

Report to the Membership

By E. Lander Medlin

The global economic downturn has eclipsed all other factors contributing more significantly than ever to the funding challenges we face at our institutions. The impact of these continued economic challenges on your budgets and your ability to travel for training and development remains a challenge for you, your staff, and APPA. Nonetheless, deferring professional development is no more an option for you and your staff than deferring facilities maintenance/renewal is for your institutions.

Indeed, APPA has also endured these economic challenges. However, I am pleased to report that we ended fiscal year 2010-2011 with a surplus balance of \$268,710. Targeted revenue enhancements and focused attention on daily expenses and event management contributed greatly to an improved bottom line. In addition, our operating and capital reserves increased to \$369,000 from \$245,000 last year, and the value of our headquarters building increased to \$2.2 million.

We have renewed clarity of focus and direction having just developed a NEW strategic plan. The forthcoming strategies and initiatives will sharpen and further crystallize ways to increase value to our members by providing a professional development career continuum and an institutional development pathway that is unparalleled in the industry.

APPA's role is to elevate educational facilities professionals into influential leaders in education who, in turn, create inviting and supportive institutional learning environments, thus increasing the credibility and influence of the facilities profession. Therefore, the desired outcomes of

competency, collaboration, and credibility of our members remain an integral part of our vision for the future.

COMPETENCY

The guidelines and standards established by your colleagues over the past several years remain invaluable tools for resource allocation and strategic planning. Most notable is the recent significant revision of the Operational Guidelines Trilogy – consisting of the maintenance trades, custodial services, and grounds management. The launch of the digital BOK (Body of Knowledge), which updated and replaced *Facilities Management: A Manual for Plant Administration*, remains noteworthy giving any and all individuals at your institution full access (24/7). In addition, your resource library should include our newest book *Strategic Capital Investment* and the Web-based 2009-10 Facilities Performance Indicators (FPI) and dashboards. The FPI tools and reports are available free to member institutions who participate in the data collection survey phase.

The availability and flow of relevant information regularly occurs via APPA's bi-monthly magazine, *Facilities Manager*; *Inside APPA*, our biweekly electronic newsletter; and our website, <http://www.appa.org>.

CFaR, APPA's Center for Facilities Research, is also resident on our website and fills a vital need by integrating the development, collection, and delivery of research in the education environment. Information you need to make knowledgeable and informed decisions for your institutions.

Finally, as part of our strategy to expand knowledge and research, APPA, with gener-

ous support from both UGL Services and Jacobs, delivered its sixth annual Thought Leaders symposium for 2011 this past April. In essence, a group of key higher education stakeholders consisting of chancellors, presidents, regents, business officers, IT professionals, student services administrators, facilities professionals, and representatives from the business community are assembled annually and engage in a day-long discussion of several drivers of change expected to shape the future of higher education and their impact on facilities.

It is through these research findings and thought-provoking symposia that will brand APPA as the “go to” resource for educational facilities questions, increase the awareness of the facilities profession with senior institutional officers, and enhance the credibility of the educational facilities professional.

The content and appeal of APPA's vast array of educational programs are now available practically under one roof now called “APPA U” consisting of the “core four” - Institute for Facilities Management, Leadership Academy, Supervisor's Toolkit, and the EFP Prep Course. These programs provide members with the professional career development and personal growth needed to compete and collaborate effectively in today's environment.

Our newest development are the Drive-In Workshops. These programs are offered locally and sponsored by the business partner community, so the visibility and exposure is unbeatable. What better way to connect with educational facilities professionals locally to “lunch and learn.”

APPA's annual conference features best-of-breed panelists and speakers who focus on future solutions to our most pressing issues to prepare your organization for the next generation of facilities management practices. We also continue to deliver a distinct and successful program strictly

for senior facilities officers called the “SFO Summit”. This one-day program is co-located with APPA 20XX as a pre-conference event.

To add to this continuum of professional development career opportunities and to complement our competency-based programs and services, APPA has developed and executed a credentialing and certification program comprising two credentials – the EFP (Educational Facilities Professional) and the CEF (Certified Educational Facilities Professional). Over 300 individuals have earned these designations. Both these credentials are essential for the future engagement of our emerging facilities professionals in APPA and the educational workplace and to increase the credibility of the facilities profession at educational institutions. We now offer the exams on-line.

COLLABORATION

Strategic collaboration and partnerships increase the depth and breadth of research and information and ultimately member value. Thanks to the funding received from ASHRAE, we have launched a major research project focused on the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), which will engage members, organizations, associations, and agencies across the entire field of facilities management.

APPA’s collective national and international strategic alliances and partnerships help APPA leverage its resources to provide cost-effective, focused research, information, and educational programming, ensure an increased information flow to our members, and provide opportunities for more meaningful engagement by young facilities professionals.


CREDIBILITY

Environmental issues and compliance concerns remain an important part of our public policy agenda which drove the establishment of a Code Advocacy Task Force (CATF) by the APPA Board. The group has already successfully advocated a variety of positions with the NFPA, NEC, and ASHRAE thereby avoiding additional costs and/or saving educational

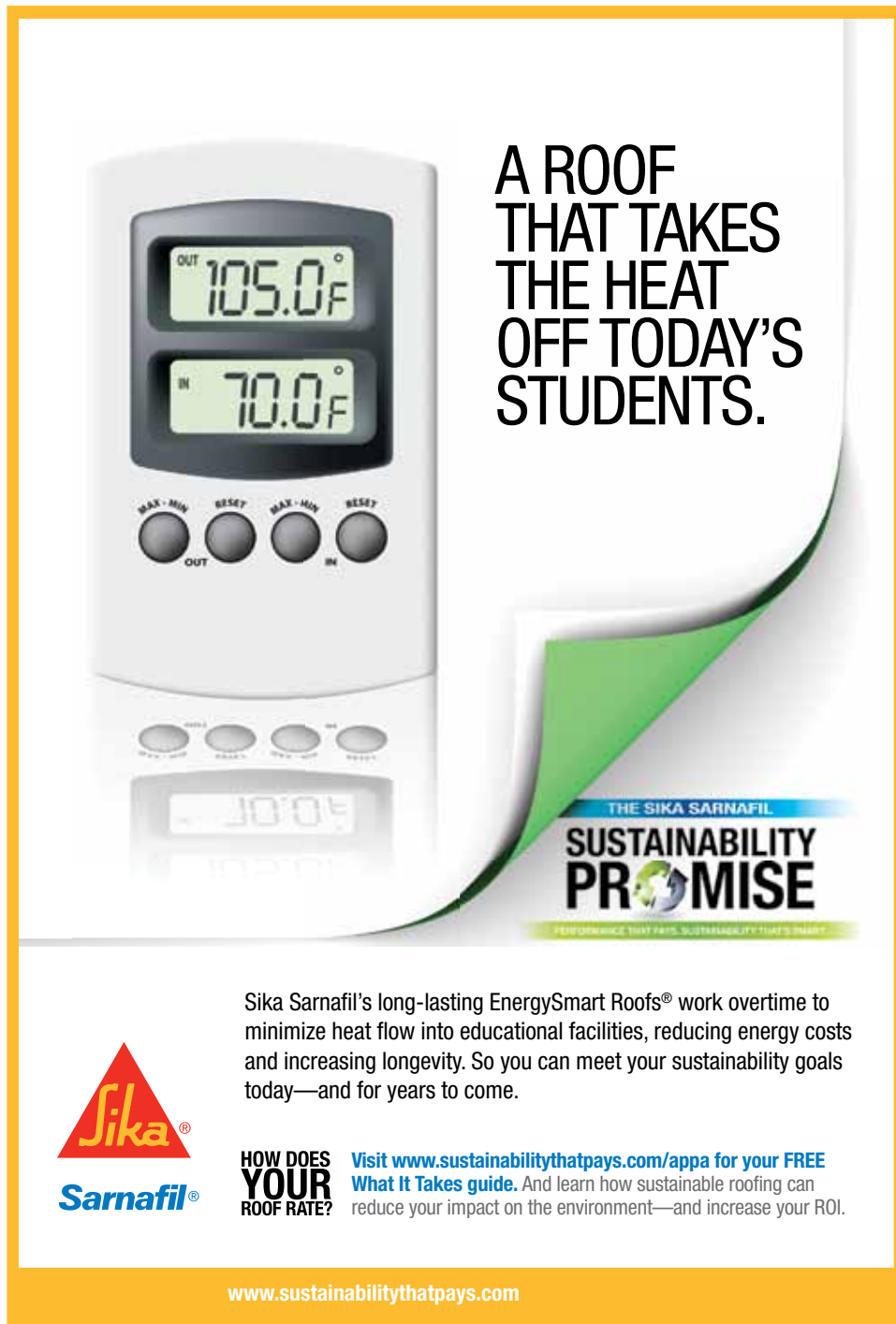
institutions millions of dollars.

Through the vast array of educational offerings, print and electronic information, research, and publications, and this rich network of professionals, APPA can help you gain that competitive edge and enhance your professional image.

Certainly, the continued challenges we face as an association, as educational facilities professionals, and as an industry sector

will require our best collective and collaborative efforts. Your contributions will be key in helping to shape the future of education. APPA’s contributions will be key as a significant voice on strategic institutional issues for the educational facilities profession. 

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