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Message From Your President



It's hard to believe that another summer is over and we are transitioning into the fall months. I hope that all members enjoyed summer and took some vacation time before gearing up for the busy months ahead.

The Legal Industry Council has been hard at work on many initiatives. Our biggest project has been an analysis of the benchmarking survey results and working with a graphic designer to prepare a report which will be distributed to all members who participated in this survey.

We are also getting excited for World Workplace in San Antonio. There are some great educational sessions planned covering topics including (but not limited to) Budgeting, RFPs, Green Initiatives, Disaster Recovery, Ergonomics, Technology and Leadership. We are also planning for a Legal Industry Council dinner on Thursday, November 1st. Details will follow to all members who register for World Workplace.

A new event of World Workplace will be the Council Pavilion on Thursday morning, which will provide an opportunity to showcase all councils with a goal to promote councils and increase participation. We also hope to debut our new LIC pin (to replace the shark pin), which can be shared with other IFMA members. World Workplace is a great educational and networking opportunity for all facility professionals and we hope that many of our members will participate.

Because of logistical challenges, we will not be able to have our annual call during World Workplace, but have scheduled this for Tuesday, November 13th (2:30 Eastern, 1:30 Central, 11:30 Pacific). Stay tuned to receive an official announcement about this.

We continue to strive to be a valuable resource for our members and welcome suggestions for our newsletter, webinars, roundtables and future initiatives. Please contact me anytime at hevers@foleyhoag.com to share your suggestions.

The firm I work for has just begun a 28 week project to paint and replace carpet in our Boston office. If all goes well I will be at World Workplace and look forward to connecting with many members in San Antonio!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Vold is Director of Facilities & Office Services at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, CA.



In what position did you join the firm and how did you get into facilities management?

When I joined the firm in February, 1977, as the Librarian the firm had 17 attorneys. Today it has 650 in eight Domestic offices, one in Europe and three in Asia. Over the intervening years I was given responsibility for managing the mail room, file room and receptionists. When a new phone system installed over a weekend failed on the Monday following the Friday departure of the Office Manager, I was given the task of finding a way to make it work. At the time most of our clients were in San Jose. Because the new system had a “least cost routing” feature only six calls could go out of our office to San Jose at one time. The first thing I did was get rid of that feature. As we needed new copiers or undertook construction projects I became more involved and the rest is history. I gave up responsibility for the library in the early 80s to focus on facilities management.

On what projects are you currently working?

Over the past 6 months I’ve either completed or will soon complete projects in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, San Diego and DC. We are starting our first European project in Brussels, due to open next March. We’re also about to begin the first renovation in 18 years in our Palo Alto office, 184,000 sq.ft.; that project will last until June, 2014. Design and construction in all of our offices, both Domestic and International, is managed by me and the staff in Palo Alto. I’m lucky to have two licensed Interior Designers on staff. By having them on the WSGR staff they are able to do the test fits of space during the search for new office space. Once a site is chosen we then bring the Architect on board. We also have a Project Management consultant and a Relocation consultant, both with design backgrounds, who work with us on all projects. Because we have standardized furniture and carpet in all Domestic offices we’re able to reuse our furniture where ever it’s needed as offices expand or contract across the country. All of our furniture is ordered from our dealers in California and we use local installers. This process minimizes the amount of time the managing partner has to spend reviewing specs and providing approvals.

Right now we’re trying to develop a new updated/refreshed look for the Palo Alto office which can be adapted in other Domestic and Asian offices where we work hand in hand with local office managers. We’re also in the process of developing a “European look”.

We’re facing the same issue that many Law Firms are: what to do with excess secretarial stations as fewer secretaries serve more Attorneys. In Palo Alto we’re replacing those stations with the same size room on each floor. We’ll work with each practice group to determine how that room will be used on their floor – for an Attorney, Manager, as a team room, etc. As part of this renovation we’re also modifying a percentage of our offices to add more glass and bring in more light.

One unique aspect of our firm that makes my job easier is that we’ve never had a merger, all our offices are “organically grown”. This allows for easier standardization because lawyers from Palo Alto who start offices in other cities appreciate the familiar look.



Council & IFMA News

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the LIC group on Linked In and follow pertinent discussions.



IFMA's World Workplace 2012 Conference & Expo

October 31- November 2
San Antonio, TX



[CLICK HERE](#) to see the educational sessions that are scheduled at World Workplace.

Legal Industry Council Annual Conference Call

Tuesday, November 13th (2:30 Eastern, 1:30 Central, 11:30 Pacific)
Dial in number: (866) 846-3997
Participant code: 795439

IFMA Facility Fusion 2013 Conference & Expo

April 2 - 4, 2013
Los Angeles, CA



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About the LIC: *The Legal Industry council shares information among FMs from law firms and legal departments in corporations, academic institutions and government agencies. Discussions center on topics such as space planning and utilization, creative office services, outsourcing, regulatory information, emerging technology and software solutions.*