Our 25 Past Presidents

John Corcoran
Jim Richter
Joe Quigley
Sheryl Chamberlain
Lloyd Brown
Scott Thomas
Doug Hughes
Dottee Mulcahy
Greg Frost
David James
Deb Dubree
Diane Christensen
Greg Winters
Marj Weber
Carol Knott
Lynn Reid
David Beer
Teresa Walker
Kristy Cox
Marty Garrison
Cindy Lee
Lisa Autino
Michelle Giesen
Tom Lawless
Kris Roe

25th Anniversary Edition

from the President . . .

Kris Roe, McCarthy Building Cos.

25 YEARS!!
Let’s take a look…
♦ 25 different Presidents
♦ 25 years of providing meaningful programs to Members
♦ 25 years of promoting the advancement of financial professionals in our industry
♦ 25 years of raising funds to support not only our profession, but general community outreach
♦ 25 years of relationships, networking, and knowledge sharing
♦ 25 years of leadership at the National CFMA level
♦ 25 years of award winning activities and events

I am so proud of our Chapter. I am so proud to be involved with such extraordinary people. I am so proud and humbled to be a leader in this organization in the likes of so many others who have contributed before me. I hope that each of us who are present tonight at the Gala take home with them the appreciation for how powerful a group of dedicated, driven professionals can be when they work together towards a common goal.

As I end my term as President in the next two months, I am grateful for the hard work of our Board and Committees throughout the past year. We accomplished a lot!
♦ Another year of providing scholarships to those in or advancing in our industry
♦ Another top notch, highly popular Executive of the Year Banquet
♦ Another successful Golf Tournament
♦ Another year with focus on the quality of our membership
♦ Another year of looking to the future, asking ourselves how we can become better via strategic planning
♦ Another year of meaningful succession planning
♦ Another year of fun, informative CSL newsletters
♦ Another year of providing quality educational programs and CPE credits for members
♦ Another year of pushing and challenging ourselves to provide value to our members
♦ Another year of pushing our membership to become Certified with the Institute
♦ Another year of memories! As Jim Bracy gets ready to lead us into the next 25 years, let’s continue to ride the wave of pride for the organization that we have all had a hand in building.

I’d like to share a quote from one of my favorite leaders of all time, John Wooden. He is a favorite not only because of his Indiana roots and our common alma mater of Purdue University, but also for his simple and real approach to success: “Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability.”

It is so deserving that we celebrate what we have already accomplished, but let’s challenge ourselves in the next 25 years to measure our success on what we are capable of accomplishing.

And, as I bid farewell and thanks to all those who have worked so hard this past year to bring us success, I’d like to draw on another Coach Wooden quote: “The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team.” Thanks to all of you! I wouldn’t want to be a part of any other team!

Mission Statement

The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) is a broad-based organization of professionals committed to serving the construction industry. We are dedicated to member service by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and a source of educational programs directed to their specific needs.

We strive to invest in our community through involvement in industry-related issues and charitable endeavors.

Celebrating 25 Years
Meet the Team Responsible for this Event

“We’ve been a Chapter for 25 years,” John Corcoran said, as he led the celebration charge. Marj Weber said, “A party? Let’s do it!”

The 25th Anniversary Gala was a reality from that point forward. Of course, making the event possible required a leader. During a Board meeting, Michelle Grider offered to “help.” Naturally, she became the committee chair.

From there, an amazing group of people came together to make this event a reality. Committee members worked for months to create this special evening where members, both new and not-so new, could meet, reconnect, and reminisce about the successes of the past and celebrate our planned growth and success for the future.

Thanks to all the committee members for their time, talents, and dedication to making this event a success.

The 25th Anniversary Gala Committee members were Diedre Aldous, John Corcoran, David James, Kris Roe, Mike Schmidt, Lisa Vaglio, Jim Vandeventer, and Marj Weber.

A special thanks to John Corcoran who lined up the speakers and schedule for the evening, and coordinated the video, and to Glenda, our Chapter Management Professional, without whom none of this would have been possible!

CCIFP – congratulations to members who passed the December CCIFP exam

Wink Ames, Minard-Ames Insurance
Brian Eto, BeachFleischman
Karl Kortman, Kortman Electric
Kris Roe, McCarthy Building Cos.

And two from member companies: Sue Marion, Morrison & Associates
Erin Olson, CBIZ MHM

I was very honored and privileged to serve as President of our chapter. One thing that particularly stands out to me was the feeling of pride I had whenever anyone would ask what chapter I was from. With a smile on my face I would say “I’m from Valley of the Sun, The Best Under the Sun”, knowing that we were the chapter that all others aspired to. My years of service to our chapter will always stand out as a time of great personal and professional growth, and I am very grateful for the experience.

Lynn Reid
President #16

CFMA Valley of the Sun Leaders

Officers
President, Kristine Roe
McCarthy Building Cos.
Vice President, Jim Bracy,
DBSI Inc.
Secretary, Helen Spencer,
Johnson Carlier
Treasurer, Annette Johnson,
Morrison & Associates
Past President, Tom Lawless,
Police Construction

Board of Directors
Keith Bieber, HACI
Mechanical
Paul Boley, The Hartford
Financial
Taylor Brockbank, Enterprise Fleet Management

Kevin Burnett, Sundt
Construction
Bob Cummings, Chase
Bank
Anne Devine Thul, Police
Construction
Ryan Evans, Mc Gladrey &
Pullen, LLP
Mike Fuhrmann, FNF
Construction
Michelle Grider, Textura
Greg Gross, Willis
Dave Miller, Jokake
Sam Napolitano, Hunter
Contracting
Russ Kimberlin, Mansperger
Patterson McMullin
Jan Smith, Clifton Gunderson

Committee Chairs
Budget, Annette Johnson
Career Services, Greg Gross
Education, Marj Weber, Nancy
Palmer
Construction Executive of the
Year, Tony Hakes, Ryan
Evans
Golf, Lisa Autino, Taylor
Brockbank
Legislative, Kevin Burnett
Membership, Keith Bieber,
Lisa Vaglio
Newsletter, Lisa Autino, Russ
Kimberlin
Programs, Bob Cummings,
Cindy Lee
Salary Survey, Rayleen
Colletti
Scholarship, Leanne Scheub
Succession Planning, Tom
Lawless
VOS 25th Anniversary Recognition

On behalf of CFMA’s National Executive Committee, National Officer Team, and Headquarters Staff, I am honored to present this 25-year certificate to the Valley of the Sun Chapter. Reaching a milestone of this stature is one that very few of our chapters attain and the Valley of the Sun Chapter should be extremely proud of its accomplishments over those 25 years. To stay at the level of excellence the Valley of the Sun Chapter has achieved during this time is a testimony to its membership and leadership. The quality products and services the Valley of the Sun Chapter provides to and for its members continually raise the bar and challenge the chapter to ‘take it to the next level.’ The Valley of the Sun Chapter should be extremely proud of where it’s been, where it is, and most certainly where it’s going. Congratulations to the members and leaders – past and present – of the Valley of the Sun Chapter.

Succession Planning

The succession planning for the 2011/2012 year has been completed and our Chapter continues to have great leadership. The new officers and directors were voted on at the January 2011 lunch and will take office beginning April 1, 2011. The officers will be as follows:

- President: Jim Bracy, DBSI, Inc.
- Vice President: Kevin Burnett, Sundt Construction
- Secretary: Tony Hakes, CBIZ MHM
- Treasurer: Annette Johnson, Morrison & Assoc.
- Past President: Kristine Roe, McCarthy Building Cos.

New to the Board of Directors are:

- Deborah Anderson, Minard Ames Insurance Group
- Cord Armstrong, CBIZ MHM

Committee Chairs are or will be:

- Budget and Finance: Annette Johnson
- Career Services: Greg Gross
- CEOY Banquet: Tony Hakes & Ryan Evans
- Education: Marj Weber and Nancy Palmer
- Golf Tournament: Lisa Autino and Taylor Brockbank
- Legislative: Kevin Burnett
- Membership: Lisa Vaglio and Keith Bieber
- Newsletter: Lisa Autino and Russ Kimberlin
- Program: Stephen King and Cindy Lee
- Salary Survey: Rayleen Colletti
- Scholarship: Dave James and Moni LaLonde
- Succession Planning: Tom Lawless

If you are not already serving on a committee, please think about joining one. You add to your CFMA value and experience by getting more involved. You will also help keep the CFMA Valley of the Sun Chapter among the best chapters in the nation.
A History of the Valley of the Sun Chapter

by Marj Weber, IronTree Construction

The Early Years

It all started over 25 years ago when several Phoenix area CFOs, including David James, Joe Quigley, and Sheryl (Buotel) Chamberlain attended their very first CFMA Conference in San Francisco and knew that this organization was just what many of the CFOs and Controllers in Phoenix needed. They organized a meeting of many of the Valley construction financial leaders at the Phoenix Country Club in November of 1985. Others in attendance included Wink Ames, Lloyd Brown, John Corcoran, Jack Larsen, Jim Richter, Scott Thomas, Jim Vandeventer, and Ken Zylstra.

This meeting led to our applying for and receiving official authorization for our Chapter, The Valley of the Sun. The first official meeting was held in February 1986 at the Doubletree (coincidentally the same place that we hold our meetings today) with John Corcoran as the First Chapter President. See John’s article in this issue for more details on our beginnings.

Those first 2 years were spent recruiting members and establishing the basic procedures for operating a CFMA Chapter. It was with the Presidency of the late Joe Quigley that our Chapter was definitively set on the path to be the extremely successful Chapter we are today. Joe set up our committee structure; increased the size of our Board of Directors and recruited members for that Board; set up meeting schedules; and, as everyone I have asked believes, started the newsletter we know as the Copper State Ledger. His influence on our Chapter is still felt today, not just within our Chapter, but on the National level as well. In 2000, the very first Joe Quigley Memorial Award was given to “recognize outstanding Chapter participation and activity.” I was honored with that award in 2004. Many of our founding members credit Joe with putting the Valley of the Sun Chapter on the CFMA map as being the Chapter that all others want to be.

During the years after Joe, the very first CFMA Chapter Golf Tournament was organized by Lloyd Brown, President #5, with significant help from Scott Thomas, President #6. And any VOS Past President will tell you that s/he gets calls from other CFMA Chapters asking us for advice in setting up or improving their own golf tournament. Also our highly successful Salary Survey was started and today is conducted online.

The “Best Under the Sun” tag was initiated by Dottee Mulcahy, President #8, and her speech in accepting the National Debra Hahn Memorial Award (recognizes outstanding CFMA participation on both the local and national levels) brought tears to her eyes as well as many of us in attendance. Other VOS Debra Hahn Award winners are John Corcoran, 1994, and David James, 2000.

The Middle Years

The middle 1990s and early 2000s found our Chapter growing by leaps and bounds and adding more outstanding events to our calendar. One of the traditions started by the Program Committee was the December Lunch Social devoted to charity. We have supported numerous charities over the years including the Salvation Army, Christmas in April, Adopt a Family, and, most recently, the Christmas Tree project. We also made significant contributions to a family that lost their father to a construction accident; sponsored a family devastated by Hurricane Katrina; and made an ongoing financial commitment to Junior Achievement.

The ever increasing proceeds from the Golf Tournament, made possible by the leadership of Chairs Lloyd Brown, Greg Frost, Diane Christensen, Ken Kellaney, Cherie Lacrosse, Moni LaLonde, Kristi Sylvester, Jared Asay, Taylor Brockbank, and Lisa Autino, funded the Joe Quigley Memorial Endowment of $80,000 to the Del E. Webb School of Construction at ASU; $40,000 to Northern Arizona University; and several thousand to Maricopa County Community Colleges; provides financial assistance to college accounting or project management majors; as well as support for the CCIFP designation and support of our members seeking to become certified.

Our most recent signature event is the Annual Arizona Construction Executive of the Year Awards and Banquet. This event was conceived from John Corcoran attending others held by the Orange County Chapter. We held the first meeting in 1999 and, after almost 18 months of planning, our first event was held at the Ritz Carlton in May 2001. This event has only increased in attendance and financial success as the years have passed. The introduction of videos in 2007 and the sellout in 2009 continue to elevate our Chapter program above and beyond any others. There have been many involved in the creation and continuation of the Banquet – I would be remiss if I did not mention Scott Thomas, Carol Knott, Marj Weber, Michael Swisscz, Michelle Giesen, David Beer, Greg Gross, Tony Hakes, and

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History

Jim Bracy, in addition to John Corcoran – all past Chairs of this event who have made the success possible.

It was during this time that we passed the 200 member mark and became the largest Chapter as well as the best. As a Chapter we have won more awards, had more members recognized by Headquarters, and had three National Officers (CFMA and ICCIFP) – we are truly the best of an outstanding organization.

The 21st Century

During this time, I believe the Chapter made one of our most important and beneficial decisions. We hired Glenda Whitten as our Chapter Management Professional. It is a wonderful title but just so much more. Glenda has enabled us to continue to expand our success. She has managed our numerous event registrations; kept track of our growing membership; is the publisher of this newsletter; takes minutes of all Officer, Board, and Strategic Planning meetings; and manages our website. It is an accepted fact that we could not have grown as we have and still kept our excellence without Glenda. Thanks goes of course to Glenda, but also to Cindy Lee who facilitated the hire.

In the past few years, we have expanded and added committees to the governance of our Chapter. The Golf Committee was split with the Scholarship portion (what do we do with the money?). We formed a Succession Planning Committee, members appointed to nominate candidates of VOS Officer, Board, and Committee Chair positions and to identify those members that should be asked to participate on the committee member level. From the Overview Classes first organized in 2006 and a Basics class in 2007, an Education Committee was formed in 2008 and since 2009 has produced two 8-hour seminars offering current financial and accounting topics with CPE credits for all attendees. Our long-standing committees of Program (11 lunches per year); Membership (includes the New Member Breakfast); Legislative (monitors the latest at the Arizona State Legislature); Newsletter (you are reading it); Career Services; Golf (celebrated the 20th annual this past October); and Salary Survey continue to flourish and provide valuable services to our members. This is all managed and directed by the excellent teams of Officers and Board of Directors that have served throughout our 25 year history.

It has been an amazing 25 years – from a few local CFOs attending an educational conference to almost 300 members of Construction Industry CFOs, controllers, and our industry partners of CPAs, insurance agents, bond producers, attorneys with construction specialties, software vendors, and leasing companies of vehicles. VOS provides the best education and networking opportunities of any CFMA Chapter, and we will continue for the next 25 and beyond.

Calendar of Programs and Events

February 22 - Economic Outlook Breakfast, Phoenix Airport Marriott
March 3 - Economic Operations: Managing Your Cash, Tucson Old Pueblo Chapter
March 17 - Ever wonder . . . Where did the stimulus money go? Doug Pruitt, Sundt
Joint lunch with ABA, ASA, NAWIC, and SAA
April 21 - Complexities of contracting in multiple states: lien laws, pay scale, bonding, and more; Panel of experts
April 28 - CFMA Arizona Construction Executive of the Year banquet, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, 340 N. 3rd St.
May 5 - FMI Presentation, Tucson Old Pueblo Chapter
May 19 - no meeting - National Conference
June 2 - Compensation Issues: Prevailing Wage, Certified Payroll, Tucson Old Pueblo Chapter

The year I was President, VOS hosted the conference at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge, which was the highest attended at that time. We were extremely fortunate to have it at such a beautiful venue, the weather was spectacular for May, and the evaluations from participants on the location were glowing. We hope to host another.

Lisa Autino, CFO Corbins Electric President #22

Remember to sign up for Construction Executive of the Year banquet.
Education – the Building Blocks of Success

As I write this article, I am reminded of the Valley of the Sun Chapter’s Mission Statement:

The Valley of the Sun Chapter of Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) is a broad based organization of professionals committed to serving the construction industry.

We are dedicated to member service by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and a source of educational programs directed to their specific needs.

We strive to invest in our community through involvement in industry related issues and charitable endeavors.

Service Exchange of Ideas Educational Programs Community Investment

Each of these phrases directs our focus to the importance of educational support of individuals seeking to gain access to our industry or enhance their current industry status via our various institutions of higher learning.

Valley of the Sun CFMA is, and has been, a tremendous resource to these ideals via its scholarship and endowment programs.

At ASU (Del E. Webb School of Construction) we established an endowment fund named in the memory of Joe Quigley, one of the Valley of the Sun’s founding members, who sadly passed away well before his time. This endowment, now valued in excess of $90,000, initially was designed to provide funds to students participating in the Registrar of Contractors internship programs. It is being re-written to broaden its scope to include students active in the construction program at ASU.

At NAU an endowment was established that has a balance of nearly $42,000 and has distributed earnings annually to deserving students.

Did you know we also offer scholarships each semester of $2,500 per approved applicant? Yes, we have also provided financial support to deserving students related to CFMA members or member companies who are working to expand their construction education at various universities and local community colleges. Our only challenge here is finding more people to apply for these scholarships so this program can continue to grow.

Not only does CFMA support the higher educational institutions, we also target the “younger set” through Junior Achievement and the BizTown programs they offer to introduce young students to business and, potentially, the world of construction!

In 2007, when the National Conference was held in Phoenix, we subsidized many of our members who wanted to attend that conference. A pool was established and equally disbursed to those who chose to attend. In other years we provide assistance to first time conference attendees by covering their registration cost as well as a portion of their other expenses.

In past years the VOS chapter has made significant contributions to the Arizona Builders’ Alliance (ABA) Apprenticeship program to help them purchase tools and cover lab expenses.

Most recently our Board passed a resolution to provide an annual scholarship for a deserving CFMA member to attend Spring Creek, the annual Presidential retreat, to meet other leaders across the nation, learn valuable leadership skills, and share ideas. Our first scholarship will be awarded to the Tucson Old Pueblo chapter in the fall of 2011.

Over the past five years, we have channeled over $70,000 towards these endeavors – touching numerous students with a focus on construction; and allowing many more young children to be introduced to business and the construction environment.

The only question that remains is - - where do we go from here? My answer: YOU TELL ME!! This organization, and specifically our Chapter, has the dedicated people and resources to grow our “footprint” in construction and only WE can decide the size.

You, as a member, have the opportunity to be a part of this decision making by joining the Scholarship Committee.
How the VOS CFMA Chapter Was Started

In November 1985, while I was CFO at Double AA Constructors, I received a telephone call asking if I would be interested in meeting with a group to discuss forming a local chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) in Phoenix. I had been employed by Double AA for about one year in this capacity and was still not that familiar with the construction industry’s accounting methods. So I said yes and agreed to meet at the Phoenix Country Club with the others.

What I did not know was that this was going to be a life changing event for me. Apparently, a few CFOs from Phoenix had attended a CFMA conference in October 1985 and were approached by CFMA’s leadership at the time to consider a local chapter organizing meeting. Among those who attended the October conference were Joe Quigley from Kitchell, David James, who worked at Joe E Woods at the time, and Sheryl (Buetel) Chamberlain from Linthicum.

The gathering at the Phoenix Country Club attracted about 20 attendees, and we listened as David Bohne from San Diego and Marty Eckert from Houston told us the benefits of membership. We let them talk for about 90 minutes and promptly told them we were ready to join and start a chapter in Phoenix.

We agreed to meet at Kitchell’s office on 24th Street near Buckeye Road a week later. The meeting at Kitchell included Joe, David, and Sheryl, to name a few, as well as Jim Richter, Wink Ames, Ken Zylstra, Jack Larsen, Jay Ryan, and myself. At this meeting we decided that we would go forward with forming a chapter. I volunteered to be President and the other founding officers were Vice President Jim Richter, Universal Roofing; Secretary Joe Quigley, Kitchell; and Treasurer Sheryl Chamberlain, Linthicum.

Combining the group who attended the Phoenix Country Club meeting with the individuals who attended the October conference, we had the required 20 members for a chapter and sent our application to New Jersey in early December 1985. We asked to be called “The Valley of the Sun Chapter of CFMA.” We were the quickest any group had asked for chapter status after having an organizing meeting, and we became CFMA’s 17th chapter.

In early January 1986, the officers met at Double AA’s office and planned our first luncheon. Our initial luncheon was held February 20, 1986, at the Doubletree on 44th Street and Van Buren. Our first speaker was Vernie Lindstrom, President of Kitchell (Joe had something to do with this) and National President of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). We had 43 attendees and we were off and running.

In May 1986, about 10 of us went to the CFMA National Conference in Washington, DC and were the talk of the conference since Bill Miller, National CFMA President at the time, continued to make fun of our chapter name. It seems we were the first chapter to call ourselves anything other than the state or city in which it was located.

We were a very loosely structured group...first, with me as president running the organization as if it were a sole-proprietorship; followed by Jim Richter, who admittedly was an “absentee” president – scheduling regular meetings at his office and then not showing up! Despite ourselves, the Chapter thrived.

In the third year of our history, as Joe Quigley assumed command, we finally had a leader who knew how to organize committees and delegate. Joe was the leadership force behind our chapter’s success, paving the way for it to become as great as it is today.

In the early years of CFMA, San Diego was the chapter by which all others measured their success. Today the benchmark chapter is the Valley of the Sun Chapter of CFMA. Our chapter has contributed to the national leadership of CFMA and its affiliated organization, the Institute of Certified Construction Industry Financial Professionals, has had members receive National recognition awards, and has won awards every year for excellence. We truly are the Best Under The Sun Chapter of CFMA.
In 1995 the Valley of the Sun Chapter lost one of its Founding Members and the man most credited with starting our Chapter on the road to enormous success. For those that knew and worked with him, Joe was an outstanding Leader in all ways. Our Chapter, as well as the entire CFMA Organization, owes him a debt of gratitude and, through the Joe Quigley Memorial Award, we will remember him always.

In the January/February 1996 issue of Building Profits, his fellow CFMA leaders remembered Joe. And we cannot improve on the words of those who worked closest with him.

Joe faced life with a smile and every challenge as an opportunity. His positive outlook was passed on to all those who touched his life and it was an honor to have been his friend.

Christine Thompson, CFMA National President 1997

If there was ever a model CFMA member, it was Joe Quigley for his pride in his profession, dedication to his company, profound sense of personal and professional dignity, love of life and unabashed exuberance about the CFMA experience.

Danny B. Parrish, CFMA National President, 1995

Even during his last few months, Joe exhibited strength of character and a love of life that served as an inspiring example. This will always be for me a part of what Joe was and represented. Joe was truly one of those few choice people who quite readily find a special place in the hearts of others.

Steve Lords, CFMA National President, 1996

Joe had the ability and style to create humor in otherwise “not so exciting” settings. Such was the case at one CFMA National Conference general session when Joe captured the attention of the entire audience with a David Letterman “Top Ten” format. One of the roles identified on Joe’s Top Ten List provided deep insight into why CFOs get invited to company lunches — “So no one will question the expense report!”

David James, VOS CFMA Chapter President #10

I feel privileged to have had my life touched by Joe. Since he lived in the Valley of the Sun, I was fortunate to have more contact with Joe than most CFMA members. His time with us was too short and he will be missed.

John Corcoran, CFMA National President, 1989; VOS Chapter President #1

Joe’s energetic and enthusiastic leadership style leaves a legacy to be long admired and respected — while CFMA has lost a dear friend, it has gained immensely from Joe’s indelible contributions.

Bill Schwab, former CFMA National President and CEO
25 Years and so many stories, and I am allotted just one page! Therefore I have restricted this column to just a few of them. I will mention that I am not withholding any names to protect the innocent – as they are not!

First and foremost, the old saying: If I had a nickel for every time I have been asked over the past several years... how did David Beer get his nickname JOEY? Picture this – CFMA National Conference, Orlando, 2001, a beautiful Sunday morning – Carol Knott, Scott Thomas, and David Beer (with David in the back) driving to the beach. (Note – others were invited but couldn’t make the drive because of certain events on Saturday night.) But I digress… As they were driving, David insisted on making a nuisance; i.e., when do we get there? I’m bored! and kicking the seat. So Carol told the hostess “two adults and one child.” So David Beer became known to those of us in attendance as Joey. If you don’t behave, your father (Scott) will turn this car around.” And, at the breakfast stop, Scott and Carol told the hostess “two adults and one child.” So David Beer became known to those of us in attendance at that Conference as Joey. Scott and Carol were Mom and Dad, Kristy Cox became Joey’s sister, Nancy Palmer and I were Aunty’s, and dare I say how John Corcoran fit into this new family dynamic? And I might note here as well that I have come to call this Conference my Lost Conference. (I think the statute of limitations has run out on this.) I did not attend any classes – though I did make it to the CRP Awards Breakfast – but had a phenomenal time visiting Downtown Disney and the Kookaburra Lounge, which required some recovery the next day – hence no class attendance.

Another story – also involving some of those mentioned above – concerns a rumor about my over indulging in vodka at one of the VOS Golf Tournaments. I am taking this opportunity to set the record straight. Though I am not sure which year it was, I was doing my usual tour of the golf course, taking pictures and generally harassing the players, when I became incredibly thirsty, and of course there were no drinking fountains or beverage carts in sight. I came across Scott, Carol, John, and Nancy (quite the foursome, wouldn’t you agree?). I asked if anyone had some water, Scott handed me a large Styrofoam cup of what appeared to be ice water – but to my shock after taking a very LARGE gulp, turned out to be vodka! Not being able to spit it out soon enough – well I think you can guess the effect for the rest of the afternoon!

In retelling some of the infamous VOS CFMA stories I would be remiss if I left out the Acme Roadhouse in Tempe! Many of the stories cannot be retold in this column (too lengthy), and I don’t think they would get by the censors. Suffice it to say this was a biker bar! However, I can say it all started with a Pumpkin Carving Contest – which was later used as our Showcase Entry for the CRP Awards at the CFMA Conference – where the venue became so popular that most of our Chapter meetings were held there – they had the BEST French fries! Which might explain to many of you why committee meetings I arrange are usually held at bars and in the evening? Sadly the Acme Roadhouse is now closed – so anyone that knows of a bar or restaurant that has a good patio or separate room to hold a meeting should forward me that information.

And finally, the latest story in renaming our members. As you might suppose, during the planning of this 25th Anniversary Gala, there have been a plethora of emails going back and forth among the committee members. Several months ago, during one such volley of emails, David James (aka dj) reminded the committee members that Outlook had two buttons: Reply All and Reply, and that we should use the Reply button more often while suggesting that our apparent need to use the Reply All button was that we did not have a life, and he was going to then go and delete the 50 emails he had received that day from the committee members. Fast forward a couple of months to another group of emails, to which dj was responding with some smart (or, as he claims, humorous) responses with REPLY ALL. Our fearless leader, Michelle Grider, responded to ALL with a reminder to dj about his prior email on the EVILS of Replying to All by copying that email and resending! dj’s response was, and I quote “that was my mean twin brother… Donnie James.” And I must confess this is one nickname many of us have been shamelessly overusing.

Have we had fun, or what?? This is the BEST thing about our Chapter, in doing all that we do, and as well as we do, we have the MOST FUN; and, I predict 25 years from now there will be new players with even more fun stories to tell.

Until next time . . .

Marj
On May 14th through May 18th 2011 the CFMA will be holding its annual conference at the Gaylord Texan Hotel & Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. Those who have attended past national CFMA conferences know what a tremendous experience these events can be. You will be exposed to top financial executives from across the nation and up to 100 exhibitors. Attendees can earn up to 34 continuing professional education credits. Visit CFMA’s national website at www.cfma.org/annual_conference to learn more about the event, how to register and listen to testimonials from potential exhibitors on what you will be missing by not attending. Save $100 if you register by March 15th.

Membership

I can tell you from past experience it wasn’t until I got involved on a committee that membership in CFMA really paid off. For years I retained a membership, but stopped going to lunch meetings for one reason or another. It took an associate member, Moni LaLonde, to reach out and bring me back to the lunch meetings as well as join a committee. We both joined the program committee at that point and things were never the same. I eventually became co-chair of the program committee, served as a board member and all officer positions, and continue to stay active on the golf committee, newsletter, and succession planning. Membership is each and every one of us doing our part. When you are contacted to join a committee, accept the invitation. You will not only meet new people and learn so much more, you will grow as a person. There are a lot of committees to choose from. If, after sampling one, you don’t particularly like it, pick another. There is bound to be one that will suit you and your available time. We are always asking for your ideas to add benefit to your membership, whether that be suggesting a program or speaker or something else entirely. Perhaps one of the easiest forms of involvement is to create or update your LinkedIn status to let the world know that you are a member of the VOS CFMA. You’ll be able to connect with other members and share possible ways to become more involved.

As of January 24, 2011, total membership is at 270, with 59% general members. Twelve new members have joined since our fall newsletter. The New Member Breakfast is scheduled quarterly at 7:30 am at Romancing the Bean, 80 East Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe. Check the VOS Events page online – http://chapters.cfma.org/ValleyOfTheSun/events.html – for the next date as well as committee meeting dates and locations.

CFMA VOS Golf Classic

We are excited to announce that our presenting sponsor for the 21st Annual CFMA VOS Golf Classic is CBIZ & Mayer Hoffman McCann. Once again, they have agreed to sponsor our premier event to raise funds for scholarships and our chapter. The date is set for Wednesday October 12, 2011 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, which is a bit earlier than usual. This date is two full weeks before over seeding so the course should be in fantastic shape for the tournament. We look forward to your participation!
Valley of the Sun Chapter CRP Awards 1990-2010

Over the years, VOS has received many CFMA National awards. Listed are the awards VOS earned along with the years the Chapter received those honors.

Academic/Student Liaison: 1990, 1993
Achievement: 1994
Decade Accolade (participating in the CRP for ten consecutive years): 2004

Largest “Basics” Attendance (65 attendees): 2008
Member Services: 2005, 2010
Recognition: 1993
Showcase:
• Golf Tournament – Fundraiser for Education Endowment Fund 1995
• Mock Mediation Arbitration 1996
• Toughest Sheriff in America Luncheon 1997
• Bank One Ballpark Luncheon 1998
• Economic Outlook Seminar 1999
• Pumpkin Carving Happy Hour, 2000
• Third Annual Past Presidents’ Forum 2001
• Electric Light Parade Float 2002
• Southwest Contractor magazine Insert 2003
• Apprenticeship Lab 2004
• Local Family Donation 2005
• Giving Back to the Community 2006
• Chapter Technological Improvements 2007
• Chapter Achievements 2008, 2009
• Ninth Annual Executive of the Year Banquet 2010

Special Events/Projects:
1993

CRP = Chapter Recognition Program

The logo above was created by one of the people in a photo on this page; do you know who?

2008 - Valley of the Sun membership reaches an all-time high of 336

L to R - Marty and Jodi Garrison; Santa’s Christmas Tree Project; Spring Creek (Tom Lawless); Doug Hughes; Bill Schwab, Marj Weber, Mike Molaro; Teresa Walker; McCarthy foursome (Kris Roe)
2006 - A New Logo contest was held to create a signature for our Chapter. The winning entry (above), submitted by Doug Hughes, was one of six impressive proposals. Then it was up to the Board to select one. Since then, the sun shines brightly at VOS.

Special thanks to AlphaGraphics Sky Harbor for printing the invitations and to Marsh for agreeing to print the newsletter.

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Remember to purchase your tickets for the Construction Executive of the Year Banquet http://chapters.cfma.org/ValleyOfTheSun/index.htm

Excerpts from JA Biztown Participant Letters

Dreaming Summit School
September 24, 2010
Building Arizona, JA Biztown
To Whom it may concern:
Our school recently visited JA Biztown. I had the opportunity to work for Building AZ.
My job was to be a CFO. Pretty much I was in charge of making my business successful, paid [sic] off their loan. I think when I grow up I want to take your place for CFO. Bye bye!
Sincerely, Clarissa

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Sincerely, Clarissa

I appreciate the donations that you have given to make JA Biztown be a part of America. Without you, kids wouldn’t be able to experience life as an older person. Personally, I think it’s great that you decided to pitch in with the JA program. I bet lots of children feel the same way about your generosity. Thank you for making JA Biztown exist. Christina