floors
Chapter Liaison: David Ricke, Sterling Bank
Past President: Herman Kluge, Amegy Bank

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Melissa Miller, Houston installation Services, Inc./Millicare
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Stacy Dobbs, Texan Floor Service Ltd

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Social:
Kim McFarlane, Ie Smart Systems
Jim McKay, JCS Ltd

Emerging Leaders:
Kim McFarlane, Ie Smart Systems
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Downtown Houston, Texas

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Houston Chapter of IFMA

The Houston Chapter of IFMA (International Facility Management Association) is a professional organization that supports education and advancement of facility managers. We give back to the community in time, scholarships and other philanthropic events.