

## HEALTH CARE COUNCIL NEWS

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**HCC SPRING  
CONFERENCE  
IN PHOENIX!**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

BY STAN KIRTLEY

In today's rapid ever-changing facility environment, facility managers are being asked to do more with fewer staff and shrinking resources in faster times. Now more than ever, your Health Care Council can be a tremendous asset to you and your career. Where else can you find more facility professionals in the healthcare industry? Where else can you find answers to questions that take years of experience to learn? Where else can you find dedicated contractors and vendors of the products and services you use in your day-to-day businesses? Where else

can you find an international support organization to help you with the challenges you face each day? Your Health Care Council has been here for you and people don't seem to take advantage of this tremendous resource. It will be my job this year to make as many people as possible aware of the answers to the above questions. I will look forward to seeing you all in Tempe Arizona at the University of Arizona for this year's Spring Conference which is a joint conference with the Academic Council.

If I can be of help to any of you please contact me or use our HCC List serve. I look forward to serving you this year and thanks for your support.

Stan Kirtley



## THE 2003 IFMA HCC/VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION BENCHMARKING EFFORT

By Peter J. Adams, CFM

This announcement is to inform all interested facility professionals of the International Facility Management Association – Health Care Council and Veteran's Affairs (IFMA - HCC/VA) Benchmarking effort. The HCC realized that there is no current and specific benchmarking information that relates to the diverse sizes and make-up of healthcare organizations

in operation today. This effort was originally developed to provide value to the IFMA HCC members and has grown to include several other associations. It is the only benchmarking survey developed by facility professionals for healthcare organizations. We are now getting ready to send program sections to all those who expressed their willingness to participate. You should all be aware that IFMA is partnering with the Department of Veteran's Affairs and

their Capital Resources Survey titled CAPRES. We are doing this to capitalize on their 12 plus years of experience and one hundred seventy VA Hospitals nationwide. Our goal is to make this survey the industry standard for Healthcare organizations worldwide. Your participation will benefit your career and the organization you represent.

There are a few things you should know about this

*(Continued on page 3)*

## I N T E R E S T I N G F A C T S D I D Y O U K N O W T H A T . . .

- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons combined.
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.
- On average people fear spiders more than they do death.
- Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.
- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
- It's possible to lead a cow upstairs ... but not downstairs.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."
- Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing. SCARY!!!
- A dentist invented the electric chair.
- All polar bears are left-handed.
- In ancient Egypt, priests plucked EVERY hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- "Go," is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall.
- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- Almost everyone who reads this email will try to lick his or her elbow.
- Don't forget to pass these weird facts on to everyone you know.
- They will get a kick out of it !!
- You tried to lick your elbow, didn't you?

## COME TO THE HCC SPRING CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX! APRIL 3-5

You are cordially invited to join the Health Care Council of IFMA, in conjunction with the Academic Facilities Council of IFMA, in their 3rd Annual Joint Spring Conference. This year the meeting will be held in beautiful Tempe, Arizona. Kick started with an optional game of golf at Raven Country Club, the conference then continues with a fabulous networking dinner and reception on April 3rd. The educational format begins on April 4th and includes sessions on "sustainability", "business etiquette", the "ABC's of Costing", "What Owners Want" and "Speech Privacy in Health Care Environments". The conference wraps up with a tour of a local healthcare facility.

**Accommodations:** A block of rooms is reserved for all conference attendees at Country Inn & Suites in Tempe, AZ (480) 858-9898. To secure reduced rates (\$89 standard—\$99 suite), please make reservations early and be sure to mention you will be attending IFMA's Spring Meeting. **APPLICATION ON PAGE 4**

## Benchmarking Cont...

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benchmarking effort. First of all, you must be committed for a three year time period to receive the full benefit of the data collected. Second, your first survey can take up to eighty hours or Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). This is dependent on the amount of staff and the size of your organization, and third, you must get upper management's support both financially and physically. Without their support, you are wasting your time.

The first survey will take a lot of time and effort and will not provide you with very accurate results. Your data will be matched up with like size and type organizations and sent back to you for analysis to be used as you see necessary. If you are an Acute Care Facility your data will be compared with similar organizations; if you are a Mental Healthcare Organization you will be compared with other mental healthcare organizations, etc. Your second survey will prove to be more valuable, and the third is

where you will spend the least amount of time and receive the most benefit and best value. Each survey thereafter will get better and you will with be able to identify real dollar savings for your organization. This effort can be compared to the task of making pancakes. It takes a lot of time and work in preparation , and the first pancake is not as good as it could be, but each gets better as you go along.

I am sending the first few sections of the survey to the people who requested to participate. For those of you who have not committed to the survey and would like to, you can contact me at [padams@cphs.org](mailto:padams@cphs.org).

## Prescription for a "Sick Building"

By Linda Morrison

The indoor environment can no longer be assumed to be a healthy, safe place to live or work. With today's emphasis on energy conservation, modern houses and office buildings may be too air tight, allowing air contaminates such as carpet, wall-paper, or air-borne bacteria to circulate freely throughout the ventilation. Older buildings may have suffered water leaks which were inadequately treated, encouraging mold to grow behind walls, under floors, or in other hidden spots.

"Sick Building Syndrome" refers to the debilitating, health-damaging problems building occupants suffer caused by poor indoor air quality. Symptoms such as headaches, coughing, inability to breathe freely, or even memory loss may be caused by a sick building, especially if symptoms last only as long as the person occupies the building. For instance, an employee who works in a sick office building may notice reduced symptoms at home and feels considerably better when outdoors. On the other hand, a child who suffers runny noses and watery eyes at home may find he breathes easier and feels better while at school or playing at a friend's house.

Today's environmental specialists use high-tech testing equipment to determine problems quickly. Experts begin their indoor air quality evaluation with interviewing the occupants. "We can gather a lot of information just by listening to the details," says David Weekley, president of Environmental Consulting and Testing of Knoxville, TN. "It gives us a good idea of what the problem is and where to start." The evaluation may begin with an inspection of the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system (HVAC), the crawl space under a house, and the attic. After a thorough evaluation of existing condi-

tions, ECT technicians obtain air and material samples to aid in further evaluation and/or problem solving.

Weekley's firm is comprised of professionals with degrees and experience in environmental consulting, building construction, and design. This background allows a complete understanding of buildings and how environmental hazards would affect the property and its inhabitants.

### SHOULD YOU WORRY?

The average owner shouldn't worry much about sick buildings—unless there are signs that indicate a problem. However, Weekley recommends a few standard awareness items. "HVAC systems, water problems, crawl spaces and condition of the building should be reviewed either prior to the purchase of a residence or building or during occupancy of an existing residence or building." Other aspects such as asbestos and lead based paint are regulated by Federal Law and should also be addressed.

He also recommends checking for lead based paint if the building was built before 1978.

Serious health effects in children and adults may include impaired hearing, reading and learning disabilities, and seizures. State and federal regulations hold building owners and employers responsible for protecting employees, occupants, and outside contractors from various exposures.

Health Care Council of IFMA

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**PAYMENT (Registration Fee: \$75 IFMA Member; \$150 Non-Member) Check enclosed payable to IFMA-HCC \_\_\_\_\_**

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Please return your completed registration form to the HCC Treasurer via fax or E-mail: **Malcolm Lim, PE**  
Fax: 1-847-965-6541 E-Mail: [mklim@c-t-l.com](mailto:mklim@c-t-l.com)