



WORLD WORKPLACE

San Diego 2006

I'll start at the finish. Picture a large ballroom at a convention center with music playing and a crowded dance floor. It was after the Awards of Excellence Dinner, and the crowd was enjoying themselves on this closing night of the convention. Those of us from Atlanta were celebrating the Outstanding Chapter of the Year award, and we weren't doing it quietly. Yes, everyone in attendance knew that Atlanta was in the house.

Lest I give the wrong impression, World Workplace wasn't just about going to dinners and parties, though there were plenty of them. The primary focus is on the Facility Management profession and providing an opportunity for education, networking, career development and expanding awareness of products and services. These four days allowed FM professionals from around the world to grow professionally in the areas of their choosing, and to sample from a variety of opportunities. From an educational standpoint, the list of topics being offered provided a diverse range of subjects which were reflective of the broad job descriptions which fall under facility management. And the exhibition hall was loaded with vendors offering a variety of innovative goods and services.

For me personally, I really enjoyed the time to get to know my fellow members from Atlanta better. There were over fifty members from our chapter in San Diego. This meant that between class sessions or at lunch, there was time to network with our group. We also had the added benefit of Happy Hour gatherings at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, thanks to the sponsorship of Flood Brothers, Atlantic Business Systems, ART & Associates, Choate Interiors, Rent-A-Crate and Trilogy FM. With an incredible view of the harbor, we enjoyed the time relaxing, both catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances. It was definitely time well spent. I would also add a special thanks to Barbara de Nijs Bik who used her inside connections at Holiday Inn to ensure that our group was well taken care of.

Finally I will end at the beginning. I was fortunate to attend WWP as winner of the Atlanta chapter's scholarship for this event. This is the first year that one has been offered, and I am most grateful to have been the recipient. Having attended previously, I really wanted to be there representing the chapter as your president. It was an honor to do so. In the future, I would encourage those that haven't been able to experience World Workplace to apply for the scholarship. It is an outstanding event that every FM professional should experience.



WWP ATLANTA HOSPITALITY SUITE

