

Facilities Focus

Thank You Al Gore!

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Being a younger person and born just on the far side of the net generation, I have been raised with Internet access in my living room, and thusly, the world at my fingertips. As a research and entertainment tool, I have found the Internet to be nearly unsurpassed. Therefore, if former Vice President Al Gore indeed is the father of the Internet, then he has my gratitude.

It appears that IFMA also appreciates the value of the web. In my searches, I have uncovered thirty-eight national IFMA Chapter websites and fifteen international IFMA Chapter websites. In addition, I have found hundreds of related industry sites from the Electric Power Research Institute (www.epri.com) to BOMA (www.boma.org).

The quality of the sites range from major initiatives to those that appear to be developed by our president's teenage daughter. No matter how they look, all provide a personal window into the viewpoint that other chapters have on IFMA principles and initiatives. A majority of the IFMA sites feature chapter news and events, job opportunities and links. It is also astounding how many of us are sponsoring golf tournaments. Some sites included copies of current and archived newsletters and even provide a little bit of advertising space for sponsors and contributors. Others offer unique aspects that make the sites memorable.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter (www.ifmasfv.org) features a photo gallery, broken down by chapter events. Organizational websites that work hard to be professional can sometimes appear a little impersonal. I found the festive images to be a terrific, humanizing touch. A little further up the coast, the Sacramento Chapter (www.ifmasac.org) features a unique glossary of industry terms including a well-worded definition of Facility Management.

The Chicago Chapter site (www.ifma-chicago.org) is exceptional, more for its design than its content. The page has motion, sound, and slick graphics. I found it to be the most exciting to look at, of all of the sites. The Oregon Chapter site (www.ifmaoregon.org) is also nicely rendered. It pays respect to the locality and features a more modern adaptation of the traditional IFMA logo. Boston's Chapter site (www.ifmaboston.org) is one of the most thorough and educational due to its wide variety of technical and professional articles.

Back here in the capital city, our Richmond chapter is in the process of developing its own website. The board is full of ideas and is currently in search of a Webmaster to manage the initiative. Through my research, I was pleased to discover our organizational structure is consistent with other major chapters, which feels great. Once we get our site up and running, our fellow chapters will be able to learn about us as easily as we have learned about them. Thanks again Al!

Tell us what you think. Send feedback/comments/suggestions to: David Huber at dhuber@comarchs.com. Visit our website at: www.comarchs.com