

# Taking it to the Next Level

“Phil Jackson couldn't walk away from his final season with the Lakers the way he wanted to.

“Kobe Bryant couldn't three-peat twice like his idol Michael Jordan.

“And it's all because of the Mavericks”, writes an IB Times correspondent. “The Los Angeles Lakers, who wanted to face Dallas in the second round of the Western Conference Playoffs rather than [the] historic headache the Portland Trail Blazers would bring, collapsed in a season-ending sweep.”

Most of us living in the Southern California area are familiar with the results of the Los Angeles Lakers season. We watched stunned as the Dallas Mavericks surprised the favored Lakers in 4 straight games.

“Few thought it could happen. Of the 12 ESPN NBA experts polled, not one picked the Mavs. In fact, some had the Lakers winning in five.” IBTimes.com, May 9, 2011 10:53 AM EDT

The Lakers, and their fans, discovered that Dallas had taken their level of play to the next level. While the Lakers were relying on their past success against Dallas, on their normal level of performance in the playoffs, Dallas had elevated their focus, their intensity, their belief, and ultimately their performance to new heights.

Dallas did not become the team that would ultimately win the NBA Championship in just a month. It was a concentrated team effort to take their performance to the next level game by game, year by year, until they were strong enough to defeat the favored Miami Heat. This result came from lots of intense work over years in developing new attitudes, improving teamwork, and elevating skill levels.

That was our desire for this year for our OC IFMA chapter. Developing new attitudes, improving our teamwork, and elevating our skill levels. As a Board, as committee chairs, your leadership team has worked to elevate our performance. We have worked to increase the value of our chapter to both our Professional Facility Managers and our committed Business Partners. We have worked to lay a solid foundation for our new leadership to build upon.

A year ago, as I started my tenure, we talked about the three specific needs we are each hoping to fulfill by being part of IFMA OC.

- 1) Quality Education & Professional Development,
- 2) the Synergy of a Network of key Resources, and
- 3) Personal Camaraderie based on similar industries or life experiences.

Your Board of Directors focused this year on these three items.

To meet the need for quality education and professional development, our Business Partner Relations Team, headed by Pam Kessler, with John Whitt as her Co-Chair, instituted regular educational sessions for both Business Partners and Facility Managers. They presented information on building a resource network, becoming a trusted advisor, how to use LinkedIn, the value of social networking tools, and more specific ‘how to’ sessions are on the way. These sessions are all about building the synergy of a personal resource network.

Our Programs committee, headed by Christine Mueller, provided educational programs, focused on the value and processes for professional certification, building commissioning, day-lighting in the office of the future, strategies for reducing real estate costs. We went on some great tours of Angel Stadium, the Port of Long Beach, and last month, Google, where we saw ‘Googlers’ at work and learned that it is all about the food!

Tom Roberts and Bill Conley represented our chapter, and Southern California, at Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. They met on our behalf with some of our elected representatives and IFMA’s Washington consultants about the issues that confront us as FM’s here in California.

One of our biggest projects for the year involved technology. Adam Ryznar with his Co-Chair Charlie Brown, led our Communications Technology Team in building a new chapter website. Not only does it look completely different in presentation, but it also has many new features such as a ‘member access only’ searchable professional membership directory, internal links for resources such as white papers and articles at the Strategy Station, links to our Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter pages, credentials, chapter history, career development links, and much more. Some articles you will see there include, “Top 10 Trends Impacting the Future of Facility Management”, and “Staples Advantage survey reveals that 75% of employees acknowledge Facility Managers have ‘Saved the Day’”.

This website renovation is an unfolding project that will continue into this year under the watchful eye of a Board Ad Hoc committee as more features are added.

As you may know, our annual golf tournament is critical to the financial health of our chapter. This year’s tournament, being held in very challenging times when there were questions about its viability, was rescued by a tenacious tournament committee headed by Dawna Fry, and her Co Chair, Katy Samaha. What they accomplished was so important for our chapter, and their efforts so beyond expectations, that the entire committee was honored as a volunteer of the month! A volunteer named Paula Cardello, Lisa Stumm, Bob Brans, Heather Gantner, Michael Morris, Vida Reid, and Jim Roche. And more importantly, that committee of intrepid volunteers laid the foundation for this next year’s tournament by establishing goals, processes, and plans that could be more easily implemented this year.

Our Emerging Leaders Team has developed into an important developing committee for our chapter. Heather Gantner, in addition to bringing a new potential FM into the world, has led our chapter efforts to assimilate facility managers new to the profession, or new to the chapter, regardless of their age or previous career. The events this team sponsors provide a welcoming place for FM’s to meet each other and build their own resource network while developing a sense of camaraderie.

Dick Currier really took our Green on the Greens event to a new level this year providing thought provoking education in the area of sustainability and green technology through a really fun event under the tent at the Phoenix Club.

It has been a great honor to serve you this year, and I must admit it has gone so fast that I feel I am just beginning. It was just yesterday that we were together last year at the “Catch the Wave” banquet, and I am just now figuring out what I should have been doing over the first few months. If it were not for your faithful Board of Directors, Paul Brown, Robert Frazier, Anna Richards, Paul Gomez, Vida Reid, Katy Samaha, and Bill Conley, and our chapter administrator, Cookie, we would not have progressed at all. And if it were not for these committee leaders just mentioned and their awesome

volunteers, too many to name, there would not have been any forward progress towards improvement, towards elevating our performance.

And most of all, our sponsors have supported our chapter through it all, even when on paper, for a moment or two, they wondered if it was worth the effort and expense. Local management from:

Universal Protection  
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CKE  
Spinitar  
Gensler

Bentley Prince Street  
MSI Office Furniture  
Comlock Security Group  
Coat N Cool  
ServiceMaster  
Structural Materials  
ATI-American Technologies  
GMI

and many others have stayed with us this year, and supported you in your local chapter. You need to make it worthwhile for each of them by looking to them as your first source every time you need something, even if just simply advice or a referral.

Each of these people mentioned, and a few others I have not had time to mention, has taken it to the next level this year. They have worked hard and demonstrated a commitment to you that you need to appreciate. But most of all, you need to join them and give a little of yourself for others, for your OC IFMA chapter.

***Catch the wave yourself. Rise with it, and stop watching!***

Larry McLaughlin  
President  
Orange County IFMA  
June 30, 2011