AFC Newsletter
OCCURRENCE
Late Spring 2004

2004 Spring Conference
Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
Recap
Susan Hobbes, AIA, AFC President

For those of you that missed the AFC Conference at Pennsylvania State University I will try to recap some of the highlights, but nothing can compare to having been in attendance, especially for the PSU alumni among us. I arrived on Tuesday night in a downpour which didn’t bode well for the next few days because the weather forecast was calling for rain, at least through Thursday. Somehow, Bob Myrick, the conference coordinator managed to turn that forecast around and not a drop of rain fell from Wednesday through Sunday when most of us departed. I still want to know how you pulled that off, Bob. On Wednesday afternoon, the officers (present and future) gathered at the Nittany Lion Inn for a strategic planning session. Much of the strategic planning had been accomplished at the two AFC conferences in 2003 so during this session we focused on updating the work plan to set the stage for the FY 05 activities. The updated strategic plan can be seen at the AFC website. http://smpa.uc.edu/afc/anouncements_announcements.html

On Thursday morning the Academic Facilities Council and the Health Care Council were welcomed by Dr. Rodney Erickson, PSU Executive Vice President and Provost. Gary Broersma, a member of the IFMA Board of Directors, gave a presentation on the “Goals of IFMA and the Importance of the Councils”. The Penn State staff gave interesting and informative talks on the timely topics of campus master planning, real estate, and energy.

Rounding out the morning was a short report by Lynn Leifson on the 2004 AFC Fall Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah and the AFC Business Meeting. (See conference highlights in this newsletter under the heading 2004 AFC Fall Conference.)

In the afternoon we toured three new buildings: the Life Sciences Building, the Chemistry Building (still under construction), and the Information, Science and Technology Building. Dinner was at Schnitzel’s Tavern, featuring Bob Myrick on the clarinet.

Friday morning started off with a demonstration of the PSU Facilities Information System followed by several technology programs that included a presentation, a panel discussion and a field trip. The presentation was given by Mark Valenti of the Sextant Group who kept the audience riveted as he talked about wireless technology, portable hi-tech gadgets, and what this all means to the future of the classroom and the traditional college campus. The panel discussion focused on
designing and maintaining instructional technology in classrooms that featured representatives of the various PSU departments tasked with these responsibilities. Those departments include Facilities, Police Services, Telecommunications, Computer Services and Media Tech Services. The technology field trip took us to the Wartik Building where a portion of the ground floor was extensively remodeled to accommodate a classroom for Interactive Videoconferencing.

The final presentation of the conference featured the signage standard at PSU. What might have otherwise been a routine topic was made interesting and entertaining by the presenters, Stew Koontz and Scott Hord.

The AFC group toured the MBNA Career Services Building with tour guide Jack Rayman, Director of the Career Services Center. Jack is obviously very proud of this building and with good reason. It is a prototype building and a “must see” for anyone considering building a similar facility. Jack has already been host to numerous groups that are planning similar facilities on their campuses.

After touring the East View Terrace Housing for juniors and seniors, currently under construction, we all were longing to be upper classmen again. The PSU building tours concluded at the Frank and Sylvia Pasquerilla Spiritual Center. This building features a worship space with fixed seating to accommodate about 500 people.

Friday night’s dinner was at the Tavern Restaurant in State College and then Saturday morning we boarded the vans and headed for Bear Run, PA for our final tour of the conference, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Kaufmann Falling Water House. The weather was absolutely perfect and after the tour we all enjoyed boxed lunches at Ohio Pyle State Park before returning to Happy Valley.

Some of the side trips along the way included a visit to the Penn State Model Railroad Club currently located in the basement of one of the residence halls. This is where some PSU students burn the midnight oil and we observed some of the trains in action on the more than 2500 feet of HO track that has been erected by the club. For those of you AFC members that are model railroad buffs that have never attended an AFC Conference, you might be surprised to learn that you would be right at home among this group.

Finally, no trip to University Park is complete without a trip to the Penn State Creamery, and we actually made 2 trips. There’s always room for a scoop of Butter Pecan or Peachy Paterno.

Many thanks to Bob Myrick, PSU Facilities Coordinator and dedicated AFC member, for giving this conference 110% of his efforts. His hard work and attention to detail was evident in the quality of the programs and the coordination of the logistical details. Thanks also to Velma Packer who put up with Bob and his attention to detail, to Deb Blythe, Director of Facilities Resources and Planning (Bob’s boss), for her total support of this conference, and to Judy Myrick (Bob’s other boss) for sharing Bob’s time during the conference.

Images are available on the AFC web site - smpa.uc.edu/afc/index.html click on conferences.
2004 AFC Spring Conference Sponsors
The Academic Facilities Council would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2004 AFC Spring Conference:

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2005 Officers Elected
The elections are complete and the following officers will begin their terms on July 1, 2004:
Susan Hobbes, Past President
Bill O’Neill, President
Jorge Abud, Vice President
Doug Rollman, Secretary
Steve Showers, Treasurer

2004 AFC Fall Conference - Preview
The 2004 AFC Fall Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah prior to the start of the IFMA World Workplace Conference. The dates for the AFC Conference are Thursday, October 14 and Friday, October 15. The site of Thursday’s agenda will be Brigham Young University in Provo and on Friday we will visit the University of Utah. Lynn Liefson, Manager of the Design Section at BYU is coordinating the conference. Lynn has been working diligently for the last 6 months coordinating the conference programs. Some of the currently scheduled programs include a presentation by the BYU Facilities Management students, presentations on project management and scheduling, campus recycling and conservation programs, innovative custodial safety procedures, capital needs analysis and campus and building tours. The site of Thursday night’s dinner is the Sundance Ski Resort. Block out the conference dates and plan on joining us for another informative and exciting conference.
New Members

Dean Biggs, CFM, CFMJ
Vice President
Wilson Building Maintenance
PO Box 2041
Wichita, KS 67201

Michael D. Brown
District General Manager
PGI Services
1525 S Gladiola St, Ste 6
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Jack L. Butler
Supervisor of Campus Physical Development
Zayed University
PO Box 6999
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Steven Ellmore
Facility Manager
Board of Trade of the City of New York
23 – 10 43rd Ave
Long Island City, NY 11101

Richard Foster
Vice President, Administration
Board of Trade of the City of New York
174 Hudson St 6th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Thomas J. Greene
Sr. Vice President, Floor Operations
Board of Trade of the City of New York
1 North End Ave
New York, NY 10282

Peter J. Hanley
Project Manager
Montgomery College
10009 Leafy Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910

John T. Kaub
Director of Engineering
New York Marriott Eastside
525 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10017
Thaddeus W. Lasiewicz
Construction Manager
State of New Mexico
595 Twelve Pt Buck Trail
Durango, CO 81301

Anne Marie Legault
Senior Interior Designer
ACI Architecture Inc
17723-103 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5S 1N8
Canada

Kenneth D. Luhman
Superintendent, Buildings & Grounds
Greenwich Academy
200 N Maple Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830

William J. Mack
Director of Business Development
Shawmut Design & Construction
560 Harrison Ave
Boston, MA 02118

Mark D. Mankin, CFM
Assistant Manager, Structural Services
University of Delaware
20 Academy St, Room 124
Newark, DE 19716

Brian J. McDermott
Asst. Director, Facilities Management
Suffolk University
41 Temple St
Boston, MA 02114

Thomas J. Myers
Senior Sales Manager, Corp. Accts.
Lutron Electronics Co. Inc.
7200 Suter Rd.
Coopersburg, PA 18036-1299

Roderick A. Olson
Associate Director of Operations
Aramark Facilities Services/Detroit Public Schools
36317 Melbourne Dr
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-3331
Bernard A. Plovnick  
Principal  
BP/Projectworks  
379 Pond Ave  
Brookline, MA 02445-7009

Avrohom Pollack  
Facilities Manager  
Beth Medrash Govoha  
936 Park Terrace  
Lakewood, NJ 08701-2062

Ahmed Monkez Shaker  
Chairman  
Misr for Management & Services Development  
PO Box 1 Heliopolis  
Cairo 11341 Egypt

Louis S. Uliano  
Director, Community Relations & School Safety  
The Hewitt School  
45 E 75th St  
New York, NY 10021

Gustave Villaret, IV  
Associate Director  
University Housing & Dining Services  
7355 NW Valley View Dr  
Corvallis, OR 97330
2004 COUNCIL OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT
Susan M. Hobbes, A.I.A.
Director, Planning and Construction
UNLV
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 451027
Las Vegas, NV  89154-1027
USA
T: (702) 895-1046
F: (702) 895-4960
E: shobbes@ccmail.nevada.edu

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Frank J. Coppinger
General Manager, Facility Services
Toronto District School Board
45 York Mills Road
North York, Ontario M2P 1B6
Canada
T: (416) 397-2417
F: (416) 397-2569
E: frank.coppinger@tdsb.on.ca

VICE PRESIDENT
William (Bill) M. O’Neill
Facilities Manager, West Bank
University of Minnesota
57 Heller Hall
271 – 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN  55455
USA
T: (612) 625-9580
F: (612) 626-9408
E: oneillb@facm.umn.edu

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Ann McGuire
Director, Facilities Planning and Management
Queens University of Charlotte
1900 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC  28274
USA
T: (704) 337-2340
F: (704) 337-2503
E: mcguirea@Rex.queens.edu

TREASURER
Jorge J. Abud
Assistant Vice President
Facilities & Administrative Services
American University
Office of Finance and Treasurer
4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC  20016-8033
USA
T: (202) 885-2731
F: (202) 885-3278
E: jorge@american.edu

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Vacant

SECRETARY
Douglas J. Rollman
Vice President
The Protection Engineering Group, PLC
14325-F Willard Road
Chantilly, VA  20151
USA
T: (703) 488-9990
F: (612) 625-6681
E: drollman@pegroupplc.com

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Andrew Williams
Director, Space Management
University of Cincinnati
P.O. Box 210643
Cincinnati, OH  45221-0643
USA
T: (513) 556-2176
F: (513) 556-1377
E: andrew.williams@uc.edu
2005 COUNCIL OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT
William (Bill) M. O’Neill
Facilities Manager, West Bank
University of Minnesota
57 Heller Hall
271 – 19 Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
T: (612) 625-9580
F: (612) 626-9408
E: oneillb@facm.umn.edu

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Susan M. Hobbes, A.I.A.
Director, Planning and Construction
UNLV
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 451027
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1027
T: (702) 895-1046
F: (702) 895-4960
E: shobbes@ccmail.nevada.edu

VICE PRESIDENT
Jorge J. Abud
Assistant Vice President
Facilities & Administrative Services
American University
Office of Finance and Treasurer
4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016-8033
T: (202) 885-2731
F: (202) 885-3278
E: jorge@american.edu

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Ann McGuire
Director, Facilities Planning and Management
Queens University of Charlotte
1900 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28274
T: (704) 337-2340
F: (704) 337-2503
E: mcguirea@Rex.queens.edu

TREASURER
Stephen Showers
Associate Vice President
Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001
T: (202) 885-2731
F: (202) 885-3278
E: jorge@american.edu

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Vacant

SECRETARY
Douglas J. Rollman
Vice President
The Protection Engineering Group, PLC
14325-F Willard Road
Chantilly, VA 20151
T: (703) 488-9990
F: (612) 625-6681
E: drollman@pegroupplc.com

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Vacant