Learn about your FYE 2017 officers from their responses to these five questions:

1. How do you plan to build it forward this year?

   1. I plan to build it forward by increasing the awareness of CFMA’s value to our business owners, which supports our strategic goal for companies to recognize CFMA’s education and engagement as essential investments in their success. Company owners should come to know CFMA as the source and resource to meet their company’s needs as much as CFMs do.

2. What is one challenge you’ve overcome as a result of being a CFMA member?

   2. Being a CFMA member has helped me overcome the challenge of change. I carry a card with me from the first time I attended Spring Creek that summarizes the key concepts in Spencer Johnson’s book *Who Moved My Cheese?* It is a constant reminder that while change will occur, I have tools to help me enjoy change and be ready to quickly change again and again.

3. How has CFMA unexpectedly added value to your company?

   3. The Connection Café has added value to my company by providing a resource that I can use to research any question or issue that comes up. By starting or reading through discussions, I’ve been able to answer questions ranging from cell phone policies to depreciation to per diems to software and more. I can also share relevant and timely information from CFMA Building Profits with others in my company both in print and electronically via CFMA BP Online.

4. What are your top industry concerns for the coming year?

   4. My top industry concern is the same as it’s been for the past several years – finding and retaining qualified skilled workers. How do we entice the skilled workers who left the industry during and after the recent recession, and how do we make the industry appealing to people who are just entering the workforce?

5. What is one thing you wish you had more time for personally or professionally?

   5. I wish I had more time to develop my photography skills. I’ve been a shutterbug for as long as I can remember. Today I mostly focus on photos of my kids while they’re performing on the field, either in marching band or soccer. I use only a fraction of my camera’s functions and would love to know how to utilize more to take portraits, better scenery, and other artsy photos.
1. I plan to focus on professional mentoring. By sharing the knowledge, experiences, and network I have accumulated throughout my career, I can positively impact my staff and company as well as give back and share information to help my local CFMA chapter and our Association as a whole.

2. My biggest challenge was also my most rewarding experience – earning my CCIFP certification last year. It was difficult at first to begin studying for this comprehensive exam since nearly 20 years has transpired since I sat for the CPA exam. Although preparing for the exam was not easy, the encouragement from my fellow CFMA members who wanted me to do well inspired me to do my best and led to my success.

3. My company recently expanded its backlog into a new region. When it was time to report, file, and pay gross receipts taxes in that jurisdiction, we initially had a large gross receipt tax assessment. I reached out to a CFMA connection local to that area and after a brief conversation about our goals, we were able to understand the requirements and file our return timely. We also capitalized on several deductions to minimize our tax liability, resulting in substantial savings for our company as well as the project’s owner. This is an example of the huge value of these connections!

4. Safety is at the top of my list. As contractors increase their labor forces to execute their backlog, new and potentially inexperienced workers will enter the workforce. We must remain focused on safety, awareness, culture, and training to ensure our employees return home at the end of the day as healthy as they were when they arrived at work that morning!

5. I would love to get in a few more rounds of golf at some of our country’s great courses. Although I have been afforded opportunities to travel for business, I have not been able to capitalize on these trips as much as I would like!

1. My goal is to help facilitate CFMA’s international presence beyond the U.S. and Canada. The education, information, and networking that members find so valuable will only be enhanced and increased by meeting and learning from CFMs from around the world.

2. Our clients often want to talk to their peers about issues that they face but are concerned about sharing information with competitors. CFMA’s widespread presence has enabled me to connect my clients to peers outside of their geographic areas to avoid these concerns. Instead, they are able to pick up the phone and speak to a peer across the country who has experience with similar issues. CFMA has helped our company create valuable, rewarding peer groups for our clients.

3. I have introduced numerous clients to CFMA – many of whom have become members and have attended local chapter events, regional conferences, and CFMA’s Annual Conference. Attending these events and reading CFMA’s Building Profits has strengthened their network and expanded their knowledge. Sharing the valuable information available through CFMA with our clients has helped my company to become an even greater resource and our clients to become even more successful.

4. Suicide prevention in the construction industry is very important to me, and I am glad to see it coming to the forefront. A couple of years ago I lost a friend, whom I met through CFMA, to suicide. We worked closely together on the chapter level and shared many wonderful memories. Previously, I served as president of a suicide crisis intervention hotline.

5. I would love the opportunity to spend more time with my CFMA colleagues. Being on the Executive Committee and working with so many amazing people has been a tremendous experience. They are highly successful, extremely bright, and lots of fun! I truly treasure the friendships that I have made.

1. During my last year as a CFMA officer, I plan to be a resource for the other officers and continue to support where the other officers and staff feel I can add the most value. I am so proud of what we have accomplished, and I look forward to more great things this year!

2. Over the past few years, I have had numerous opportunities as a CFMA officer to speak to large and small groups, which has helped me overcome my intense fear of public speaking. CFMA has literally changed my life.

3. There are too many specific examples to list in this space, but my company’s staff has benefited from many local and national educational opportunities. We also utilize the Connection Café regularly to respond to questions or address issues in our company.

4. I also agree that the lack of trade labor availability as the Baby Boomers continue to retire is a top issue, especially since there doesn’t seem to be a clear solution. I am also concerned that our finance teams are still very unprepared for the new revenue recognition and lease accounting standards that will be effective in the coming years.

5. I wish I had more time with my kids. I have three teenagers now – one is in college and the other two will soon follow. I try to take advantage of the time that I have with them. I want ensure that they grow up knowing that they are the most important people in my life.