

October 2009 - IFMA Sacramento Member Spotlight

Lorene Liebert - CFM

Versatile, well-rounded, adept, experienced, expert, skillful, adjustable, flexible . . .

These words are synonymous with Lorene Liebert's experience in facilities. For 26 years she has had the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of the industry from managing, leasing, real estate, building maintenance, and much more. Whether it has to do with plumbing or a building lease Lorene is the type of leader and manager that wants to know the inner workings and the different aspects of facilities from all levels of her crew. She adopted this philosophy early in her career when there was an unusual problem with the plumbing in one of the restrooms (in a 50-year-old building). Lorene insisted that the tech in the field physically show her the problem and solution. "When you tell someone else that their knowledge is valuable, that they know more than you, you always get a positive response along with a learning experience."

Lorene's formal education at Sacramento State in Finance and Accounting has served her well, since there are a lot of numbers in facilities and real estate! Lorene's philosophy in work and in life is to be proactive, not a reactive. Even if something goes wrong you examine it and pick it apart so that you know how to make sure the same mistake doesn't happen again.

Her strong and extensive background in commercial real estate well prepared her for her current role at CH2M HILL. Lorene's official title is Client Services Manager, which suits her role well. While a majority of her position addresses commercial real estate lease administration for the company and their clients, the other portion requires her to be "bench strength" for other FMs in their network to rely on. As such, this means Lorene needs to stay educated within the facility world. This is where IFMA has served well for Lorene and her team.

Lorene is very excited about the FM opportunities at CH2M HILL, as well. The company has taken much more of a global approach to facilities recently. So much that it

has included managing entire cities where the city staff only consists of a mayor, manager, chief of police and fire and no additional employees. CH2M HILL does the rest! Additionally, their team does on-site management for such well known businesses as a particular brewery in Golden, CO (who doesn't like to be named).



Lorene's thoughts on IFMA Sacramento:

"FMs should always be training their replacements." IFMA allows FMs and their team the resources and opportunities to stay current on important issues. The information is valuable and knowing others in the industry is helpful.

Lorene's advice for someone new in the industry:

Pay attention to detail. Lorene believes "it is essential to be able to create and interpret a budget, and not all FM's can! Learn how to juggle, and don't be afraid to admit what you don't know and ASK QUESTIONS."

Little known facts about Lorene:

When not at the office Lorene likes to spend time with her husband, at home in the garden or outdoors bike riding or hiking - anything outside.