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A Quarterly Publication from the Western Michigan Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT
THERESA SICKLES

Something greater than the sum of its parts.

As I begin my presidency, I've taken time to reflect on the several years I've spent participating on the board, in various committees, and in a mixture of roundtables. The people I've had a chance to connect with through these experiences are inviting, diverse, brilliant, and willing to lend a helping hand.

The joint efforts of the individuals in each of these circumstances create a synergy that makes participating in this organization stimulating and enjoyable.

Synergy is defined by the *Cambridge English Dictionary* as "the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately". As an organization of "numbers people", we live daily in a world where $2 + 2 = 4$. But imagine this instead...something greater than the sum of its parts. Odd when you really think of it, but it does add up (pun intended).

...Being part of a roundtable that works together to brainstorm solutions on an issue for one of the participants.

...Participating on a committee where tons of energy and laughter fills the meeting, but at the same time important agendas are being created.

...Attending a board meeting when ideas are created and formed to build great monthly member events consisting of fun and timely topics and speakers.

These inviting environments have provided places where people of different personalities, backgrounds, and experience levels feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and ideas. This input gains momentum, and soon everyone is adding great concepts into the mix until the outcome is far superior to what it could ever be on an individual level. Pretty fantastic!

FROM THE PRESIDENT
THERESA SICKLES

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Steven Covey states in his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, "When people begin to interact together genuinely, and they're open to each other's influence, they begin to gain new insight. The capability of inventing new approaches is increased exponentially because of differences." Everyone has engaging and insightful input based on their personal experiences; all members just need the right environment to share their thoughts and feel comfortable in a team environment. When everyone participates, that's when you know you are building synergy.

I am fortunate to be able to take the experiences that I've had through this organization and apply them to the rest of my life, professionally and personally. And, I've realized what I'm getting from this organization is so far beyond the sum of the parts I've invested.

CFMA WESTERN MICHIGAN
CHAPTER

CFMA Western Michigan Chapter is proud to announce the following 2018-2019 Board of Directors. Special thanks to Jennifer Murphy for serving on the Board over the past 5 years as Director, Secretary, Vice President, President, and Past President. Your leadership and commitment has been a great contribution to our Chapter!



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Chapter News (Past Events)

Western Michigan Chapter Announces 2018 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our Scholarship recipients who were announced at the General Membership Meeting in April.

Sarah Vlasblom and Danielle Pennings from Beene Garter LLP, Scott Bishop from Buist Electric, and John Naylor from Top Grade Site Management Contractors, were each awarded a scholarship towards attending the 2018 CFMA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Miami Beach, Florida in June 2018, or towards the CCIFP exam.



Golf Outing Recap

The 3rd Annual CFMA West Michigan Jon Penning Memorial Golf Scramble was held Tuesday, June 19, 2018 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 Scott Bishop, Matt Kelly, Andy VerMurlen, & Josh Burgess.

In addition, the following golfers were recognized:

Putting contest winner: Steve Boersma

Men's longest drive: Steve Davis

Women's longest drive: Michele Perrin

We would like to extend special thanks to all of our sponsors:

- Allied Electric, Inc.
- Beene Garter LLP
- Buist Electric, Inc.
- Crowe Horwath LLP
- Enterprise Fleet Management



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Chapter News (Past Events)

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- Hilger Hammond, PC
- HNI Risk Services of Michigan
- Hylant
- Kent Companies, Inc.
- Macomb Group
- Mercantile Bank
- Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.
- Pleune Service Company
- River City Mechanical

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 4th Annual CFMA West Michigan Jon Penning Memorial Golf Outing next year!

General Membership Meeting Recaps

March's meeting featured a presentation on "Managing and Understanding Prevailing Wage." This discussion was led by Adam Strong from Michigan Department of Transportation.

April's meeting featured a presentation on Frederik Meijer Gardens' expansion and was led by David Hooker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

May's meeting featured a presentation by Natalie Stubblefield from Plante Moran on the benefits and conflicts of having a generationally diverse workforce, as well as how to engage different generations in the workplace.

Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to our speakers!

Joint Meeting

On May 9, 2018 West Michigan CFMA Members joined American Subcontractors Association of Michigan (ASAM) members for a joint breakfast meeting. Aileen Leipprandt and Benjamin Hammond from Hilger Hammond, PC led a discussion on AIA Contract document updates.

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.



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.

Chapter Calendar

9/13/18 – General Membership Meeting/Roundtable Session

10/26/18 – General Membership Meeting

11/15/18 – General Membership Meeting

1/17/19 – General Membership Meeting

2/21/19 – General Membership Meeting

3/21/19 – General Membership Meeting

4/25/19 – General Membership Meeting

5/16/19 – General Membership Meeting

*CFMA Western Michigan chapter has changed its general membership meeting venue to the Downtown Market in Grand Rapids.



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Membership Update

New General Members:

Nick Snider / The Bouma Corporation

Jeff Lippert / Westwind Construction

Michael Rausch / Feyen Zylstra, LLC

Tracee Young / Feyen Zylstra, LLC

New Associate Members:

Daniel Hatch / Hilger Hammond, PC

Sharon Hayward / The Campbell Group

Jacob Huffman / Old Republic Surety Company

Elizabeth Cannon / Beene Garter LLP

Rebecca Malaski / Crowe Horwath LLP

Kim Lauber / Trailhead Networks

John Fitzgerald / Gallagher

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!

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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Jacob Huffman OLD REPUBLIC SURETY COMPANY

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

Five years. Surety Bonding.

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

Getting to work with Contractors.

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

I am new to West Michigan so hope to utilize CFMA's vast network of local professionals and their expertise in the area.

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

Golfing, hiking, general physical activity.



Elizabeth Cannon BEENE GARTER LLP

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

Just over 1 year! I am responsible for our Accounting Outsourcing Services group. I also install Sage Intacct Accounting software for those clients who may not need our outsourced services.

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

I enjoy working with our clients! I like to hear about their businesses and I get great satisfaction out of my job by providing them solutions and services to meet their needs.

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

I was a member of the Northwest Ohio CFMA for many years before I relocated to West Michigan. I worked for an electrical subcontractor as a controller. Because I knew the history of CFMA, I was interested in joining in West Michigan. CFMA provides great learning opportunities. I am looking forward to networking with the members of CFMA West Michigan.

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

I love to "camp" in our travel trailer.



Sharon Hayward THE CAMPBELL GROUP

Sharon represents The Campbell Group's senior leadership team. Her role is to oversee key client relationships, including pre-renewal strategy, open items, risk management program creation and options, loss analysis and forecasts, and working closely with clients to design and implement risk management and insurance programs. She has nearly thirty years in the insurance industry and has earned her CPCU and CIC designations. Sharon is a graduate of the University of Denver. In her spare time she hikes, reads, and practices yoga.