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Message from the President

Welcome to the 2007 / 2008 APICS Season!

As of July 1st, the Board of Directors that you elected in April has taken over. Thanks again to Francisco Jaramillo for his work on the Board for the past few years and welcome to Ilona Pretorius and Ryan Scott who have joined the board this year.

Even though there are no formal dinner meetings, courses or events scheduled for the summer months, that does not mean that the Board takes the summer off. We have been actively planning what is turning out to be a very busy season highlighted by a full slate of dinner meetings, CPIM courses at UCFV, Lean workshops, plant tours and professional development opportunities. Look for more information about all of these topics later in the newsletter as well as additional information about a number of "APICS Society" related events.

Have a great August – we hope to see you out at one of our upcoming events.

Richard Ranftl – President, APICS Fraser Valley Chapter

Meet the 2007 / 2008 Board

In April we held our Annual General Meeting during which we reviewed the activities of our Chapter over the last year and the Chapter's financial position. At that time we also held the election for the 2007 / 2008 Board of Directors. For those of you who were unable to attend the April meeting, here is the Fraser Valley Board of Directors for the coming season:



From left to right:

Ryan Scott – Marketing and Membership

Ryan Scott is currently working at Columbia Cabinets and Countertops as the Plant Superintendent in the Countertop Division. Ryan has been in manufacturing in various roles for the past twelve years. Ryan has recently joined APICS and is committed to achieving his CPIM designation by June 2008.

“I have been to three PDM’s and after seeing the value the PDM’s offered I wanted to become a part of the Board of the APICS Fraser Valley Chapter. I believe that my experience will help our Chapter continue to deliver value to the APICS community. I am looking forward to what is ahead of me for this year.”

Ilona Pretorius – Secretary / Communications

Ilona Pretorius is a Systems Analyst at Freybe Gourmet Foods located in the Langley / Aldergrove area. During the last two and a half years she has been a key member of the ERP implementation team at Freybe. Freybe is widely known for its high quality European Foods. For the last twelve years she has been involved in various roles related to ERP systems implementation and maintenance in a number of different industries. She joined APCIS in 2005

“As a Board member for 2007 / 2008, my primary focus will be to continue to develop our Web presence and communications in the Fraser Valley Chapter”.

Jason Young – Vice President / Programs

Jason Young is Operations Manager at Vitrum Industries where he is developing the Safety and Training departments while also supervising the Quality Assurance function. He is an honours graduate of Operations Management from BCIT and was twice awarded APICS scholarships. Jason served as the Director of Education during the inaugural year for the Fraser Valley Chapter and served on the Board last year as Secretary in addition to his two ongoing roles.

“As a Board member for 2007 / 2008 I would like to continue to help our Board as much as possible to develop professional development opportunities for our membership and community.”

Richard Ranftl (CPIM) – President

Richard Ranftl has over twenty years of experience in various operations management roles and now owns a manufacturing consulting business. He has been heavily involved with APICS for many years and has instructed APICS related courses at BCIT, UCFV, Kwantlen College, and for local corporations. Richard will also be teaching Operations Management courses at BCIT this Fall.

“As the returning President of the APICS Fraser Valley Chapter, my focus this year will be to continue to develop the strong team we built last year. The 2006 / 2007 season was very successful as we built our programs, education and membership foundations. This year should be very exciting as we see all of our hard work from last year continue to grow and develop.”

James Damon (CPIM) – Treasurer / Education

James Damon is currently the Production & Inventory Manager at Watts Industries Ltd - Langley facility. Watts Industries has a well known presence in the plumbing & heating industry throughout the world. He has been in the same industry over the last 14 years and has worked at various levels starting with production and progressing into sales & operations. An APICS member since 2001, James achieved his CPIM designation in 2002.

“I initially became involved with APICS to assist with the elevation of my career and education / experience. As a board member, I hope to add value as well as gain experience and knowledge from the rest of the board and chapter.”

We look forward to working with you in the coming year as our Chapter grows and our presence increases in the Fraser Valley

Board Assistance

Throughout the year we are always looking for additional resources to help in any way that they can with planning and conducting events, providing professional development opportunities for our members and spreading the word about our Chapter to those in the Fraser Valley who have yet to discover the benefits that being involved with APICS can bring. Each year brings challenges to the Board as we are all volunteers and we all have many priorities outside of APICS that demand our time, (in other words – we are normal people, just like you). So far this year members of our Board have been dealing with the passing of members of their families, changing employers (two of us), car crashes and the diversion of resources to advance educational and personal development.

We pride ourselves on being a Team – a Team that works together and pulls together. As a Team, we understand the value in the use of the letters “H E L P” and we use them with each other to pull together to make sure that we keep our Chapter running in tip-top shape.

With that in mind, we now ask all of you for help as one of our Board members, Jason Young, has to temporarily step back from a fully active dual role as Vice President and Director of Programs. Jason is pursuing an advanced degree on his Operations Management education and informed us that although he is able to help our Board on a limited basis he cannot devote the time needed to plan and execute Programs for the coming year. We will be able to spread the load and keep the Programs ball rolling, but are asking for additional volunteer’s who wouldn’t mind helping out in any way possible. You don’t need to become a formal Board member, but only commit to a few hours a month to help us plan and coordinate the Programs events. We need help with finding interesting guest speakers, topics, locations and with all of the activities that take place in making our events as successful as they have been.

If you are able to commit a small amount of your time to helping your Chapter grow please contact Richard Ranftl, our Chapter President, at 604-767-4822.

Education Preview

For the 2007 / 2008 Season we will be continuing to develop the CPIM (Certified in Production and Inventory Management) course offerings at the UCFV Abbotsford campus. For September, we have scheduled the Basics of Supply Chain Management and Master Planning of Resources courses. In addition to the CPIM courses we are working on developing an initial CSCP (Certified Supply Chain Professional) course offering – there will be more information about CSCP in our coming newsletters.

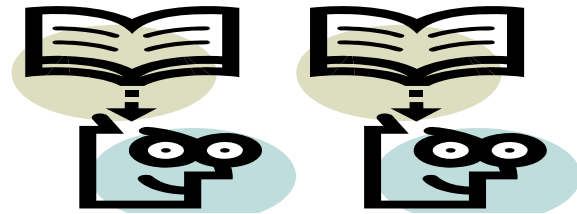
Last Spring, we offered a series of half-day Inventory Management workshops which sold out as soon as they were offered. As these were so successful we will be continuing to offer educational half-day workshops. Starting in October we will be offering the APICS Lean Manufacturing Workshop Series which consists of:

- Introduction to Lean Manufacturing
- Lean Mapping
- 5 S
- Process Improvement and Quality in Lean Manufacturing
- Lean Teams Scheduling
- Standard Work
- Lean Teams, Lean Design, and Accounting

If your company is interesting in hosting one (or more) of these workshops, please let James Damon, our Education Director know. If you are interested in attending, keep your eyes on our upcoming newsletters and on our web page for registration information as we expect these to sell out quickly as well.

Programs Preview

As was previously mentioned, Jason Young, our Director of Programs is temporarily stepping back from a fully active role and we are looking for your help to make Programs a success again this year. We are moving ahead with Programs Planning and have penciled in events for the Fall already (full information about the Fall events will be in our September newsletter). We are planning to run seven dinner meetings, one plant tour and two one-day workshops. An on-line Program's survey will be sent out to you shortly to gather your thoughts on topics that you would be interesting in seeing, meeting locations (as our Chapter covers Cloverdale to Hope, we are considering moving our meeting location around in order to better cover all of that huge area), meeting times and any additional thoughts that you may have on how we can continue to develop our Program offerings.



Call for Instructors

If you live or work in the Fraser Valley area and are interested in teaching either the APICS CPIM courses or related workshops, please let us know. APICS Society is working on standardizing the requirements for all Instructors. Until those formal requirements are finalized we are working on the following guidelines:

- the requirements for becoming a CPIM Instructor are that you must have your CPIM designation and preferably have participated in the APICS Train-The-Trainer workshop
- the requirements for becoming a Lean Workshop Instructor are that you should have experience in Lean Operations and preferably have participated in the APICS Train-The-Trainer workshop.

Although we would prefer it if you were a Chapter member, this is not required. If you have not attended the Train-The-Trainer workshop, we are planning to offer this workshop in the near future (we are willing to help fund this workshop for potential future instructors). If you are interested in Instructing or in becoming an Instructor in the future, please contact James Damon, our Director of Education.

UCFV Fall Semester

The University College of the Fraser Valley in cooperation with the APICS Fraser Valley Chapter is pleased to announce that the UCFV Abbotsford campus will once again be hosting the APICS Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) certification courses.

Basics of Supply Chain Management – starting September 27th – 12 weeks

Master Planning of Resources – Starting September 25th – 12 weeks

Registration is now open; for more information please see the UCFV website:
http://www.ucfv.ca/Continuing_Studies/Courses/Career_Job_Training.htm



APICS Society Updates

For many of you, as APICS members in good standing, you will be aware of several initiatives that APICS Society has ongoing. For those of you who are not APICS members, and who are not receiving the e-mail communications from APICS Society, here is a brief summary of Society related events:

APICS North America is restructuring the Regions / Chapters into “Districts”. We are the FRVL Chapter which is part of Region VIII (which covers all of Canada from coast to coast). The restructuring is an attempt to consolidate some of the regions into more logical groupings. After much debate, there will not be a realignment of “Canada” (it was going to have been chopped into West / Central / East and joined to corresponding geographical USA States). APICS has just announced that the names for all of the new Districts have been decided and we are no longer in “Region VIII” – we are in the “Canada District”. Believe me, we tried, but despite our best efforts they just would not agree to name us the “Great White North District”.

There will be a new classification of membership called “Academic”. This will be for full-time teachers / faculty at places like BCIT / UBC / SFU / UCFV who would like to be members of APICS. The rate will be \$25 plus Chapter dues (as compared to the Professional Membership which is \$110 plus Chapter dues – which are \$55 in the Fraser Valley). Some Chapters are discussing “waiving” the Chapter fees to promote faculty involvement in APICS. At this point in time, we only have one potential “Academic” member but will need to build this category into our Bylaws and fee structure in the near future.

As most of you are aware, this year APICS is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Although there is ongoing promotion of this, the big blow-out will be at the International Conference this Fall. The Conference is being held in Denver Colorado on October 21 – 23. Registration for the Conference is already open. If you are interested in attending, please check the main APICS web page for full Conference details.

In conjunction with the APICS International Conference, APICS Society is encouraging all members to join the “APICS Supply Chain Against Hunger”. All APICS members will be receiving a packet from APICS Society that contains information on how you can contribute to fighting hunger in each region. Each packet contains a request for donation from you with wristbands that can be filled out to list the names of colleagues you would like to refer for APICS membership. Please send your completed wristbands and donations to the address enclosed in the packet. All donations will be forwarded to the Canadian Association of Food Banks. All wristbands will be collected and presented at the conference by Region (we are part of Region VIII – Canada). The number of wrist bands collected by each Region will be totaled at the conference with one Region being crowned the winner of the APICS Supply Chain Against Hunger contest. We encourage all of you who receive wristbands to donate to this worthy cause.

Some of you may already have been contacted directly by APICS Society to complete a Membership Survey. These surveys are being sent out to several thousand APICS members throughout the world. We encourage those of you who receive surveys to take the time to respond as it’s your chance to provide direct feedback to APICS about how you would like APICS to meet your future needs.

If you are a member of APICS and have not been receiving e-mail updates from APICS Society, you may want to go on-line and check your membership profile information to make sure that it is up to date. If you are not sure how to do this, please contact one of our Board members for assistance.



Fall Workshops

APICS Fraser Valley will be hosting 7 Lean workshops for the upcoming year. Look for more information on our website and upcoming newsletters.

<http://www.apics-fraservalley.org/education.shtml>

BCIT Student Projects

APICS has a long standing co-operative relationship with BCIT and the Operations Management Program in particular (many of our members are BCIT Operations Management graduates and the current BCIT Op Man students are our future colleagues and Chapter Members). The BCIT Operations Management program prides itself in providing “work ready” graduates and many of our local companies have benefited from this. In order to fully prepare the students for the real world the Operations Management Program works in partnership with local industry to provide on-site training and experience for students. There are two sets of projects coming up this year that local companies may be interested in, both to take advantage of BCIT level resources to address an ongoing concern that the company may be experiencing, and in investing in the future by assisting in the training and development of students.

BCIT has asked us to spread the word about these project opportunities:



Could you or your team sponsor a project for BCIT's Operations Management students during their third term this September? We are hoping that you may be able to help us locate suitable projects.

The projects usually relate to an operations issue / process / problem that can be studied with the view to make recommendations for improvement, or an idea / opportunity that can be researched for possible implementation.

You get a team of 2 - 3 student consultants-in-training, working under faculty guidance each Wednesday for up to 12 weeks, who will do the problem / opportunity investigation work. You will receive a well researched and well documented report with recommendations (for improvement), as well as the data collected during the investigation. A benefit that most often occurs is that the process under review improves significantly by virtue of the identification and discussion of opportunities for improvement that surface during the study, before and regardless of the study results. And, there is no cost to you.

The educational purpose of the project is to provide our second year students with an opportunity to refine their analytical, teamwork, interpersonal and project skills. Another major benefit for our students is that you and your colleagues become part of the educational process; you have a lot of working knowledge to share.

We hope you have a project in mind that will benefit both you and the students.

Please let us know what you think.

Call Terry Johnston, at (604) 451-6749, E-mail Terry.Johnston@bcit.ca

or,

Chuck Spong (Program Head), at (604) 451-6746, E-mail Chuck.Spong@bcit.ca

The once-a-week Fall projects are targeted to companies located close to the BCIT Burnaby Campus. There is another longer and more-in-depth Spring project that is open to all companies in the Fraser Valley. Last year all of the BCIT Operations Management graduates found employment, many long before the school term ended. If you are looking for Operations Professionals and are having trouble finding talented people, what better way to “check out the upcoming talent” and sell them on your organization than by hosting a student project. If you are interested in being a host for either the Fall or Spring projects, please let Terry or Chuck at BCIT know.

Chapter Minimum Standards

As you read this, APICS Canada is reviewing our annual Chapter Minimum Standards submission. Each year all APICS Chapters must submit a report detailing how they have maintained minimum standards in providing members with educational and professional development opportunities while protecting the investment that the members have made in their local Chapters. Any Chapter that does not pass the inspection is subjected to a probationary period where they are given assistance to correct their performance and if they are unable to do so the Chapter Charter may be suspended by APICS. It is our pleasure to inform you that we have exceeded the Chapter Minimum Standards again for last year and that we expect to receive a “passing grade” for our submission.