From the President

“State of the Chapter” Address

by Todd Miller

It only seems appropriate at this time of year to discuss the overall health of our local West Michigan Chapter. Over the course of the past year, we have had some real success in increasing our membership by 8.6%. This is a tribute to each and every one of you who stay involved and encourage others to join, as well as the value that new and existing members see in CFMA in general.

As a non-profit, it is not our intention to make money, but it is our objective to remain financially viable. Your Board has worked together to defend our Balance Sheet, and we continue to maintain adequate funds for an organization of our size.

You have read about many of our members’ community involvement and philanthropic endeavors on behalf of the organization.

Recently, we received a thank you letter from the Landstuhl Wounded Warrior Ministry Center for your contributions. We should all be proud to be part of an organization that places such a high value on the support of our Nation’s troops.

The West Michigan Chapter has managed to keep the cost of the... cont’d on Page 2

...we have had some real success in increasing our membership by 8.6%. This is a tribute to each and every one of you who stay involved and encourage others to join...”
general membership meetings the same for another year. (In fact, I believe they have been the same for at least 10 years.) Our purpose is to provide the best value to our members and a forum for being “The Source & Resource for Construction Financial Professionals.”

I encourage you to visit our West Michigan Chapter Website at www.cfma-wmi.org or the national website at www.cfma.org to see all of the resources that our National Affiliation provides us.

Thanks to members like you, the state of our Chapter remains strong. Let’s continue to work together to provide the financial leadership that our industry needs.

Construction Liens On Public Projects?
Michigan Legislature Considers Proposal To Allow Construction Liens On Government Property

On January 29, 2009, five state senators introduced Senate Bill No. 140 which would amend the Michigan Construction Lien Act. The proposed amendment would allow construction liens to be recorded on real property owned or leased by a governmental entity. It is unclear what impact this proposed amendment would have on bonding requirements. Also, there appears to be significant practical hurdles to this proposed amendment, particularly in the context of foreclosure of a publicly owned piece of land. This proposed bill was immediately sent to the committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform. It will be interesting to monitor this proposed amendment to see what traction, if any, it gains in the coming months.

You can review the bill at http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-SB-0140

Senate Bill 140
Based in West Michigan, Connect Resources strives to connect companies with experienced accounting and finance professionals for direct hire, interim, and contract staffing solutions. Likewise, Connect Resources represents talented accounting and finance professionals looking for career opportunities with great companies.

Leveraging nearly a decade of recruiting experience, Connect Resources serves as an effective business partner to hiring managers and a responsive consultant to career candidates…connecting companies and candidates whose paths were meant to cross. The Connect Resources process is focused on building long term relationships with hiring managers and candidates.

Why Use Connect Resources?
Companies looking for finance and accounting talent utilize the services of Connect Resources because we take the time to fully understand the hiring need, and the culture of the company. Connect Resources truly partners with our client companies to ensure that every candidate sourced for a position is an excellent match, and worthy of the time for an interview.

Likewise, top candidates are very busy people who recognize that a recruiter can truly be a career coach, saving them time and energy so they can focus on their careers. Connect Resources brings only the best career opportunities to our candidates - we value your time and career goals.

Headquartered in West Michigan, Connect Resources was founded by Todd Hanson, CPA. After earning his accounting degree from Central Michigan University, he earned his CPA designation while working on the audit staff with Ernst & Young. He then served in a variety of financial management roles with major West Michigan companies including Haworth, Herman Miller, Brunswick and Steelcase. Todd brings a decade of specialized recruiting experience, providing finance and accounting professionals for direct hire, interim, and contract staffing solutions.

Direct Hire
Connect Resources expedites the hiring process and minimizes the number of candidate interviews, which saves our clients’ valuable time. This is accomplished by fully understanding the hiring need, company culture, and interview process.

Interim Financial Resources
When a search for a key financial position is being conducted, we can provide an interim solution that will “run the show” until a permanent solution is hired. This need often arises when an organization does not have in-house talent that can handle the work-load until your full time search is completed.

Cont’d on Page 4
When your staff is needed for a project, such as an acquisition or system implementation, we provide the interim financial solution that can run the “day to day”, freeing up your staff for the special project. If the economic climate has delayed your hiring decisions, we can provide an interim financial resource to manage the work-load until a decision is made to hire a new employee.

**Project Based Financial Resources**

When a CFO or Controller has project based needs, and needs to “clone” themselves to meet the demands of a special project requiring unique skills and experience, **Connect Resources** can help. We will provide an experienced financial professional on a project basis to bring the unique experience and skills required for your specific project.

**We Help You Find The Opportunity You’ve Been Searching For**

**Connect Resources** represents finance and accounting professionals interested in “partnering” with a recruiter. Our goal is to make you aware of job opportunities that align with your career and family goals.

**At Connect Resources, we take the time to meet with you, to get to know you, and to understand your career aspirations.** We are your coach, helping you highlight the skills & experience that will put you on the top of the hiring manager’s list. We’re your “eyes and ears” in the market, watching out for new opportunities for you to shine. We are your partner, working with you to help you find the next step in your career.

At **Connect Resources**, we help you prepare for the interview. We have worked with thousands of candidates and employers before and after the interview process. We know what goes right, and what goes wrong. Most importantly, we know what you need to do to win the position, and we are here to share that with you.

**Connect Resources** specializes in the recruitment and placement of finance and accounting professionals for direct hire and contract staffing solutions, offering a Unique and Successful Approach to connecting companies and Candidates.

For more information: [www.connect-resources.com](http://www.connect-resources.com).

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**April 1st**

Don’t forget to put April 1st on your calendars for our walk-through of the Van Andel Institute!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION TO THE LANDSTUHL WOUNDED WARRIOR MINISTRY CENTER

I am writing to thank you for supporting America’s sons and daughters who are making hard sacrifices for our precious freedom and to acknowledge your check #1228 in the amount of $710.00 or your material donation in the amount of $______. Your donations provide both comfort and encouragement for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and their family members that come to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Ramstein Air Force Base. Your generosity makes it possible for us to assist these wounded warriors and their families.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is a beacon of healthcare for America’s servicemen and women abroad. Spiritual support through Pastoral Services and your gifts enhance the holistic healthcare we provide for all those who proudly perform their sacred duty.

What you have given blesses these precious men and women. I want to thank you for your caring and compassionate service to all those who serve our country so well.

Blessings and peace,

CH (MAJ) Eric R. Meyers
Chaplain,
Wounded Warrior Ministry Center
This year’s recipient of the LaForest Krantz Member of the Year Award has been a member of the Western Michigan Chapter since 2002. Our recipient, Harriet Perdue, has worked in accounts payable, accounts receivable and cash management rolls for Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. for 12 years. As part of our Chapter, she has been active on the Promotions committee, where she wears many hats. She took charge of getting our website set up and maintains it for our Chapter. Who can forget the 12 Days of Toys for Tots each year before our November toy collection? Rumor has it one of those songs was created while on vacation with her sisters! She helps organize our social gatherings – 15th Anniversary party at Forest Hills Fine Art Center, winter outings to Grand Rapids Civic Theatre productions and summer outings to the Picnic Pops. Harriet was very active in the Troops collection effort over the past years and attended her first Annual Conference in Orlando, FL in 2008. Our Chapter would not be the same without, you, Harriet!

Congratulations and thank you for all you do!
Welcome to our newest member since our last issue of Extras!

**Gretchen Cole**
Griffith Builders, Inc.

**Jeff Kerr**
Pleune Service Company
  Referred by Steve Tebeau

**Kim Zawacki**
Omega Construction Co., Inc.

**Stephen Hilger**
Stephen A. Hilger, PC
  Referred by Ann Plumber

**Edward Pylman**
Pylman Power, Inc.
  Referred by Jake Berzkalns

**Ginger Brauer**
Vos Glass
  Referred by Mike Poggi

Welcome to all of you!

If you have any questions about membership, please contact any Membership Committee member listed below:

- **Ken Bos**
  Hylant Group
  ken.bos@hylant.com

- **John D. Koscielniak**
  Walburg & Associates, PC
  jkoscielniak@walburg.com

- **Ann M. Plummer**
  Beene Garter LLP
  aplummer@beenegarter.com

- **Michael Poggi**
  Pinnacle Insurance Partners
  mikep@pipgrmi.com

- **Todd Hanson**
  Connect Resources
  todd@connect-resources.com

- **Suzanne Strauss**
  Great Lake Systems, Inc.
  suzanne@glstroof.com

- **John LaBarge**
  Owen Ames Kimball Co.
  jlabarge@owen-ames-kimball.com

**Membership Update**

**Membership Statistics as of October 2008:**

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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By Ann Plummer
General Membership Meetings

All meetings will be held at the University Club on the tenth floor of the Fifth Third Bank building located at the intersection of Ottawa and Lyon in downtown Grand Rapids. Parking will be at the attendee’s expense.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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| February 26, 2009 | Current Issues & Scams  
**Speaker:** Ken VanderMeeden (BBB) | Bob Brazda |
| March 26, 2009   | Hot Topics in I-9 Compliance & Worksite Enforcement  
**Speaker:** Susan Im | Dan Challa |
| April 23, 2009   | Innovation Works & Sustainability  
**Speaker:** Bill Foley, Innovation Director | Steve Huisjen |
| May 14, 2009    | Sports Kinesiology/Stress Exercise                 |            |

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.