



CFMA VOS Chapter News

August 2018

2018 CFMA National Conference - A Report (novel some may say) Direct From the Florida Swamp!

Authored by David James, CCIFP; Edited by Donnie, CBAE(1); Censorship attempted by CFMA Officers

This year's conference theme focused on three bullet point themes (to which this author has applied definitions based on reality):

Reach Out- as did the Miami Vice squad on TV, CFMA Members reached out to the city of Miami; to protect the city from corruption, drug dealings and prostitution . . . more on this later

Branch Out- CFMA attendees expanded their knowledge, skill, networks and horizons. OK this is the feel good bullet point - savor it!

Top Out- over the Top, as attendees "Sweated to the Oldies" with Richard Simmons (did he do any Cuban dance videos?) . . . more on this later

So, the Miami Vice CFMA production crew opened the scene on Saturday morning with multiple educational offerings for attendees - who could choose either beach or class; strangely, many actually chose the classroom option, which really raises questions about CFMA peeps priorities! However, by Saturday evening as the Back Street Boys (who?-yes, this author is an old fart) were entertaining in the hotel and the place was "Rocking with the dressed (or underdressed) Miami youth" + CFMA folks = Total Branching Out! And based on some of the underdress of these hotel guests, the 'prostitution' element of Reach Out got way too complicated - no way to protect attendees from the visuals! And sadly, I am still in traction from the jerking of my head side to side, as the short skirts walked past in both directions (yes, worse than watching a tennis or ping pong match!). I have also suffered bruises to my ribs, as my better half kept elbowing me, saying "eyes forward, big boy". This, along with my hearing that is permanently impaired from the noise level of the lobby lounge will provide me a worker comp claim!

Sunday began with the annual CFMA 5K charity run. This year the charity should have been promoted as the Richard Simmons sweat-a-thon (no, not thong, THON) . . . or "how to loose water weight fast, and nearly die for a charity" . . . as they decided to run on the beach (=sand, OMG!). Jared Asay, Michelle Walker

and I did this little adventure, and we beat virtually the entire field (VOS rocks while we sweat)! Jared kicked ass (mine), Michelle was only seconds behind him, and I was hot on her heels (crawling a few hundred yards/miles back). Michelle ran with an injured foot in recovery (which should NOT have been introduced to sand!) which raises into question the wisdom of certain CFMA athletes - do I hear "too dedicated"?



We all know, at least for those of the right age (mine) that remember Richard Simmons - he was an icon for the oldies. Songs and exercise - in skimpy and colorful shorts with flaming red hair. I only bring this up as Lisa's fiancé was in attendance again this year (transitioning from "friend" to "fiancé" - go Lisa!) and I overheard them calling to one another (as betrothed often do) with their pet names. Lolli Pop!! I can only guess who is Lolli, and who is Pop - - but so cute! And sooo much a Richard Simmons oldie style! Lisa, you just need the Chordettes (look 'em up you young folks) to sing at the wedding next March! Oh, they are all dead; bummer - - - Donnie is available as a backup! However, I am a bit concerned about Randy's family tie to the Texas marketplace (did he refer to "construction mafia"?); but hey, our industry needs all the support (legal or otherwise) we can get! No further disclosure here, as Donnie and I value our lives!

We opened the conference Monday with a speaker that has hiked to the center of the earth, flown to the moon, and swam the oceans - and done with one arm tied behind her back! Actually, (Donnie requires full disclosure for this article), the speaker was, among other things, an Extreme Adventure Racer who spoke on "Why Winners Win" (Donnie could totally relate). She competes in incredible extreme adventure competitions and then lives to talk about them. I caught Michelle Walker drooling . . . she was either sleeping (yes, we all drool while sleeping, nothing shameful about it), or wants so bad to do these extreme competitions, and then talk about them!! Michelle said the later applied, as she so would love to do that! Donnie is available for training . . . if you can afford his fee.

The conference is not only a mental expansion of our brain waves; it can be a physical challenge just navigating the resort. Some of us were not always able to navigate the steps up from the bar area to the rooms. No names will be

mentioned, but think of who last had a foot boot, like annually . . . yup . . . she missed a step and was introduced to the floor; but all is/was well, due to her ability to catch herself (practice?) - good catch Marj! Whoops, did I just disclose the offender? And I must confess (Donnie requires full disclosure) that one evening my better half also had a misstep and tripped; GL claim against the hotel is pending . . . YES!!, my retirement fund just got a boost!

OH . . . VOS Chapter won the Chairman's Excellence Award ... duh, hohum - - Best Under the Sun!! But we all know that we are excellent; the National HQ knows that we are excellent; the other chapters know that we are excellent. So just give us the award in perpetuity, and get it over with!

But speaking of excellence, the sessions were, as expected . . . well . . . er . . . Excellent!! Branching Out for sure, with great topics!! Sessions began as early as Saturday, even though the official conference kick off is Sunday. Good news is you can earn 3,429.6 hours of CPE at the conference with all these extra sessions. Bad news is, who wants to attend a class when there is a beach 50 yards away? Certainly not Dave Miller, who was seen on, at and in the beach (actually in /under the water) and OVER it . . . parasail anyone? But wait, he is known for his global views and wisdom - what a great way to globally view the conference from high above; and talking about going deep into issues, how better to do this than diving into the ocean? Go Dave!



For those not at the beach or sailing over it, the 4 1/2 days of sessions ranged from Suicide Prevention (yes, CFMA people, the risks to our workforce are exploding - and YOU can start the cultural change in your company!), to accounting, to tax (even Donnie does not like tax), sessions on KPI's, legal, HR, whew . . . plus sessions specific to heavy highway and specialty contractors. Donnie thought his favorite session was going to be the "Active Shooter", thinking it was an instructional on how to exercise at the gun range; so he was a bit disappointed when the speaker did not go there. Added to these sessions were resources from a huge exhibitor's area - if you could not find "it" among this group, "it" likely does not exist! So don't look for "it" anymore!

After a hard day in the sessions, it was time to re-connect with friends. With local VOS folks that were attending, as well as other CFMA members you only get to see annually. The talk and connections are grand and the alcohol flows freely.

Networking and national connectivity provide our association with a unique value that all members should focus on - whether at a national conference or local lunches, you need to connect! The resources are amazing, only limited by your desire to access them!



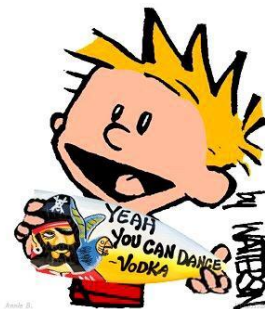
During the evening hours, there was a distinct competition this year on who might be the Worst Influence on fellow attendees (WI for short - Corruption by Miami Vice for long) . . . and it looks to be a 2 way tie:

Jim Bracy, despite the efforts of Robyn Brimhall to settle him down a notch, was responsible for some serious hangover woes ... Dave Miller claimed it was his worst in 25 years (or was it 25 days . . . whatever!!) . . . a prevalent thought thru the entire conference by those corrupted was, "It's Bracy's fault"! Robyn, on the other hand likes to Swim with the Fish . . . you can either interpret this as scuba activities, or she is a marked woman!

Tony Hakes, with NO one attempting to settle him down, was (as witnessed by yours truly) the pusher of shots (no, not the active shooter thing that Donnie was excited about). The saddest part about his behavior was that he was taking advantage of the elderly! NO, not me; rather Steve Walker (who belongs to Michelle) turned 50 on Tuesday. And he could think of no better way to spend his birthday than with a bunch of CFM's (are you kidding me?). However, the Force of Tony helped him thru this transition into the second half of his century of life. Steve, welcome to my side of the century! And with Michelle, who we discovered was a Canadian mail order bride, you will do just fine! We found during these evening libations that Tom Lawless, after a beer or two (or twenty), has this thing about wanting to "bring on" the biggest guy in the bar. . . not sure for what, but he kept pumping out his "Me Tarzan" chest - but Jared Asay, being a bit younger and obviously more fit (remember the 5K) was picked by those of us in attendance to pick up the 'Tom pieces' and put the big guy back together again if he found a "biggest guy" target and actually went after him (or her)!. Thankfully, Jared never had to protect the VOS team or Tom.



Every CFMA conference has a Tuesday night closing party, to Top Out the conference. Some of you may remember when the party was on Monday night, but then no one showed up for the awards breakfast Tuesday morning. So CFMA eliminated the Tuesday awards and moved the party to Tuesday night so you are challenged to attend the first Wednesday session. But this year, with Anirban Basu speaking at the first session, it was worth getting up for! But I digress . . . So the party theme was Cuban, and the band was great! Richard Simons could have/should have produced an entire workout to these guys! They were so great that many VOS folks were seen out on the dance floor. John Corcoran and his wife Barb were hittin' it hard (didn't he retire??); then were seen shortly after their dance in the hallway, on a couch, heads on each other shoulders (so cute), resting . . . or napping? Tom Lawless and Carol Hagan even got into the action! But, I heard that Marj Weber danced into the night, took salsa dance lessons, and was expecting a Dancing with the Stars offer! But, well, a picture speaks volumes..



Worst part of the closing night was that the bar ran out of margarita mix - - - how can a 5-star resort run out of margarita mix??? Where is Hakes and Bracy when you need them?



And back to Miami Vice for a moment . . . the resort had a theme - that of Frank Sinatra, who frequented the establishment and made some movies on location there. Frank is known for both his theatrical and underworld ties through his career. There were photos along one resort walkway that depicted movie stars and movie sets with Frank as a focus, as well as one photo that caught my eye in particular. It was of Frank and a team of his trusted body guards. I thought I would share this photo with my readers. As I studied the charming and so genteel features of Frank, and then looked at the tough, almost sinister look of his companions and body guards, I could not help noticing the body guard to Franks left. Could it be? No way! But it must be? OMG . . . it is!!! CFM by public profession, body guard by secret profession, and a time traveler as well as he is captured in this photo from the 60's!



So, back to Miami Vice goals - and considering this pictorial view of Miami corruption, I must confess CFMA did not eliminate it; we also did not eliminate drugs (but we did not ADD to it, well actually just alcohol!); and as to prostitution... let's fast forward to next year's conference - Las Vegas!! No corruption, vice or prostitution there!?!?! And to those of you who participated in obnoxious activities that have not been reported herein, I apologize; with age, my capacity to be everywhere at once has diminished, and tho Donnie helps fill the gaps, he embarrasses easily and most of what you folks do puts him ill at ease.

So to all my readers - -sign up today for the conference in Vegas (is registration open yet?) ... cause if you SNOOZE, YOU LOOZE.. . and there is NO conference for our industry that beats the annual CFMA conference!! So, sign up!!

PS . . . leaving the resort, about 6 blocks away (we had a rental car), we got rear-ended by a dude in a Jeep. Donnie is handling the claim! More retirement funding!! Yes!!

(1) Certified Best At Everything



*Save the Date! 2018 CFMA VoS Golf Tourney -
Thursday November 1, 2018*

Moon Valley Country Club



**151 W. Moon Valley Drive
Format: Team Scramble
Shotgun start: 7:30 am**

Watch for Sponsorship opportunities to be Released Soon.

Thank You to all who contributed to the Little Library fundraising efforts!

Through the generous support of our chapter members, we raised the funds needed to purchase a Little Library kit.

We will be painting, decorating and assembling the Little Library on August 11th at 10:00am at home of Christine Kettelkamp.

Please contact Diana Bujnovsky at diana.bujnovsky@jokake.com or Christine at ckettelkamp@jencoinc.com if you are interested in helping.

Also we are accepting new and gently used books or cash for the purchase of books to fill the Library for UMOM. You can bring donations to the August lunch or to Jokake's office.

Thank you!!

Follow, Link and Re-Tweet and Win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

VoS Chapter Social Media Platforms

With so much happening in our chapter, we want the whole world, and especially all of our members, to know about it!

To enable sharing news about upcoming events as well as photos and stories from past events, our Communications Committee has created fresh new profiles on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Click on the links below to like/follow our new pages - and be sure to do it before August 17th, when we'll be doing a drawing of all of our fans and followers for a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

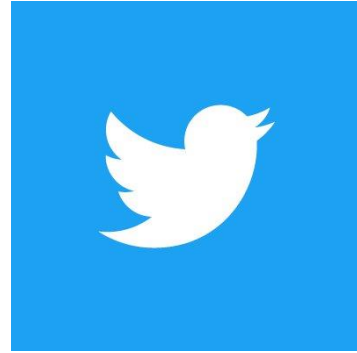
And if you have content you'd like to contribute - send it to our Communication Committee Chair [Cliff Spickler!](#)



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