



# CFMA VOS Chapter Updates

July 1, 2017

## *Desert Chronicles: the real stories of the 2017 CFMA Annual Conference*

or How CFMA has gone to the Dogs!!

by David James / Editor Consultant: Donnie



Is it just me, or do the annual conferences seem to get longer every year? Pretty soon I will just rent an apartment for the month and not mess with the hotel at all! But when you have such fantastic educational programs, I suppose it does require a time commitment. There had to be something for everyone among the offering:

- - Mini-conferences covering from ethics, to risk transfer, to

cash forecasting, to suicide prevention; all "deep dives" into the respective topic that you cannot always get in the shorter, one hour session blocks. Can you imagine anything more exciting than a deep dive into ethics?? I felt guilty after this session, however, and kept looking over my shoulder for the rest of the conference . . . "who is watching? what did I do, or not do"??? I may need counseling.

- Dawn peer groups were again offered to allow for valuable peer interaction at "O Dark Thirty"; if you could manage to stay awake, you likely picked up some good ideas! Have they never heard of "Mid-day peer groups"??? Dawn is for sleeping!
- The general sessions were typically inspirational, for those who seek inspiration! They were sorta like going to a Baptist Revival, w/o the tent. I did pick up a conceptual snippet that I'll pass along . . . In life, in work, and in relationships, never coast; to do so means you are either consuming past energy expended or going downhill. (I actually added the past energy part - thought it sounded cooler than just "downhill"!!)
- The breakout sessions were awesome and so varied in their subject matter. I was so stressed trying to figure out which ones to go to; I usually ended up in the

bar trying to de-stress ... but the bar did not provide the session code words . . . rats!!

[Read Donnie's full conference observations here!](#)

## *Women of VoS CFMA*

*Exciting new group being formed!*

Part of our chapter's strategic plan for the year is creating new opportunities for members to get engaged and build relationships. As a part of that goal, Elise Thorpe and Lindsey Benson have stepped up to form a women's group for our CFMA chapter. The goals of this group are:

- Increase engagement and connectivity among women members and potential members of CFMA
- Provide a mentoring opportunity for the younger professionals with more established professionals
- Improve education, both professionally and personally, for women in finance positions in the construction industry

Mark your calendars for the first ever Women of VoS CFMA happy hour on Thursday, September 7th at the newly renovated Mountain Shadows resort bar located in Paradise Valley - Hearth 61. Join fellow females in the construction finance profession to network with one another, provide mentoring opportunities for younger and more established females within the profession, and of course enjoy delicious cocktails and appetizers. Feel free to invite other non-member female associates within your Organization to join the fun. Registration and additional details to follow.

## *Big support for UMOM!*

Thanks to the great participation from our chapter at the 5k event held Sunday, June 4th as part of the annual conference, our favorite charity, UMOM, was presented with a check for \$15,000! The final total they received may actually be a little more than that when all final tallying is done - but \$1,500 of that came from our chapter directly when members chose to divert their conference subsidy to this charitable donation instead. Way to go VOS!



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