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Message from the President

What do you get when you mix marshmallows, toothpicks, straws, paper and 30 “operations” professionals – total and utter chaos (hmmm – sounds just like the last plant I worked in!).

For those of you that missed it, our last dinner meeting featured a hands-on presentation by Mark Bukata who lead us out of our chaotic and rushed PUSH world where marshmallows were being thrown across our assembly floor to the calm cool collected world of PULL systems where we were actually able to make products in time to meet customer orders – what a novel concept!

Thanks again Mark for a fun filled learning experience, I bet the sale of marshmallows tripled last week as we all took the simulation back to work to show the rest of our organizations how to make life a lot less hectic on the shop floor.

With only two dinner meetings left in our 2007 / 2008 season we are starting to plan for next year. One of our first concerns is to make sure that we have enough people on the board to continue to be able to offer the full slate of professional development opportunities that we have been doing over the last few years. This is the time where we “cast our net” to see if there are any of you interested in helping out, (even if it’s just helping at events and not being a full Board member) next year. It’s a great learning experience (planning budgets and strategies, working as a team, running events, traveling to exotic destinations like Durham Ontario) and is very rewarding when you see the feedback that comes back from attendees at events (and those you meet on the street). As a networking resource, being involved with APICS is a great way to meet industry professionals and to get your name known in our community. If you are interested, or would like to find out more about what helping out on the Board is all about, please give me (Richard) a call at 604-767-4822 and let’s talk.

Richard Ranftl (CPIM)
 President – APICS Fraser Valley Chapter



Dinner Meetings and Workshops

We normally hold our meetings on Wednesday evenings, but do move this from time to time to accommodate the schedule of our guest speakers. The following events are “firm planned” more events will be added to the schedule as they are confirmed

Scheduled Upcoming events:

Date	Event	Presentation	Speaker
March 19 th	Dinner Meeting	Six Sigma Overview	Vladimir Kajdan (Ph.D.)
April 23 rd	AGM & Dinner Meeting	Lean in a Hi-Mix, Low-Volume World	Bob Adams
May 21 st	Plant Tour	Freybe Gourmet Foods (Langley)	

From the last PDM



Free to APICS Members:

APICS Dictionary, 12th Edition Now Available

APICS is pleased to announce the publication of one of the most widely recognized resources in the Operations Management profession – *The APICS Dictionary*. It is the standard for defining terms used in the operations management field, and this 12th edition contains more than 4,000 important terms that every operations manager should know. This first new edition in three years features 600 new terms and definitions reflecting the latest trends and mandates in the field.

Your complimentary copy of this internationally recognized educational tool is a member benefit that will help you stay knowledgeable and competitive. Request your copy today at www.apics.org/freedictionary. Non-members may purchase a copy through the APICS on-line bookstore at www.apics.org/bookstore.

Spring Course Offering! CPIM – Basics of Supply Chain Management

Since 1973, the CPIM program has educated more than 75,000 manufacturing professionals on essential terminology, concepts, and strategies related to demand management, procurement and supplier planning, material requirements planning, capacity requirements planning, sales and operations planning, master scheduling, performance measurements, supplier relationships, quality control, and continuous improvement.

APICS Fraser Valley is offering the first of 5 modules in the CPIM curriculum beginning March 11th, 2008. The course will be hosted by IMW Industries located in Chilliwack. This is a 12 week course from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Basics of Supply Chain Management

This course is for everyone who needs to have a basic understanding of the planning and control of the flow of materials into, through and out of manufacturing of distribution organization. This course is an introduction to Materials Planning, Master Planning, Materials Requirements Planning, Capacity Management, Production Activity Control, Inventory Fundamentals, Physical Distribution, Quality Management, Purchasing, and Just-In-Time.

Please Contact James Damon @ 778.773.8725 for registration.

March Dinner Meeting

Sis Sigma Overview

“What the heck is Six Sigma?”

Presented by: Dr. Vladimir Kajdan (Ph.D.)

Every Company owner, CEO, and Manager wants to improve the bottom line of their business process by reducing failure rate, rework, number and proportion of Non-Value Added Activities among all business operations. That would reduce wasted time and wasted money, provide them with the highest Return on Investments (ROI) and eventually profit – the major goal of any profitable business.

However, most of the above mentioned managing people would not be able to answer the questions: what level of quality, productivity, leanness would they realistically desire? What degree of leanness or failures is actually achievable? What sequence of actions and in what intensity should be conducted? How to plan the improvement activities with clear understanding of the goals, schedule, and effect of the results?

Dr. Vladimir Kajdan will try to answer all these and many other questions in his presentation on Six Sigma Overview. It will describe the Six Sigma philosophy as a most modern management strategy, which creates customer driven cost and quality improvements. He will describe the Six Sigma origins, its goal and methods, setting differences between Six Sigma, Quality Control (QC), Total Quality Management (TQM), and ISO 9000 initiatives.

Speaker Bio

- Dr. Vladimir Kajdan earned a Ph.D. in Statistics from Kiev Polytechnic University (Ukraine) in 1985. Since 2000 he is a senior member of American Society for Quality (ASQ) and Resides in Vancouver, Canada. He is ASQ Certified Six Sigma Black Belt and Certified Quality Engineer with over 20 years of experience in quality assurance, manufacturing and applied statistics.
- Dr. Kajdan has more than 20 publications in different aspects of quality engineering.
- At the 10th World Congress for Total Quality Management (TQM) in 2005 Dr. Kajdan delivered the presentation “Quality, Cost, and Business Excellence. Why are they inseparable?”
- At the 11th World Congress for TQM in 2006 his presentation “Bumpy Road to Lean Enterprise” received a prize for the best paper.
- Vladimir Kajdan is working as a Director of Business Excellence at Starline Architectural Windows Ltd. in Vancouver, Canada.

Event Detail

The meeting will be held at Newlands Golf and Country Club, our usual location. Signs will be posted in the lobby to direct you to the correct room.

Date: Wednesday March 19th, 2008
 Time: Registration / Cash Bar 5:30
 Teriyaki Chicken Buffet 6:15
 Presentation 7:00

Place: Newlands Golf and Country Club
 21025 48th Avenue, Langley

Cost: Members: \$30
 Non Members \$40
 Students: \$20

Register:

The website registration will send a pdf file of your registration. (<http://www.apics-fraservalley.org/content.php?id=75>) If you do not have a default e-mail system installed please contact our Director of Programs at programs@apics-fraservalley.org. Please provide your Name, Company, Phone Number and membership category.

How to get there?



Please register by Monday March 17th to ensure that you have a reserved seat.

5 Year Pin Awarded in February

In the Fraser Valley Chapter of APICS we like to acknowledge the loyalty of our members by awarding “Years of Service” pins to those who have been members of APICS for 5, 10, 15, 20 or more years. It was our pleasure to award Martin Loffler of IMW Industries with his 5 Year Membership pin – congratulations Martin and thanks for your continued participation in our Chapter activities.

Just a reminder to Dave Z, Brett L, John M, Byron M and Richard J that we have your pins ready and waiting for you – all you need to do is attend one of our upcoming events.



Community Events:

BCIT Open House – April 11th and 12th “Change Your World – Enter Ours”

Open to all who would like to attend, the BCIT Open House (which is held every second year) will feature presentations and display from all technologies. Come and see what the next wave of professionals is learning.



TOC Workshop

Date: March 12 / 13
Event: Workshop
Presentation: Theory of Constraints
Speaker: Steve Jackson (CFPIM)

For more information regarding the TOC workshop, please check www.synchronix.com.

February Dinner Meeting Review

Traditional versus J.I.T. Principles

Presented by Mark Bukata, CPIM

On February 20th, Mark Bukata, APICS Instructor and Supply Chain Manager for Response Biomedical presented a dynamic, hands on (and fun!) presentation on how a shift from traditional PUSH systems to J.I.T. based PULL systems can transform a business from chaos to control. We had great participation from all of the attendees including our regulars, several BCIT students and even one drop-in from our sister Chapter in Edmonton.

Mark started us off with a general overview of what Just In Time (J.I.T.) is all about and then contrasted the “traditional” production environment to one that is run based on those J.I.T. principles. In order to enable us to experience what J.I.T. feels like, he “hired” all of us into his newly created company and set us up into the traditional worker / manager roles to manage three production lines. The product; planes, trains and automobiles? Well – almost – how about paper boats and marshmallow cars. We started in the traditional paper-flow PUSH world of purchase orders and work orders trying to match batches of purchased materials to batches of production requirements while watching our customer orders pile up waiting for something to make it through the plant in one piece. Despite ending up with at least seven “expeditors” the only people we satisfied were the suppliers like Kyle who sat there eating the raw materials (marshmallows) while laughing at the fun on the shop floor. What did it look like? If you are old enough to remember the Keystone Cops movies, that might help you picture what was happening.

After successfully completing one of the twenty customer orders we had to build, (a 5% fill rate – not too impressive), Mark mercifully called a halt to our failing PUSH enterprise and then rearranged us into work-cells with kanban bins to replace the work orders and purchase orders. After some brief instruction on the rules of PULL, we embarked on satisfying customer orders as they arrived, and even managed to get the first one out on time! After this tremendous boost to our previously crushed morale, we settled down to a very quiet and boring experience of building product to a 95% fill and on-time delivery rate. The PULL method quickly allowed us to see that the “green” assembly line was where we had issues and allowed us to focus our resources to where they were needed while our other two lines just clicked along filling customer orders.

The big difference between PUSH and PULL (other than being able to boost customer service by over 90%) was the sense of control that we now had on our shop floor. We were able to see anything out of place and quickly react to improve it, rather than trying to fix everything at once even if we didn’t know if it was broken or not.

Thanks again Mark for an excellent presentation. For those of you who were unable to attend, Mark has kindly sent us a copy of his presentation and it is available on our web page at: <http://www.apics-fraservalley.org/past-events/>.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

