

# NI In the News

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## December 1, 2015—Granite City Brewery



### *Northern Illinois IFMA Holiday Networking Gala*

*Come celebrate the holiday season with your fellow IFMA members!*

*Let's have some fun and exchange gently used items from home for our White Elephant gift exchange! Think about that item in your house that you never liked or found useful!*

*IFMA member event only!!! Spouses and significant others welcome!!*

*Admission includes 2 drink tickets, heavy appetizers and networking! Cost is \$45.*

*We are also looking for nonperishable food items to be donated to the Chicago Food Depository.*

*Our event is sponsored by:*

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# From the President....



Baby, it's cold outside! We had 14 inches of snow by my house last weekend! I hope everyone stayed safe in this snowy weather. I am looking forward to our Holiday Party, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at Granite City Brewery in Schaumburg. We have a fireplace and a television for anyone who does not want to miss the Blackhawks game. It will fun to get together and relax with everyone and start getting in the holiday spirit.

One of the topics that was discussed at our November board meeting and concerned me was that we are down 50 members. The board and the membership committee are going through the list of members who let their membership lapse and find out why and if we can have them join again.

We have a great organization and the fees are not as expensive as other associations. Please **toot our horn** to your fellow associates and facility manager friends. IFMA National's program, **Race to Indy** will help us promote our chapter to FM's. The chapter with the most new FM's signed up will win the following grand prizes. **A reception will be held in honor of each of the category winners at IFMA's World Workplace San Diego. Any member from the winning chapters and council are invited to the reception held in their honor for the chapters and council's hard work. Each winning chapter and council will also receive one complimentary World Workplace registration for them to give away as they choose. And finally, all of the winners will also go on a private facility tour at World Workplace 2016 in San Diego.**

This should be a huge incentive for all of us to encourage facility managers to join our organization. Please let me know if you know of any facility managers you would like me to contact.

We are also looking for more volunteers for our committees. Associates, please get involved. You will be happy you did. Relationships happen over time. Please see the list of committees in the newsletter. We are having a member of each committee speak at our monthly meetings. We started in November with Laura Ingram talking about Programming Committee. She did a great job of explaining that by developing a relationship through her programming committee efforts, she was able to successfully be awarded the business of one of her largest customers. Also, please let Laura or Scott Solverson know if you have any contacts at a facility you may want to tour at one of our monthly meetings.



Don't forget to get "LinkedIn" with our chapter IFMA NI Chapter Group

Lastly, please see the etiquette rules in the newsletter and on the website. Associates and facility managers need each other for this organization to be successful. Please respect each other and work towards a mutually beneficial relationship.

There will not be a board meeting in December.

On behalf of the executive board, I wish you all a peaceful and calm holiday with family and friends.

Warm Regards,  
Ann Del Fiocco  
Madam President

## Vendor Etiquette

We encourage all members to bring guests and expect them to feel welcome. The goal is for them to join the organization. Associates and their guests should be respectful of the professionals in our organization and refrain from unwanted solicitation.



IFMA-NI Members are expected to introduce themselves and network with both professional and associate members. Please remember to be courteous and respectful. Members are encouraged to build relationships with fellow members. Learn about each other's professions so both associate and professional members are able to utilize resources and services within our organization. If in the course of conversation there is shared agreement that an exchange of business cards would be mutually beneficial, please feel free to do so. Business cards should not be distributed unsolicited or in large quantities, such as leaving multiple cards on tables.

Relationships should develop through communication at meetings. The IFMA-NI membership list should not be leveraged to gain access into professional members' organizations.

All presenters should present topics that are geared toward facility managers and are not infomercials for their products.

All cell phones should be silenced during meetings.

## 20 Questions with Julie Bizer



**Name:** Julie Bizer  
**Company:** MillerCoors  
**Position:** Facility Services & Real Estate Manager  
**How long with IFMA:** 16 years

**Favorite hobbies:**  
 Bicycling, golf, swim/scuba, gardening

**Favorite book:**  
 Still Alice (read it before they made the movie)

**Currently reading:**  
 Helter Skelter (wow!).... I was too young when that all happened, so very interesting from the prosecution attorney's point of view!

**Favorite food/cuisine:**  
 Fish/Salmon, Sushi, Italian, Pulled pork on the grill for 6 hrs!

**Favorite restaurant:** Cooper's Hawk

**Describe your family growing up and now:**  
 Grew up in LaGrange Park, moved to Downers Grove after my Sophomore year of high school. I have one sister. My parents live nearby. Married and have 2 married step sons just celebrating their 1 year anniversary, one living in Colorado, one in Lisle, IL.

**Current residence:** Bolingbrook, IL

**Favorite sport to play:** Golf

**Favorite sporting event:**  
 Enjoy the Tour de France, golf, any Chicago team playing

**Favorite team:** Blackhawks

**Cubs or Sox?**  
 Cubs fan! (yes, Dave Falls, there ARE Cubs fans still alive!)

**Morning or night person:**  
 Definitely Morning! (aren't ALL Facility Manager's?)

**If I won the lottery, I would:**  
 Retire. Pay off my house, buy a new car, pay off my stepkids' student loans, quit my job, hire a physical trainer, and travel the world

**Three words I would use to describe myself:**  
 Organized, organized, organized (oh, 2 more?)  
 Thoughtful  
 Proactive

**Favorite movie:** Any 007 movie! Untouchables (love Sean Connery!)

**Favorite TV show:** Last man standing (Tim Allen makes me laugh) – have recently been watching the Jim Gaffigan show – hilarious!

**Most people don't know:**  
 I went to college as a voice major and can sing 1<sup>st</sup> soprano and want to skydive .... Just once!

**One goal that I would like to accomplish during my lifetime:** Hit a hole-in-one,

**Hero or role model (or an influential person in my life):**  
 I would have to say my Father – I'm Daddy's little girl. Values, ethics, morals, physical traits, and I am proud to continue to be in his life as the ages change and we begin the early stages of "parenting" our parents.

**Favorite thing to do in the summer:**  
 Ravinia for music! Golf, swim, vacation off our 'bucket' list – life's too short! As Mark Twain said it: *"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do, than by the things you did do"*

**If I could visit any place in the world, it would be:** African Safari

**Favorite city to visit:** Nashville

## Julie Bizer Continued

**Favorite vacation spot:**

Kauai and St. John for warm sunny spots. Beaver Creek Colorado for winter skiing.

**If I could trade places with one person for a day, it would be:** Kate Middleton

**I'd like to have dinner with:** Garth Brooks

**Songs(artists) are on my iPod/phone:**

Enjoy anything I can sing to, and understand the words –music like Rob Thomas, Garth Brooks, Crosby Stills Nash,Adele, Blake Shelton, Matchbox 20

**If I had access to a time machine, I would travel to:**

Early1900's when my grandparents were raising my Dad – times were so simple then!

**Pet peeves:**

Not acknowledging someone's thoughtfulness. Dirty dishes in the sink before bed.

**Have a new product or service to share?**

**How about an innovative way for solving a facility problem?**

**Win any awards lately?**

**We are always looking for articles for our newsletter!**

Please share with your fellow managers and associate members items of interest in your field.

**Article Guidelines:**

Article length between ½ page and 2 pages-can include pictures.

Written in Word format-no PDF.

Make sure you include credit information at end of article.

Submission due by the 20<sup>th</sup> BEFORE the month the newsletter is printed. For example, March newsletter needs articles by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, we will hold for following month.

Any ???Please contact Jan Wemple, Newsletter coordinator at:

[jwemple@moorelandscapes.com](mailto:jwemple@moorelandscapes.com) or 847-774-1250.

Or Kathy at: [chapteradministrator@ifmani.com](mailto:chapteradministrator@ifmani.com)



## 20 Questions with Scott Solverson



**Name:** Scott Solverson  
**Company:** b2b Konnections, LLC – Business Development and Marketing Consulting for companies in the Architectural and Construction Industry  
**Position:** NI IFMA Advisor  
**How long with IFMA:** Since 2008

### What are your favorite hobbies?

I like to workout, attend sporting events (College Football is my favorite – GO HUSKIES!), travel, meeting new people, and to spend time with my family and friends.

### What is your favorite book?

I don't have a favorite book, but I like to read the news every day to keep up with what is going on in the world

### What is your favorite food/cuisine?

Mexican Food

### Favorite restaurant?

Pancho Pistolas in Bridgeport

### Describe your family growing up and now:

My parents divorced when I was very young and I lived with my Mother in Downers Grove. My Dad remarried and I have a wonderful Step-Mom and a Brother and Sister from my Dad's second marriage. My Mom remarried when I was in College and I have an equally wonderful Step-Dad as well as a Step-Brother, Sister-in-law, and Niece.

**Hometown:** Downers Grove, IL

**Current residence:** Downers Grove, IL

### What is your favorite sport to play or watch?

College Football to watch; Basketball to play

**Favorite team?** I am a huge NIU Huskies Fan, White Sox, Bears, Bulls, and Hawks

**Cubs or Sox?** My family is from Bridgeport and I have been a White Sox season ticket holder for 12 years

### Are you a morning or night person?

I have a coffee mug that says, "I hate mornings."

### What would you do if you won the lottery?

I have a very large and extended family. I would make sure they are all taken care of and I would enjoy traveling with all of them. I like to say life is about experiences, especially with the people you are close to.

### What three words would you use to describe yourself?

Passionate, Competitive, Persistent

**What is your favorite movie?** Swingers (staring Vince Vaughn)

**TV show?** I haven't followed a sitcom tv show in 20 years. I am pretty boring when it comes to tv. I watch the news and ESPN.

### What is one thing that no one in IFMA knows about you?

I love to travel, especially to see difference college football stadiums and MLB stadiums. And I love the Winter Olympics (I have been to two – 2006 in Torino, Italy and 2010 in Vancouver, Canada)

### What is one goal that you would like to accomplish during your lifetime?

I have many personal, career, and fun goals. I will share a fun one with you. I want to experience as many Major League Baseball Parks as I can with my Dad and Brother. We make what is becoming annual trips to see MLB Parks and be tourists. This year we went to the All-Star game in Cincinnati.

### Who is your hero (or an influential person in your life)?

My Mother, Judy; Father, Art; Step-Father, Ian; and Step-Mom, Sharon. They are all different people who I have learned a great deal from



## Scott Solverson Continued

about life. And the best part for me is that they are all friends.

**What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?**

I love to go to White Sox games and summer festivals with my friends and family

**If you could visit any place in the world, where would it be & why?**

I have many I still want to visit but the next big trip is Sweden and Norway because I am part Scandinavian

**What is your favorite city to visit?**

I have been lucky to have traveled to many cities but Chicago is still my favorite

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

Vegas, Miami, and New Orleans (all for different reasons)

**If you could be anyone besides yourself, who would it be?**

I am pretty happy being myself

**What songs(artists) are on your iPod/phone?**

I like alternative, top-40, classic rock, and some country. I am a big Elvis fan too.

**If you had access to a time machine, where & when would you travel to?**

The 1950s. I heard about the sports figures, movie stars, Elvis, and other events from that time from my Grandparents. I would have loved to have lived then to have seen them when they were my age.

**What are your pet peeves?**

People who leave trash for others to pick up



# IFMA FACILITY FUSION

Conference & Expo //////////////// 2016



The strength of IFMA is its diverse, energetic, innovative, dedicated membership. It is through members such as you that IFMA has had a positive influence and made a difference in increasing the awareness of facility management. We encourage you to get involved and tell your colleagues about your experiences and the benefits of joining IFMA.

#### CONTEST DETAILS

The Race to Indy member recruitment contest will begin 1 October 2015 and ends 1 April 2016. Join in the excitement of building the world of FM by sharing information about the value and benefits of IFMA membership and get rewarded for recruiting friends and colleagues!

#### RULES

Chapter leaders from all 134 chapters compete to recruit the most new members to the association.

Council leaders from all 17 councils compete to recruit the most new members to the association. All completed applications and membership dues for new applicants must be received at IFMA between 1 October

2015 and ends 1 April 2016 to be counted toward the grand prize.

The winners will be determined by chapter and council total growth from 1 October 2015 through 1 April 2016.

#### GRAND PRIZE RULES

Prize will be awarded to the first place large chapter who recruits the most new members to the association.

Prize will be awarded to the first place medium chapter who recruits the most new members to the association.

Prize will be awarded to the first place small chapter who recruits the most new members to the association.

1 award will be awarded to the council who recruits the most new members to the association.

In cases where there are two or more chapters/councils with an equal number of new members recruited to the association, both will receive the award.

## Business Development Associate

**Company:** BKV Group

**Location:** Chicago, IL

**Job Title:** Business Development Associate

**Reports to:** Managing Partner

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**Description:**

BKV Group, a full service architecture, interior design, engineering, and construction administration firm, is seeking a talented Business Development Associate to join our Chicago, IL office. Our ideal candidate is an enthusiastic self-starter and proven leader in the A/E/C industry with experience in developing and leading business development activities focused on housing, corporate, and government practice groups.

This business development associate will be responsible for identifying and assessing local Chicago-area markets, clients and opportunities, as well as creating and managing a customer portfolio through prospecting and regular follow up.

**Responsibilities:**

- Identify, develop, and maintain client contacts and project opportunities with key prospects for the Midwest region
- Facilitate relationship-building activities and assists with the development of BKV Group staff to improve client relationship management skills
- Provide strategic direction, teaming and positioning recommendations
- Research and support market development activities
- Provide tactical support to marketing department in development of proposals, presentations and additional collateral materials
- Facilitate development and implementation of strategic business development plans for office core practice groups
- Set up meetings and events with clients, internal teams and professional organizations
- Maintain contact lists

**Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in marketing, business, communications, or related field
- 8-12 years business development experience in an architectural, engineering or construction environment

If you have an interest in working with a diverse group of talented architects and designers, creating exciting environments, enjoy collaboration and challenges, we'd like to talk with you. Please submit your resumé and cover letter to [myoung@bkggroup.com](mailto:myoung@bkggroup.com). BKV Group is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Schedule of Events

- December 1—Holiday party
- January 5, 2016—Chapter Meeting Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg
- January 7—IFMA Chicago Holiday Celebration
- January 12—NI IFMA Board meeting
- January 26—IFMA Chicago Meeting
- February 2—NI IFMA General Meeting
- February 9—NI IFMA Board Meeting
- February 18—IFMA Chicago Meeting
- May 26 - IFMA Chicago Golf Outing
- September 16—NI IFMA Golf Outing

## Directions to Granite City:

From Chicago:

Follow I-90 to I-290/IL-53 South. Follow signs to Woodfield Drive. Take E. Woodfield Rd to Plaza Drive.





**IFMA™ Northern Illinois Chapter**  
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E-mail: [chapteradministrator@ifmani.org](mailto:chapteradministrator@ifmani.org)



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