



SpotLight on Maintenance

OPFMA Newsletter - Connecting Knowledge with Public Facilities' Needs!

January 2007

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Ohio Public Facilities Maintenance Association

Successful Closing of 2006 – OPFMA President's Word

Inside Edition Articles:

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The fall quarter is always the most intense period of time for OPFMA, as the most important event of the year, the annual conference, takes place during this time. The 2006 conference and trade show was one of the best in at least a have a dozen years based on our attendees' evaluations! We also "heard" your suggestions (some came as complaints and rightfully so!) regarding the lengths of sessions, repeat of different topics, etc.

I can assure you that the new chairman of the conference committee and the new OPFMA vice-president, Norman T. Sorge, maintenance supervisor at Medina City Schools, has already started working on the next year's conference preparations. We anticipate a larger participation from members, associate members, non-members and exhibitors next year.

We are very pleased and honored that several conference participants had volunteered to help with the next year conference organization - but Norm will definitely like to "hear" from anyone else who'd like to be part of the team!

OPFMA is preparing for even more intense activities as the coming year brings new and higher requirements for maintenance departments resulted from the new legislation (HB251) that has just been approved by both chambers of

the Ohio Congress. The number of students for the BOC program has a potential to be five to ten time larger due to the HB251 bill.

Another recently passed law; "Jarod's law" will also require our "attention".

OPFMA Education Committee Chairman Ted Howell, (principal at EIG) and Marketing Committee Chairman Randy Crossley, (Director of Maintenance at Lima City Schools) and their committees are drafting plans to accommodate the new and increased tasks. If you are reading this note you may be an OPFMA member or someone that has an interest in the OPFMA activities and if you think that you can support OPFMA please don't hesitate to write or call any of the board members or administrative staff. The contact info is listed in this newsletter as well as on the OPFMA internet site - www.opfma.org

Thank you for your hearty support and the participation at the 20th Conference as well as at the BOC seminars series that OPFMA had organized through out 2006.

I wish you and your family a very healthy and prosperous New Year!

Constantin Draganoin



Table of Excuses - to look out for in 2007

- That's the way we've always done it.
- I didn't know you were in a hurry for it.
- That's not my department.
- No-one told me to go ahead
- I'm waiting for an OK.
- That's his job not mine
- Wait till the boss comes back and ask him.
- I forgot.
- I didn't think it was very important
- I'm so busy I just can't get around to it.



Teamwork improved performance - produces record numbers



Pleased attendees decide to make a difference

The OPFMA 20th Annual Conference and Trade Show created great enthusiasm among participants and some doers even took action volunteering to team up with us for 2007 Conference!

We all appreciate very much their hearty support honoring their names individually and here they are:

Dave Beaverson,
Angelia Cleveland,
Herndon Cummings
Dennis Kehn
Brian Lairson
Tom Markovic
Edwin Parks,
Frankie Quick,
Earl Reid and
Kevin Wade



Questions and Answers -
Table Talk sessions

2006 in retrospective is testifying that the hard work pays off! OPFMA had **increased the overall annual conference's attendance by 56%** versus the last year attendance!

OPFMA is very proud of our team's performance, especially that we had the latest starting date ever - due to many challenges, even some health related, there were changes and adjustments in the Conference Committee and its leadership.

2006 Exhibitors' participation was **increased by 45%** - we regretted that we had to turn away willing exhibitors as the exhibition pavilion reached its maximum capacity. There was a time when we've thought only a miracle will make this conference happen - but now we can say that the 2006 Conference Committee is for sure a winning team - next year we will look for a larger place!

As you know OPFMA respects its attendees' feedback! We collect, read and tabulate the attendees' evaluation of conference, of each session and speaker as well as the trade show. It guides our organization each year in selecting the most needed educative sessions' topics and organize a trade show that serves our attendees' ever changing requirements.

Here is the attendees' evaluation of OPFMA 2206 Conference and Trade Show:

Conference	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall	69%	31%		
Meeting rooms	31%	38%	31%	
Meals quality	50%	50%		
Sleeping rooms	69%	31%		
Registration packs	50%	50%		
Sessions' Content	56%	38%	6%	
Speakers	63%	37%		
Trade Show	56%	44%		



Beside the "Welcome to Conference" gifts - we reward our attendees with many raffles through out the event!



Attendees and Exhibitors are serving lunch together getting to know each other better!

Attendees sharing their opinion - We're listening!



.... What do you like best about conference?

- The interaction with other maintenance supervisors (Networking)
- The different sessions that were offered and the great info that was provided by the speakers and presenters.
- Always good training, good food and good people.
- I've been attending for 10 yrs. Lots of new faces this year (good) but lots of old faces missing (not good)

Your Suggestions - how to improve...

- Possibly make session longer
- Thanks for another good conference! Consider instead of table talk inviting Execs or CFO's or Board Chairmen for lunch (at a cost) and conversation to see importance of facilities maintenance.
- Larger rooms or more rooms. Larger show.

2006 Membership Increased by 41% - Welcome the Newest OPFMA Members!

In 2006 OPFMA did a magnificent job! Another achievement to be brought into the Spotlight is that OPFMA membership was increased by 41% comparing with that of the year of 2005!

From the very beginning 2006 started with unexpected difficult challenges ranging from health to jobs' tremendous increased demands among the Board members - for sure our board's strength was tested! But under the leadership of OPFMA president Constantin Draganoiu, ever at the core of action despite his own health challenges, our Board pulled through as a strong and agile boat would on a stormy ocean.

It's our pleasure to introduce the "youngest" OPFMA members - and along with our long term loyal members we - **Welcome the new OPFMA Members and Associate Members of the last quarter of 2006!**

We invite you to visit our new Associate Members' website - they could be of assistance to your facilities' needs! There is a direct link to their website from www.opfma.org - click on "Associate Members". Learn how they could assist you!

Here are the newest members - listed by membership category and by date:

Associate Members -

Nature Stone - Russ Masetta - owner - Bedford OH 44146

OutSource Partners Inc - Stan Hunt - facility manager-Newark, OH 43055

SAFEX, Inc. - Kathy Denhard- mgr. bus development -Westerville, OH 43081

Seasons.4 - Rich Swauger - Cloumbus, OH 43228

The Garland Company, Inc - Brandy Freechack - manager - Cleveland, OH 44105

Tremco Inc. - Kelly Ospina - Flemington, NJ 08822

In4mation - division of GBBN Architects Richard A. Grosse, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Individual Membership:

Scott Miller - Construction Maintenance Foreman - City of Sandusky

Michael Hensley - Maintenance - Colonel Crawford L.S., North Robinson

Gregory R. Scherer - Maintenance Supervisor - Continental Local Schools

Jon Holland -Deputy Director Facilities - County of Summit, Cuyahoga Fall

Roger Fisher - Maintenance Supervisor - James A. Garfield L.S. - Garrettsville

Ken Stechschulte - Maintenance Supervisor - Kalida Local School

Steve Waldmann - Business Manager - Kings Local School District, Kings Mill

Cheryl McArthur - Bus. Oper. Supervisor - Manhoning County Edu.Serv. Ctr - Youngstown

Don Schlosser - Montpelier Exempted Village SD

Ron Mayers - Westersville, OH 43081

Charles E. Kelley -Bldg Manager- Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Columbus

Dave Beaverson - Maintenance Supervisor -Otsego Local Schools, Tontogany

Steven R. Heitz - Maintenance Supervisor - Wapakoneta City Schools

Don Arnett - Director of Operations - Wapakoneta City Schools

Institutional Level I

Euclid City Schools - Ken Clickenger - Business manager, Euclid

National Trail LSD - Brain L. Smith -Director of Facilities, New Paris

Northridge Local Schools - Brian Lairson - Maintenance Supervisor, Dayton

Institutional Level II

OSFC - Mark Wantage - Maintenance Administrator - Columbus

Stark State Colledge - Steve Spradling- Director of Facilities - North Canton



The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold your foot long enough to put the other foot higher.

Special Message to the newest members!

Dear New Member "Welcome Aboard" and please feel at home! Ask questions!

Contact our office at: (866) 570-7880

E-mail us at: info@opfma.org

Visit our website: www.opfma.org

Individual and Institutional Members, learn about our Associate Members' services and products it could be useful and profitable to your facilities'!

Associate Members - use your benefits! Let our members learn about your business! Contact us when ready to publish an article or place an ad in our newsletter, or when you want to organize a seminar at your facilities!

Growing Interaction with Other Ohioan Organizations

"OPFMA worked hard to connect with other Ohioan professional organizations.



New relations were developed with BASA, OSBA, OASBO, CCFMA, CES, and others having continuing educations as their mission."

OPFMA has made considerable efforts this year to connect and cooperate with other professional organizations sharing same mission - continued education for public facilities personnel!

We participated as co-sponsors in other conferences and succeeded in obtaining the support of other organizations as co-sponsors for OPFMA annual conference and trade show. Through out 2006 new relations were developed with BASA, OSBA, OASBO, CCFMA, CES, and others.

Just after OPFMA 2006 Conference - a team composed of Sherry Hubbard, from ODOD-OEE, Mark Wantage, Maintenance Administrator for OSFC and OPFMA Board member, Karel Oxley, Superintendent of Lima Schools District, Ted Howell, EIG principal and OPFMA Board member - made a presentation of the BOC program and related issues at the OSBA Annual Conference.

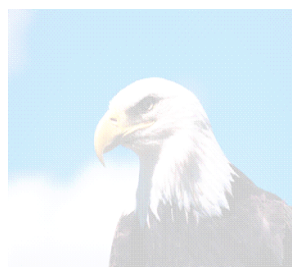
The success of the OPFMA conference has also generated renewed interest from other businesses and professional firms to cooperate and become OPFMA members (Four Seasons Environmental, Inc., Bricker & Eckler LLP, others).

OPFMA has also been asked, and happily accepted, to co-sponsor BASA Spring Conference - Dublin, Ohio, May 17th and 18th 2007.

New organizations chose to join OPFMA for the benefit of their maintenance department employees (i.e., OSFC). Others are in the process of joining OPFMA as members (i.e., Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Department of Youth Services)

By mid-January, OPFMA, with support from the Ohio Board of Regents, Office of Capital Planning, will enter on a dialog with Enterprise Ohio Organization on cooperation toward the BOC program implementation, as the BOC Advisory Committee has recommended after its last meeting.

OPFMA strives to bring meaningful and advantageous relationships with public organizations and businesses across the spectrum that are mutually beneficial. We also welcome ideas and suggestions from OPFMA members for other actions and/or activities.



Clued up and successful managers and supervisors make it regular practice to communicate openly with their staff!

Be a leading communicator

To avoid communication chasms, consider the following "Five C's" of effective communication.

Make sure you're communicating:

- C** **Clearly.** Use language that is easy to understand, avoid vague terminology and, if possible, provide concrete examples. Ask questions after your message is relayed to help ensure complete understanding.
- C** **Consistently.** Avoid sending mixed signals. When you do need to deliver two seemingly conflicting messages, do your best to explain the discrepancy.
- C** **Convincingly.** As a leader, part of your responsibility is to increase peoples' willingness to act - the way you say it and the example you set on a daily basis is more important than what you say.
- C** **Constantly.** A good rule of thumb is to over-communicate. Important messages may need to be repeated a number of times and in different ways to get the point across.
- C** **Co-operatively.** A manager needs the ability to convey ideas, skills and knowledge to others, but it is equally important that he or she is an outstanding listener.



2006 BOC Program surpasses the 2005 BOC by 170%

By Cornel Pod, BOC Program Coordinator

For the BOC Program 2006 was the best year ever - and it wasn't by luck! There was a tremendous teamwork effort. Our board members' tireless assistance and our partners' support helped us achieve the fantastic record of 170% increase in BOC program enrollment comparing with 2005 and we've thought getting a 23% increase in 2005 over 2004 - was great!

Through the efforts of Dr. Emmanuel Anunike, PhD, ODOD/OEE, OPFMA secured a training facility at Trane Columbus. Working with Mr. Mark Wantage, Maintenance Administrator at the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) and now an OPFMA Board Member, we were able to reach out to many school districts throughout the state. We are very grateful for his help. While the students registered were primarily from school districts, six state facilities employees registered utilizing stipends provided by a grant to OPFMA from ODOD/OEE.

The year started out with a bang with the January 2006 BOC class in Columbus that had 35 students registered - maximum accepted per class. There was so much interest in the BOC Program for the Columbus area that we created another class in May 2006! A total of 22 students registered for the class. Also through the efforts of Dr. Anunike, OPFMA secured a training facility at the State

Library of Ohio. The class mix was more diverse from an organizational standpoint. Eight employees from five state facilities registered for the class utilizing stipends provided by a grant to OPFMA from ODOD/OEE.

In response to demand for BOC training in the Lima area, OPFMA created a class that started in Sept 2006 at the Apollo Career Center, Lima, Ohio. At total of 30 students enrolled in the class. Many thanks to Rick Turner, Adult Program Director at the center!

Each of the above classes had more students enrolled than any previous BOC class since the inception of the BOC Program in Ohio. Also, the three BOC classes in 2006 had as many students attending in one year than all previous 8 classes combined since 2003!

OPFMA will be offering a number of classes through out 2007 in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus and Lima. Please check our website for courses offered.

In 2007, due to great demand, we will be offering two BOC Level II classes: one in Columbus starting in late March 2007 and the other class in Cleveland tentatively scheduled for September 2007. Please check on our website for a course description.

Computers and their effect on your eyes

Q. Are VDU's harmful to your eyes?

A. Due to the dramatic increase in computer use - not only in the workplace, but also in the home - complaints of eye fatigue and discomfort are common. Many people assume increased computer use is the source of these complaints. But, extensive testing has not provided conclusive scientific evidence.

Q. Can VDU's cause eyestrain?

A. Although people who look at screens on a daily basis often complain of eye irritation, fatigue and difficulty focusing, Most of the symptoms are caused by conditions surrounding the computer.

Q. How can changes in the workplace reduce eye discomfort?

A. Even the most well-planned office layouts can pose circumstances that are less than ideal. Keep the following points in mind:

- Most users prefer a viewing distance of at least 20 -26 inches.
- The computer screen should be placed below eye level, with reference material placed on a document holder close to the screen. This avoids the stiffness that may occur from swinging your head back and forth and the eyestrain/headaches that may result when your eyes must constantly change focus

"Most of the symptoms are caused by conditions surrounding the computer, such as poor lighting and difficulty focusing, or improper placement of equipment and supplies or improper placement of equipment and supplies"



2007 OPFMA Board Members and Contact Information**2007 OPFMA
Board Meetings**

February
April
June
August
October
December

Board Meetings' Host

M.E. Companies
635 Brooksedge Blvd.
Westerville, OH 43081

- Conference Committee meetings follows Board meetings
- BOC Advisory Committee meetings TBA

Executive Board

President **Constantin Draganoiu** Cleveland State University c.draganoiu@csuohio.edu
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visit our on the Website!

www.opfma.com

Note from Editor -

Dear member, OPFMA writes the "SpotLight on Maintenance" for you and for you only. I would like to have a "two way" communication in order to serve you better. Write me - be assured your identity will not be mentioned if you so chose!

Suggestions - sharing experiences - and constructive criticism, all of these would be very helpful and much appreciated. Write me at: editor@opfma.org or visit our web site and click on "TELL ME MORE" - and let me hear your point of view!

Thank you and have a Great New Year! Alex

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