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c/o 56 Grandville Avenue SW
Grand Rapids Michigan 49503
EDITOR Danielle Pennings
Beene Garter LLP
dpennings@beenegarter.com
westmi.cfma.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT
GRACE SILVA



Creating Lasting Memories

It seems to be a bit of a buzz word these days, but you often hear references to work-life balance. The highly reliable Wikipedia defines it as “a concept including proper prioritizing between work (career and ambition) and lifestyle (health, pleasure, leisure, family and spiritual development/meditation).

People often find themselves so wrapped up in what’s going on at work, it is difficult for them to “unplug” from their daily tasks and take time for themselves and their families. This past summer has taught me a valuable lesson in taking time to create memories with my family.

In June, I lost my dad somewhat unexpectedly at the age of 74. I spent quite a bit of time with my mom this summer going through dad’s items, helping her around the house, getting their legal and financial affairs in order, as well as trying to grieve together. Going through that experience really made me take a step back and reassess my priorities and goals. After experiencing the loss of my dad, I found myself holding on to and remem-

bering the fun times we shared as a family while I was growing up. Once a person is gone, all you really have left are memories. It made me realize that I want to create those memories for my own son. In the end, your children or family won’t remember the things you bought them, they will remember the time you spent creating memorable experiences.

I want to encourage all of you as we start to think about closing out 2017 and beginning 2018, please take time to relax, to vacation, to spend time with loved ones. Make sure you are well balanced, as hard as that may seem sometimes.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
GRACE SILVA

If you take the time you need to rejuvenate yourself, you will be a more positive and productive individual. If your company offers an EAP (employee assistance program) please take advantage of it. It was put in place to help you!

I'm excited to begin a new season of CFMA with all of you. We have a great schedule of topics lined up this year that will also help you to be more informed, more efficient employees in your organization. I hope to see all of you at our upcoming meetings!

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CHAPTER

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We are currently seeking volunteers from our membership to contribute articles for future editions. If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Editor Danielle Pennings at dpennings@beenegarter.com. Contributions are greatly appreciated!

Chapter News (Past Events)

CFMA Annual Conference Recaps

Lightning can strike twice. I was extremely fortunate to win, for a second time, the drawing of a scholarship given out by the Western Michigan CFMA Chapter to attend CFMA's 2017 Annual Conference & Exhibition. This year's conference was held in Phoenix, AZ at the beautiful JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Resort & Spa.

As a second time attendee to the CFMA Annual Conference, I had an idea of what to expect this time around, and it didn't disappoint. The sessions were plentiful and all on point to the construction industry. Selecting which sessions to attend was the most difficult part of the

conference. Fortunately, all the sessions are recorded and available to listen to online, along with any handouts.

As a CPA and CCIFP, I'm required to obtain certain levels of construction continuing education every year. The CFMA Annual Conference more than fits the bill. I would encourage everyone to attend an annual conference at least once, but it probably won't be the only one.

I want to thank the Western Michigan Chapter for making scholarships available to assist members in attending this event. Be sure to plan ahead to attend the next conference, June 23-27, 2018, to be held in Miami. And get your name in the drawing for a scholarship!

John D. Koscielniak, CPA, CCIFP, Brickley DeLong, P.C.

September General Membership Recaps

At September's General Membership meeting, the CFMA West Michigan Chapter experienced a mini roundtable session. Each table had topics for discussion that were relevant to the construction industry and construction financial professionals. Topics included business continuity in the face of cyber security attacks or disaster recovery, financial statement transparency, and employee assistance programs. We hope you

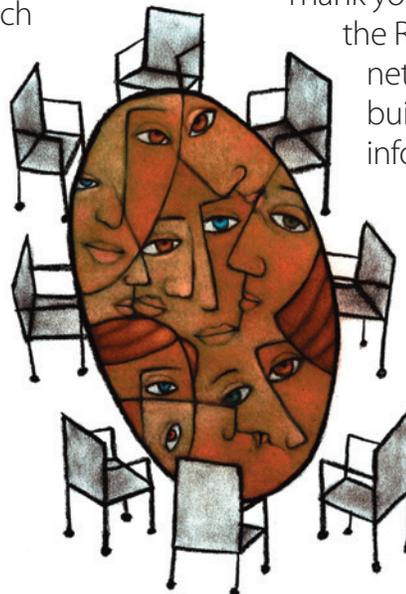
had a great chance to meet other members and learn about the benefits of the roundtable groups!

Roundtable Program

Thank you to those who are involved in the Roundtable program, a great networking and relationship building program. For further information, see Jennifer Murphy.

Reminders

Anyone interested in joining one of our committees? We'd love to have you join! See page 2 for a listing of all of the Western Michigan Chapter committees and committee chairpersons.



Golf Outing Recap

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The 2nd Annual CFMA West Michigan Jon Penning Memorial Golf Scramble was held Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at Thornapple Pointe. Golfers participated in a fun day of golfing, networking, great food, and door prizes.

The first place team was made up of Matt Zimmerman, Matt Holt, Doug Holtrop, and Jake Schrock. Various other prizes were handed out for accomplishments on the course!

We'd like to extend special thanks to all of our sponsors:

Hole Sponsors: Aktion Associates, Beene Garter LLP, BHS Insurance, Buist Electric, Crowe Horwath, Dan Vos Construction Company, Elzinga Volkers Construction Professionals, Gelock

Heavy Movers, Hilger Hammond, Hub International, Hylant, Johnstone Supply, Mercantile Bank of Michigan, Pleune Service Company, River City Mechanical

Hole-in-One Sponsors: Fox Ford and Lighthouse Insurance

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In addition, the Promotions Committee organized a food drive to the local food pantry, which provides a pantry of food and other personal products to those in need. They were very grateful for our donation!

Thanks to everyone who organized, participated, and volunteered at this year's outing, and we look forward to the 3rd Annual CFMA West Michigan Jon Penning Memorial Golf Outing next year!



Chapter Calendar

- 10/26/17** General Membership Meeting
- 11/16/17** General Membership Meeting
- 1/25/18** General Membership Meeting
- 2/22/18** General Membership Meeting
- 3/22/18** General Membership Meeting
- 4/26/18** General Membership Meeting
- 5/24/18** General Membership Meeting
- 6/23/18 - 6/27/18** CFMA National Annual Conference will be held in Miami Beach, Florida



Volunteer Opportunities The CFMA is always looking for ways to connect its members to the community. Please let a Board or Promotion Committee know of any volunteer opportunities.

Social Media Remember to like us on social media!



Student Members

We currently do not have any student members and are hoping to increase student involvement by offering an initial free lunch at our General Membership meetings. If you know any students or student groups that may be interested, please email Ann Plummer at aplummer@beenegarter.com



CFMA Western Michigan Chapter Mission Statement

As the source and resource of construction financial management in West Michigan, our Association unites individuals having financial responsibilities in the construction industry. We provide a forum through which the Association's members can meet to network and exchange ideas. We promote and encourage leadership within the construction industry, as well as our Association. We develop and coordinate educational programs dedicated to the purpose of improving the professional standards of the industry and enhancing the value of construction financial managers to their respective companies.

Membership Update

New General Members:

Jamie Montague / Feyen Zylstra / Referred by William Herington

Mandalyn Powers / Owen-Ames-Kimball / Referred by Owen-Ames-Kimball Employees

Welcome to all of our new members. Thanks to those who participated in our member profiles section. We look forward to seeing more profiles in next quarter's newsletter!

Membership Stats:

General Members	65 members	59%
Associate Members	46 members	41%
Total Chapter Membership	111 members	

Know anyone who may like to join the CFMA Western Michigan Chapter? Click [here](#) for a membership application. Please invite a guest to an upcoming lunch—their lunch will be free! Contact Ann Plummer (aplummer@beenegarter.com) for details.



CFMA Member Spotlight

Welcome to some of our newest members:

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Jamie Montague FEYEN ZYLSTRA

1) How long have you been with your company and what areas of the business do you work in?

I have been with Feyen Zylstra since May 2017. I am their new Financial Controller overseeing finance and accounting.

2) What do you enjoy most about working at your company?

Although new to the role and the organization, I based my decision to come to work at FZ on the Company culture. So far I am enjoying the fast-paced nature and collaborative work environment between our different service groups.

3) What interested you in joining the CFMA West Michigan Chapter and what membership benefits do you hope to attain?

I recently made the transition from public accounting to private industry after 7 years with Plante Moran in Detroit. I thought this would be a great way to start networking in West Michigan as well as within the construction industry that is somewhat new to me.

4) What is your favorite hobby or activity to do when you're not working?

I enjoy cheering on my Michigan State University football and basketball teams. Go Green!



Mandalyn Powers OWEN-AMES-KIMBALL

1) How long have you been with your company and what areas of the business do you work in?

I'm in my first year of employment at Owen-Ames-Kimball. I work in our accounting department as a billing specialist. It is great to work both internally with our project managers and externally with subcontractors and clients.

2) What do you enjoy most about working at your company?

O-A-K has such a great team of people working here. It has been wonderful working with such a welcoming and supportive group. I also love the rich history of the company; it's awesome to be able to look all over Grand Rapids and say "We built that!" especially the beautiful historical buildings throughout the city.

3) What interested you in joining the CFMA West Michigan Chapter and what membership benefits do you hope to attain?

I'm always looking to meet new people, so the networking opportunities that CFMA provides interested me. Also being new to the industry, I hope to benefit from the seminars, webinars, and round tables that CFMA offers as I work to learn all I can about the financial/accounting aspects of the construction industry.

4) What is your favorite hobby or activity to do when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I love being outside. If the weather is warm, I spend most of my weekends out on a boat, at the beach, or hiking. If it's cold, you'll find me hibernating or exploring the world through books.