

## Welcome to “*Catch the Wave*” the Orange County IFMA Awards Celebration.

We want to thank and honor our leadership from last year. Paul Gomez, Holly French, Amalia Espinoza, Robert Frazier, Karen Torres, and Joseph Andreff. These have provided us a great foundation upon which to build.

Our Board for this year: Paul Brown is VP, Robert Frazier is Treasurer, Anna Richards is Secretary, Paul Gomez our past President, and Vida Reid and Katy Samaha are our Directors at Large.

**Catch the Wave.** That is my message to you tonight. Just like the surfer watches the swells and prepares for the opportunity to ride the best swell as it becomes a wave, we all need to seize the opportunity that is before us as members of OC IFMA. The swell is here tonight. Now is the time. **Catch the Wave.**

Our chapter theme this year is “**Take it to the Next Level**”. We want to find even small ways to “**Elevate our Performance**” as both FM Professionals and Associate Business Partners.

We know from our chapter survey and many personal conversations that there are 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, and
- 3) Personal Camaraderie based on similar industries or life experiences.

Both our FM Professionals and Associate Business Partners are looking to fill these three needs. This year it is our desire to “Elevate Our Performance” in each of these three focus areas.

First, we want our Professional members and our Associate Business Partners to grow professionally this year through a renewed focus on personal development programs for both groups.

To address the next two needs, we hope to foster a gentle transition in the culture of our chapter where FM Professionals can feel comfortable and encouraged while gathering knowledge, receive advice, and learn about cutting edge solutions that will enhance their value to their organizations.

We will encourage our FM Professionals to build their reliance on our Associate Business Partners, for they are indeed our supporting partners. But for that to develop our Associate Business Partners will work to become, and truly be accepted as,

“Trusted Advisors” or “go to” resources for information, referrals, connections, guidance, and encouragement.

For us to succeed in these objectives we all need to work on developing our relationships with each other. At World Workplace in Atlanta there will be a power speaker teaching on “Relationship Economics, The Art and Science of Relationships”, because in our new economy, our individual success will be dependent on building and nurturing relationships.

So, where do you fit in? Anywhere you want to. We cannot “Take it to the Next Level” without your direct involvement. We must have your participation on our various committees. For example, we need 5 people right now to serve on our Hospitality committee, the best way to become known in this chapter. We need about 20 to serve on our Membership committee who are willing to build relationships with an assigned group of current members. We need those willing to join our Communications Technology team as we initiate new methods of disseminating quality educational materials and provide enhanced directory marketing tools, such as video. Virtually every one of our 17 teams needs your help now.

There are those who have told others they wanted to serve but were never asked. Well, tonight I am asking. Come join us. Help where you can. If you want to grow professionally and are willing to do something to make that happen, see any board member tonight.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to **Catch the Wave.**