It's hard to believe fall is here already, although it seems like Mother Nature is trying to fool us into thinking it's still summer. Nonetheless, a cooler breeze is sure to grace North Texas in the coming weeks and the trees will don some beautiful fall colors if we're lucky enough to catch a fleeting glimpse before they turn to brown. Although you'll soon see the signs of dormancy and hibernation take place all around us, you'll surely notice your DFW chapter doing the exact opposite!

I want to thank our committees for the phenomenal work they're doing to provide meaningful Value and engaging opportunities for our members. Each one has stepped up their game and they are gearing up for an even more exciting and impactful Q4.

We recently turned a page in how we communicate with our members. On September 16th, we sent out the first IFMA DFW Weekly Update. This weekly publication, arriving by e-mail around 10 AM on Mondays, includes details on upcoming events and engagement opportunities without cluttering your IN box. Please watch for this email each week as you will no longer receive event specific emails.

The majority of IFMA members fall into two classifications: "Professionals" and "Associates". This naming convention has not been without debate because our Associate members ARE professionals in their own industry. While the discussion continues with IFMA, we are proactively and informally addressing this within our chapter. Our Associates now will be referred to as "Business Partners". If you're an FM Professional, please support our Business Partners by allowing them to develop a solution to meet your facility needs.

In the coming weeks, we'll announce some exciting changes to our Preferred Business Partner program. These changes include the addition of a "Diamond" level tier, our highest yet, terms that coincide with our fiscal year, a revised pricing structure and added value at every level. Stay tuned for more details.

The DFW chapter has always had strong representation at World Workplace and 2019 is shaping up to be one of the best we've seen. To date, 77 members are registered to attend. I encourage those who are registered to join us at the Awards of Excellence Luncheon and Closing Keynote on Friday, Oct. 18 beginning at 1:15 PM as YOUR chapter will be honored with an award! Also, don't forget to stop by the DFW hospitality suite on Oct. 15 and 16 to connect with your DFW IFMA family. I hope to see you in Phoenix.

Wishing you all the best,

Micah O'Dell, CFM, SFP, FMP, COEE
President Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of IFMA 2019-2020
Our Preferred Business Partners

Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

< BACK
How did you get into the FM field?

I was hired to work in the customer service booth at Irving Mall. After a few months, I moved to the management office as receptionist, and then into a temporary accounting position. I then worked as a receptionist with FM Realty Group, and later a Property Manager. Each employment change provided new opportunities to manage different types of real estate and the chance to learn and grow. I have managed retail, industrial, Class B and C office buildings and data centers.

How did you learn about IFMA?

I realized I needed to network within the industry and found IFMA through a Google search. I was familiar with other industry groups, but I found them lacking in key areas.

Name your proudest accomplishment?

Honestly, I am proud to say that I worked my way from receptionist to senior facility manager while being a single Mom for much of the time.

How would you describe your IFMA relationships?

Because of the Members, I try never to miss a meeting or event. IFMA is the one place I can talk about work without eyes glazing over in 30 seconds. Members share their vast experience and knowledge without bias or hesitation; just ask. They’re like a huge family that supports you whether you’re facing a personal or professional challenge. I feel privileged to belong.

What advice would you give future FMs?

1) Become active in IFMA; 2) Take advantage of every opportunity to learn about your building and how it operates from your co-workers, colleagues, business partners, and; 3) Educate yourself through outside training sources. The more you understand about building operations, building systems, finances, budgeting, etc., the more you position yourself to be a conduit between your team and the C-Suite. The opportunities to grow professionally (and financially) are without limit.

What is one thing that no one knows about you?

In 1988, during the Cold War, I lived in Germany and was fluent in the language. I was on my way back to West Berlin from attending a training class in Frankfurt when my car broke down in East (Socialist) Germany. After calling a towing service, the tow truck arrived, put my car on the truck and started heading to the nearest Western border. I asked the driver, an East German, what would happen when we got to the border (it was illegal to “fraternize” with the enemy, punishable by imprisonment for being a spy). He said we had to go through a Russian military checkpoint and that is when I told him I had an American passport. He paled and almost started crying. When we arrived at the border, he handed the guard my passport, and we were surrounded by heavily armed Russian soldiers who made rude comments and gestures for four hours before letting us go. It was terrifying!

What do you enjoy outside of work?

Traveling and volunteering with the Dallas Goethe Center, a non-profit that promotes German language and culture in North Texas.
Committee Updates

**Committee Chairs**

**Associates:**
Cheryl Costello; Chair

**Awards:**
Jamie Vaughan, FMP; Chair
Linda Hasley; Co-Chair

**Community Affairs:**
Ali Bahr, SFP, FMP; Chair

**Education:**
Peter Aguirre, CFM, SFP; Chair
Belva Lowry, Co-Chair

**FM Expo:**
Kelly Naumann; Chair
Scott Foster; Co-Chair

**Golf:**
Mark Slicker; Chair
Jay Hawkins; Co-Chair

**Holiday:**
Debbie Hawkins; Chair
Nixon Exantus; Co-Chair

**Job Bank:**
Linda Waters, CFM, SFP; Chair
Didi Wykes, CFM; Co-Chair

**Membership:**
Dewayne Holley; Chair

**Programs:**
Kelly Conley; Chair
Philip Jabour; Co-Chair

**Technology:**
Kelly Gosse; Chair
Zoe Freeman; Co-Chair

**Young Professionals:**
Elisa Barsotta; Chair

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**Education**
The Education Committee is working hard to increase the number of members who are working toward IFMA certifications, and to date, we have five new FMPs, two more SFPs, and four more CFMs in the Chapter. The Board has made education a top priority and more affordable, and has assigned Didi Wykes, CFM, to identify and work with all who want to obtain these credentials and will be working to get you enrolled. Contact Rich Johnson to place your order for training materials so that you receive a Chapter discount if available.

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**Golf**
The Golf Committee has decided to have the tournament start in the morning instead of the afternoon. So plan on teeing off just after 9 AM, Monday, April 27th at The Tribute in The Colony!

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**FM Expo**
Our annual FMexpo tradeshow is confirmed for Thursday, February 20th at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel, 900 E. Lookout Dr., Richardson, TX. Be sure to save the date! Please contact Kelly Naumann, knaumann@camelotservices.com to join the committee.

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**Holiday**

![Denim & Diamonds](Image)

Save the Date

**Technology**
Attendees at our recent Texas Motor Speedway event were asked to rank their use of social media on a scale from 1-5. The average is shown below with weighted shading on where people landed.

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**Programs**
November’s event will be at the Hunt Dallas Campus with a tour of the Hunt Headquarters Building and a program in the Event Space at the Sharyland Building next door. More details to follow.

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**Interested in joining a committee?**
Numerous opportunities are available and we would love for you to be a part of the chapter’s exciting work. Please email info@dfwifma.org for more information.
We hope you enjoy this collage of photos from our Sign & Ride event this month at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth!
We kick-off every fiscal year with a team-building event between Committee Chairs and the Board.
Upcoming Events

Friday, October 4:  
Tarrant Area Food Bank  
9 AM - Noon, 2600 Cullen St., Fort Worth  
SIGN UP

Wednesday, October 9:  
Furniture Services Contracting/Management Best Practices  
Webinar - Noon - 1 PM  
REGISTER

Tues., October 15 & Wed., October 16:  
DFW Hospitality Suite - IFMA World Workplace  
5 PM - Midnight, Hanny's, 40th N. First St., Phoenix, AZ  
SPONSOR

For more information or to register, visit the DFW IFMA website or contact info@dfwifma.org

What Word Would You Choose or Add?

Here's a list of words Members contributed when asked at the September Sign & Ride event to describe the Chapter in a single word.