

EXTRAS

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

Summer 2009

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From the President

Chapter Involvement by Steve Huisjen

With the emergence of spring also comes the start of a new fiscal year for our West Michigan Chapter. It's a time that we can reset our priorities and refocus on what is important in our lives. I hope that CFMA is toward the top of your list of priorities for the year. The question that you may be asking is "What's in it for me?" There is a multitude of ways that you can get involved and realize the benefits of being a member of CFMA.

The first level of involvement is attending the monthly chapter luncheons. As a general rule, over half of our members routinely attend these meetings. In addition to renewing acquaintances and making new ones, the lunch programs have received high

remarks for both speakers and topics. A few of the presentations made over this past year include: Rick Albin – Election Update, Lou Glazier – Michigan Future, David Barrons – MBT Update, Peter Kok & Nate Plantinga – Employee's Free Choice, Ken VanderMeeden – Better Business Bureau. In addition to these

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quality topics, CPE is awarded for the majority of these Programs.

The second level of involvement is serving on one of our committees which include Programs, Membership, Promotions and the Golf Committee. In addition to giving back and promoting CFMA, you will have a chance to make long lasting contacts and friendships with the other committee members.

The third level of involvement is taking the time to read CFMA's Building Profits magazine. Too often we get busy and this magazine sits on a pile of unread

junk mail in our office. Once you take the time to read it, you will realize the benefits it contains.

The fourth level of involvement is joining a roundtable group. These groups start meeting in October each year and run through May of the following year. The Roundtable Program is a great networking vehicle and provides the opportunity to interact with peers, in order to generate creative solutions to your business problems.

Approximately 30% of our membership participates in the program on an annual basis.

A few other opportunities include attending the CFMA National Convention or obtaining the CCIFP designation. This year the National Convention will be held in Las Vegas from May 16-20. The CCIFP exam will be held on Saturday May 16.

As you can see the list of opportunities is quite extensive. I encourage you to get involved in CFMA this year and realize its benefits for both you and your Company.



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.

ASPE CFMA

Golf 19th ANNUAL Outing

On Wednesday, June 3rd, we held our 19th Annual CFMA and ASPE Golf Outing. We enjoyed a sunny and warm day and were able to enjoy lunch on the patio for the first time in many years. Despite the economic challenges that our members have been facing, we still had a very good turn out with a total of 12 teams and 10 hole sponsors. We would also like to thank the following members for their generous donations:



Hole Sponsors

- ◆ Miller Johnson
- ◆ Crowe Horwath LLP
- ◆ Beene Garter LLP
- ◆ Dan Vos Construction
- ◆ Hub International
- ◆ Rohde Construction
- ◆ B&V Mechanical
- ◆ CD Barnes

Door Prize Donations

- ◆ Lighthouse Insurance - Gift Certificates
- ◆ Insulation Services Inc. - CD Player
- ◆ Crowe Horwath - iPod Touch
- ◆ Beene Garter - 2 Gift Cards
- ◆ FHTC - 2 dozen Calaway golf balls

We would also like to recognize the following winners:

- ◆ Longest Drive Men - *Scott Wiersma*
- ◆ Longest Drive Women - *Ann Plummer*
- ◆ Closest to the Pin Men - *Joe Rosloniec*
- ◆ Closest to the Pin Women - *Guyaine Donovan*

3rd Place Golf

(with a score of 60)

Adam Jones - Rockford Construction

Ken Bailey - Rockford Construction

Patrick Wilhelm - Rockford Construction

Brian Wierenga - Rockford Construction

2nd Place Golf

(With a score of 56)

Raymond Holt - Franklin Holwerda

Matt Holt - DK Weiss & Associates

Dennis Weiss - DK Weiss & Associates

Steve White - GLT Plastic Packaging Corp.

1st Place Golf

(With an impressive score of 54)

Doug Weston - Installation & Environmental Services

Chet Babcock - Installation & Environmental Services

Jason German - Installation & Environmental Services

Ron Roede - Installation & Environmental Services

Congratulation to all our winners!!

The annual golf outing raises funds that allows our chapter to provide scholarships for our members to either attend the National Conference or to take the Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional (CCIFP) exam. This year, we were able to provide three members each with an \$800 scholarship to attend the Annual National Conference & Expedition in Las Vegas that took place May. The scholarship recipients were **Todd Miller**, **Shanna Reynolds**, and **Gretchen Cole**. Todd and Shanna reflect on their experiences at the conference...



"This was my second time going to a CFMA national conference, both of which I have attended in Las Vegas. As before, I thought the event was very well put together, well organized, and provided useful sessions and information. I thought the welcome reception had great food, entertainment, and was very well attended. It provides opportunities to socialize with fellow attendees, as well as a place to initially connect with fellow West Michigan CFMA members! It is so nice to see the people you meet at the reception, or at prior conferences, in the days following, during sessions and reconnect! In regards to the sessions, I have to say that I enjoyed every one that I went to. The instructors were knowledgeable, open to questions, and other points of view, and even made themselves available after their scheduled times for follow up. Even though I did not attend the after hours event, as I had seen this show before, I very much appreciate the fact that they put effort into organizing social activities during the conference, and I only heard great feedback from those that attended! Overall, I increased my knowledge AND had a great time! What could be better??"

~ Shanna Reynolds, Crowe Horwath

"In reflecting on my experiences at the CFMA National Conference, I should point out that this was only the second time attending the National Conference and the first time I was able to attend a Chapter Summit VII. My favorite part of the Conference was meeting new people at the Sessions, then at the golf outing because we shared thoughts, ideas and various experiences. (That isn't to say that I did not love every minute of earning CPE credits!) Another big favorite for me was to have people from our own Chapter in attendance and spend time outside of the Sessions with them as well. The feeling that I received is that you are part of something larger than yourself, that these other people attending the Conference with you have a unique ability to understand some of the challenges and opportunities that we each face."

~ Todd Miller, Elzinga & Volkers

All chapter members are eligible and invited to put their name in for these scholarships each year. Drawings for the scholarship are generally done at the April General Membership Meeting. Please keep an eye out in future publications for more information.



FOCUS N

Hilger & Hammond, PC

Stephen Hilger, a member of the West Michigan chapter, had a vision for his construction law practice. Steve, who has served the construction law community for over 26 years, felt it was time to open his own law office in the fall of 2008. Having participated in many complex construction and commercial cases in multiple courts and many different states, Steve hoped his reputation both inside and outside the courtroom would be enough to allow him to continue to serve the construction

community, even in these tough economic times.

As the practice quickly grew, Steve opened a new office at 49 Monroe Center, NW, Grand Rapids. The office has a relaxed atmosphere, much different from other law offices.

Soon after moving to the new office, Steve decided to ask another attorney to join him. Ben Hammond, also an established attorney in the legal construction

field, joined the firm which is now named Hilger & Hammond, PC. “Ben is a strong addition to the practice,” Steve says, “I am pleased to have him on board.”

Hilger & Hammond, P.C.

provides a broad array of legal services to the construction community, including extensive contract preparation, review and negotiation. You can visit Hilger & Hammond, P.C. at <http://hilgerlaw.com>.

