Meet Your 2015-2016 Volunteer Executive OFFICERS

Learn about your FYE2016 Officers from their responses to these eight questions:

1. In one word, how would you describe your CFMA experience thus far and why?

2. What was one moment or experience that propelled you toward national CFMA leadership?

3. Please describe one example of how your CFMA membership has helped your career or company.

4. What is one thing you do every day to help your career and/or company?

5. What is one goal or accomplishment you hope to achieve this year as an Executive Officer?

6. What is your most memorable CFMA experience?

7. What is one CFMA benefit of which you feel more members should take advantage?

8. What is one thing your fellow CFMA members may not know about you?

1. **Remarkable.** There is no match for CFMA’s education and relationship-building. Not only am I able to bring great ideas and opportunities to my company from CFMA activities, but some of my best friends are also CFMA members. The value here is beyond measure.

2. I was asked to consider being on the Chapter Resource Committee by a former CFMA staff member. I reluctantly agreed, but after a year of participation, I knew I wanted to experience more.

3. Our CFO recently asked me to determine to what extent other contractors deferred revenue and cost on their balance sheets to a percentage of completion before they began recognizing revenue on construction contracts. I posted the question in the Connection Café and had 12 responses in two days! The CFO was blown away.

4. I treat our employees like clients. If I don’t immediately know an answer to a question or issue, then I commit to finding the answer for the person who reached out to me.

5. My first inclination is to say, “Don’t foul it up!” However, I would borrow my more serious response from past national chairman Joe Burkett and say that my goal this year is to leave CFMA a little better than I found it.

6. A few years ago, past national chairman Mel BurgEs called and asked me to serve on the Executive Committee. I am still so honored that he thought enough of my potential contribution to ask me to be on his team.

7. I want more incoming chapter presidents to take advantage of CFMA at Spring Creek. This personal development and management strategy program will change your life. Please encourage those in your chapter’s leadership pipeline to attend. With this year’s Spring Creek being fully subsidized by CFMA for a leader from each chapter and the personal benefits derived, there is no reason to let this opportunity pass you by!

8. Many members may not know that I sing. (Although, if you attended the 2014 Annual Conference, you know this.) **Singing** is truly one of my passions and I use it to express a great deal of emotion.

1. **Awesome.** Everything about CFMA – the members, the Annual Conference, the leaders, the magazine, the educational opportunities, CFMA at Spring Creek – is just totally awesome!

2. **Attending Spring Creek** in 2005 was my first in-depth interaction with folks at the national level and I learned so much about how to become more involved with CFMA. I realized there was far more at the national level than just the Annual Conference.

3. CFMA has helped my career during the two times I’ve relocated. Each time I moved, I contacted the local CFMA chapter president to get a feel for the new area. Through one contact, I was able to connect with several other members (insurance agents, CPAs, bankers, etc.) with whom I would be working in my new role. I had the opportunity to talk with colleagues before I started my new role and was able to **hit the ground running faster.**

4. I read the General Inquiries Digest from CFMA’s Connection Café. There are so many good topics and conversations happening daily. It’s interesting and helpful to see the issues that CFMAs face, as well as the breadth and depth of knowledge within the CFMA community.

5. To have the largest number of CFMA at Spring Creek attendees. The size or age of the chapter doesn’t matter – all chapter leaders should attend. It is the best CFMA leadership development opportunity! Attendees will leave Spring Creek with many new personal and professional skills to add to their toolbox.

6. Attending my first **Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA in 1999** is my most memorable experience. It was a new and exciting experience, and I was amazed by the quality of speakers and sessions. I was immediately sold on the Conference benefits and have attended almost every one since then.

7. **CFMA’s monthly webinars** because they are an easy way for members to keep up with relevant and timely topics as well as earn free continuing education credits.

8. I am fascinated by **horology** – the art or science of measuring time. I have bought, sold, and traded many watches over the years. I also have several antique clocks and a pocket watch that have been passed down to me through my family.

**CHAIRMAN**

J. Brad Robinson, CCIFP
Treasurer, Lend Lease
Charlotte, NC

**VICE CHAIRMAN**

Kenneth L. Chiccotella, CCIFP
Controller, Kirlin Carolinas, LLC
Raleigh, NC

Brad
Member Since 2001
Charlotte Chapter

Ken
Member Since 1998
Triangle Chapter
1. Expanding. Through my CFMA membership and involvement, I’ve expanded my peer network, my knowledge of industry issues, and my leadership skill sets – all of which have positively impacted my role within my company.

2. While serving on the Executive Committee, I had the opportunity to lead a task force with my fellow committee members to determine how to increase member value. The experience stretched my leadership and strategic thinking skills and proved to be a great springboard for moving into an officer role.

3. When I was searching to fill an opening in my company’s accounting department, I reached out to a trusted group of fellow CFMA members, one of whom referred the individual who has now become my second-in-command for five years. Filling this key role with the right hire was critical to my company’s success, and my CFMA connections made the process easier.

4. I ask a lot of questions, which helps me better understand what is going on and allows others to demonstrate that they have fully evaluated a situation or course of action, leading to more informed decision-making.

5. Identify and engage future CFMA leaders. Our Association’s success depends on the numerous passionate volunteers who give their time and talent. And, just as I was inspired and mentored by the many individuals who came before me, I hope to provide the same leadership and service to others.

6. Like Ken, it was my first Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA in 1999. At the time I was fairly new to my career and the industry, and the information I received at the Conference was a jumpstart to my learning. The fact that my company invested in my education spoke to my leadership and service to others.

7. Participating in leadership at the local and national levels. There is no better way to expand your professional network of peers and develop leadership skills for your career and your company.

8. I love running and have completed 11 marathons, including the 2014 Boston Marathon.

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1. Enlightening. Every local and national role I have had within CFMA has opened my eyes to the amount of energy, thought leadership, and dedication it takes to keep our Association running smoothly while continually raising the bar. It amazes me how thoughtful the leadership is and how it has taken member value down paths that enhance our lives and are accretive to the CFMA experience.

2. My first Annual Conference. The amount of intellectual capital, camaraderie, and educational opportunities on display at the Conference is unparalleled. The networking is fantastic and the energy is catching. I wish I was able to attend every single session and event!

3. It is always good to bring market and peer perspective to my current and prospective clients. I have routinely shared Anirban Basu’s economic insight and outlook with my network.

4. I try to focus on making my experiences with clients and colleagues genuinely personal and thoughtful. At the end of the day, clients and colleagues will remember those experiences more favorably than someone who just “got them what they needed.”

5. To keep the current momentum, efficiency, and member focus going. Over the past few years, Steve and Pat have done a great job in steering CFMA toward identifying and quickly seizing opportunities. I strongly believe in enhancing member value.

6. Last year’s Annual Conference. It is eye-opening to see what goes on behind the scenes. I wasn’t previously able to appreciate the amount of hard work and dedication required to pull it off seamlessly. HQ staff and volunteers are incredibly busy and focused. As an Officer, you are engaged from sun up to sun-down every day. I have a better idea of what to expect this year, and I look forward to Chicago!

7. The resources available at CFMA HQ. For example, Cathy Wasner, CFMA’s Director, Chapter Services, can help address many questions that are raised at the local level and can also help chapters develop strategic plans that give them structure and efficiency. If you haven’t yet taken advantage of your chapter connections, reach out to Cathy.

8. I was born in England and lived there until I was 15, and I am a big football (soccer) fan. I still play, albeit a lot more slowly at 49 years old!

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1. Impactful. The local and national relationships, CFMA at Spring Creek and the resulting leadership opportunities within my company and at CFMA, the educational opportunities that help me do my job better, sharing information via the Connection Café, the Annual Conference & Exhibition experience, CFMA Building Profits and the quality articles, and much more.

2. Erika Urbani’s “gentle” request followed by a strategic planning experience in Philadelphia in 2011.

3. Through my CFMA membership I became confident that knowledge and help were readily available. That confidence helped boost my career by enabling me to find more timely solutions, benchmark my company’s results, and suggest alternatives. It also helped me feel more comfortable helping others and providing guidance.

4. Stay current. I think it is my obligation to be aware of changes that create opportunities or present challenges, and to develop appropriate action plans.

5. To be a resource for the other officers, executive committee, and HQ staff and to be available if or when another perspective is needed.

6. It may sound like a politically correct answer, but my year as Chairman was truly memorable: the executive committee meetings; attending Spring Creek again after a 14-year gap; seeing excited new leaders share their ideas and perspectives with such passion for CFMA; appreciating the work of CFMA’s HQ staff; developing closer relationships; and sharing the experience with my wife, Mindy.

7. The greatest value lies in attending CFMA events. It could be going to a local chapter meeting, participating on a webinar, or attending a regional conference or our Annual Conference & Exhibition. The greatest benefit is derived by putting in the time, and for me, the payback has been much greater than the investment.

8. My favorite car is the Chevrolet Corvette. Mindy and I have a 1980 Corvette when we were first married, but soon the priorities changed with children and then grandchildren; however, it is still my dream car.