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Message from the President

Being Operations Management Professionals, I understood that our membership and guests are a tough bunch—but even I was shocked to see how many people attended our February event despite the sudden snowfall. Well done!

Speaking of tough professionals, we are in the second half of our year and soon enough it shall be time for our Annual General Meeting. It will be at that time we as members elect our Board of Directors for the next year and we are looking for you!

What does the board do exactly?

We create and carry out strategic plans to use the resources of the chapter to provide networking and educational offerings in the field of Operations Management. It meets once a month (for no more than an hour, or else!) to confirm our plans are on the right track. Between meetings we carry out the various tasks from organizing classes, preparing for PDM's, communicating with our membership, and even paying the bills. It is a great experience being able to work with all facets of an organization at a comfortable scale.

This sounds like work...and why would we want to add work to our already busy lives?

There are the altruistic reasons. There are people who have been promoted from the shop floor, these people work very hard but do not have the skills to help their company to succeed. APICS knowledge delivered through courses or across a table at a PDM gives them self confidence and real solutions. I have seen companies know what they need but not where to start until someone gave them an APICS nudge. It is not curing cancer but it IS making the world a better place by helping to eliminate waste in organizations and keep jobs in the Fraser Valley area.

On the personal level not only do you gain experience in all facets of an organization, it also puts you in contact with potential employers and future team members. The last interview I stepped into had a Production Manager who had already met me at an APICS meeting across the table. This gave me the kind of edge that in times of recession can make or break opportunities.

If you are interested in applying for a position on the board, please contact me and I can provide more details on how you can help.

On behalf of the board (which I hope to one day include you!)

See you at this month's event – Improving ERP.

Jason Young
President
APICS Fraser Valley

Dinner Meetings and Workshops

We normally hold our meetings on Wednesday evenings; Workshops can be scheduled as requested.

Scheduled Upcoming events:

Date	Event	Presentation	Speaker
March 25 th	Dinner Meeting	Improving ERP systems	Brett Mewett
	Register by March 23 to ensure your seat.		
April 22 nd	AGM and Dinner Meeting	Sales and Operation Planning	Rob McPhail, CPIM, CIRM, CSCP
Oct 4 to 6	International Conference, Toronto		
Winter 2009	Detailed Scheduling and Planning	Hosted at IMW Industries	
Winter 2009	Master Planning of Resources	Hosted at Asco Aerospace and Freybe Gourmet Foods	
Winter 2009	Basics of Supply Chain Management	Hosted at Freybe Gourmet Foods	



March Dinner Meeting – Improving ERP Systems

"Getting Back to Basics"

A company looking at purchasing ERP software will give much thought to the functionality of the product, the look of the screens, ease of use etc. Sometimes though, very little thought is given to the "fuel" the system will run on.

As a result, within a relatively short period of time, the "New" system looks a lot like the old one. The old frustrations creep back in, only now management is angry because a large amount of money has been spent, but everyone feels like they are no further ahead.

If this is the case, it is time to get back to basics. The quality of the data coming out of the system is directly related to the data going in. If there is a disconnect between the processes on the floor and what is told to the system, reporting becomes invalid. In turn, decisions become harder to make instead of easier.

We will review some of the common mistakes companies make, which can be avoided by getting back to basics.

Speaker Bio:

Brett Mewett works as a Business Systems Consultant for Essential Software Solutions Inc (ESS) in Vancouver. His activities at ESS range from Pre-Sales Support through to Post-Sales Implementation of ERP software.

In the past, Brett has filled such roles as Distribution Manager, Inventory Coordinator, Procurement & Materials Strategist, Materials Manager and Operations Manager, in addition to running his own companies.

A graduate of BCIT's "Fastrack" Operations Management program, Brett pursued the Materials Management option to attain a Certificate of Technology. Around the same time, Brett achieved his CPIM designation.

For the past 5 + years, Brett has been teaching the APICS curriculum at BCIT.

Brett was born and raised in New Zealand, loves cars, wine and scotch. Sooner or later, one or more of these things find their way into his presentations.

March Dinner Meeting

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: March 25th, 2008
 Time: Registration / Cash Bar 5:30
 Chicken Coq Au Vin 6:15
 Presentation 7:00

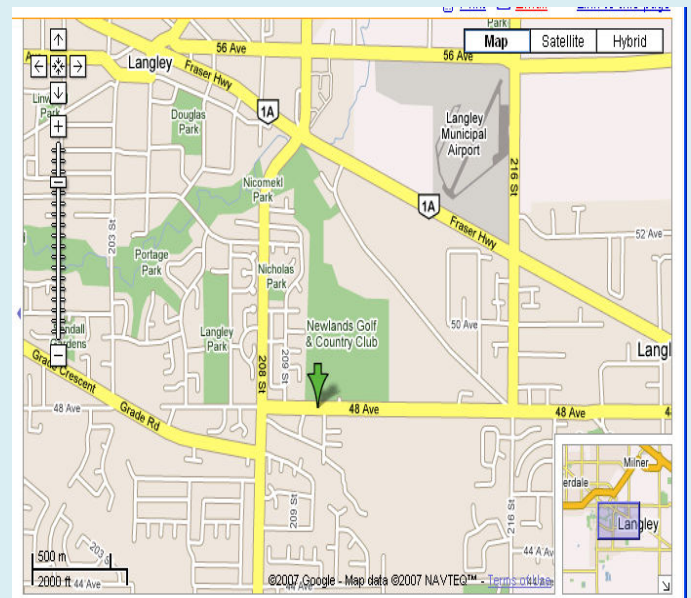
Place: Newlands Golf and Country Club
 21025 48th Avenue, Langley

Cost: Members: \$30
 Non Members \$45
 Students: \$20

Register:
 The website registration will send a pdf file of your registration. (<http://www.apics-fraservalley.org/dinner-meetings/>) 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.

Please register prior or on Monday March 23rd to ensure that you have a reserved seat.

How to get there?



Winter 2009 Education

Basics of Supply Chain Management

Explore the basic concepts in managing the flow of materials in a supply chain. In the Basics, you get a complete overview of material flow, from internal and external suppliers to and from your organization.

Master Planning of Resources

Explore the processes used to develop sales and operations plans and identify and assess internal and external demand and forecasting requirements. The course focuses on the importance of producing achievable master schedules that are consistent with business policies, objectives, and resource constraints.

Detailed Scheduling and Planning

Focus on the various techniques for material and capacity scheduling. Study detailed descriptions of material requirements planning (MRP), capacity requirements planning (CRP), inventory management practices, and procurement and supplier planning. Topics include:

- Recognizing Techniques and Practices of Inventory Management
- Mechanics of the Detailed Material Planning Process
- Planning Operations to Support the Priority Plan
- Planning Procurement and External Sources of Supply

We have host sites for Basics, Master Planning of Resources as well as Detailed Scheduling and Planning; please contact the Education Director education@apics-fraservalley.org if you want to attend.

Review of February PDM:

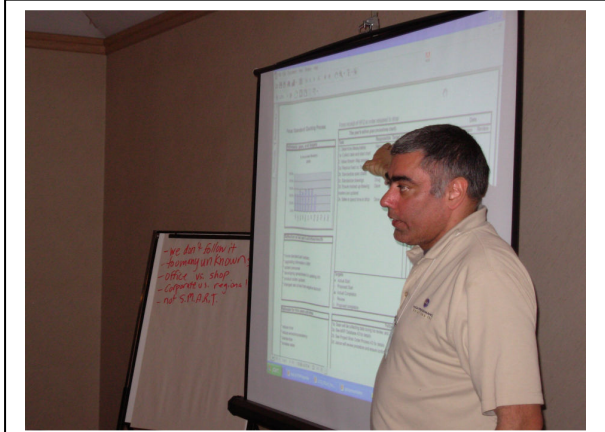
Jay Warren, CQT, from High Performance Systems spoke to us at the February PDM.

He drew our attention to the fact that Hoshin Planning is a systematic approach to identify, sort and resolve issues requiring breakthrough improvement.

If your Company / Association / Group know what the True North is that they are working towards, then you will have a better chance of reaching the goals. These goals support the Company and its shareholders, the customers, the Team Members and the Community.

Effective Planning Techniques include:
 Identify the critical few objectives
 Evaluate resource constraints
 Establish performance measures
 Develop implementation plans
 Conduct regular reviews
 Take Corrective action.

Jay reminded us that using an A3 to measure performance, gaps and targets will be in everyone's reach. He has supplied us with an example that will be accessible from the website.



5 Year Pin

We were much honored to award Tim McBride his 5 year membership pin. His regular attendance to the events and his past service on the Board is appreciated by us all.

We Need You !!!

During the April AGM meeting we will be voting for Board Members

Please email Jason at president@apics-fraservalley.org for more information.

