



November 30, 2011

NJ IFMA

Kick off meeting for Women in FM

Location: Hampton Inn, Woodbridge, NJ

Attendees:

Carol Hart, Chapter Immediate Past President, Federal Business Centers

Caroline Shelly, Chapter Secretary, Hunterdon Facility Planners

Nancy Morgan, Chapter Events Chairperson, Morgan + Associates

Cynthia Hoogland, Chapter Location Coordinator, Avila Fine Arts

Jackie Lewis, Chapter Sponsorship Coordinator, Millicare by EcoDry

Gina Fritz, Chapter Special Events Coordinator, MCS Management

Marla Freeman, Chapter Volunteer Coordinator, Parker Interior Landscapes

Denise Dunchus, Johnson Controls

Dolores Mohr, Markel

Becky Young, Everest ReInsurance

Anne Oller, Sanofi

Izabela Pelszynska, Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.

Ruth Ann Parronchi, Duke Farms Foundation

Discussion:

1. Carol Hart facilitated the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves and discuss how they ended up in Facilities Management. Issues that turned into deeper discussion included:
 - a. Workspace Issues
 - b. Mentoring
 - c. Current Trends

2. Carol questioned whether anyone still faced any chauvinistic issues due to the fact that FM has primarily been a male dominated profession. Most felt that once they were engaged in conversation and could prove they were knowledgeable about on a subject, it became a non-issue.
3. Carol indicated that there was only one other chapter that currently offered women in FM program: Silicon Valley. She would like to grow the group into the east coast program.
4. Various hand-outs were distributed for attendees to check out:
 - a. www.littlepinkbook.com
 - b. WIFM (women in FM, not related to IFMA)
 - c. Unlock your potential
 - d. Inside the mind of the professional woman
5. Performance evaluations were discussed based on the write up in the "Unlock your potential" article. The question was: Would you be courageous enough to approach your boss and ask "What and I doing well? What would I need to do differently?" Cynthia Hoogland discussed the process from the boss's perspective while Denise Dunchus suggested that evaluations be done on more of a sliding scale so there's less confrontation and more obvious room for improvement.
6. Future meetings were discussed. All agreed that it was a very worthwhile meeting and they would come again. Breakfast/lunch/dinner venues were contemplated as well as location. Demographics of the 60 women in the chapter should be identified to determine whether Woodbridge is the best place to hold the meetings. Possibly a speaker should be brought in for the next meeting. Opening registration to both men and non-members was discussed. There was a mixed feeling on this. It was agreed that meetings should be held quarterly.

Respectfully submitted by;

Caroline Shelly

NJ IFMA Secretary

11/30/11