



2009 Eastern Region IPMA-HR Training and Development Conference
Mystic Hilton
Mystic, Connecticut

**TUESDAY, October 6, 2009
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The past year and a half has seen significant changes for the Eastern Region. In May of 2008, we enjoyed a wonderful conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. While the Bill Cole and the Host Committee from the South East Mass. Chapter had to overcome some significant curve balls thrown their way by the hotel, their efforts before, during and after the conference were greatly appreciated by all. Gwen Platt provided an exceptional program which is really what the conference is all about. As with the Saratoga Springs, NY Conferences, the Exhibitor Committee, co-chaired by Tammy Cunningham and Angela Natho continued to contribute to the conference's bottom line along with providing interesting and useful HR products exposure.

Since May of 2008, there have been many meetings, conference calls, and emails (no Twittering –yet!) with the ER Board, Chapter Presidents, IPMA-HR leaders, and others in an effort to increase communications and share ideas across all levels of our organization and to maintain our focus on our main reason for existing...continued support and development of Chapters.

I'd like to highlight a few of these initiatives:

1. Like my predecessors, I continued to have periodic conference calls with the Chapter Presidents. President –Elect Bill Cole and ER Rep Mark VanBruggen also participated. While it is cost-prohibitive for this group to have face-to-face meetings throughout the year, these conference calls have served as a successful vehicle to share information, exchange ideas, and shape future initiatives. In fact, it was during one of these conference calls that the idea of moving our Annual Conference from the Spring to the Fall first came up.
2. In an effort assist all of our Chapters and recognize the important role that they play in making our Annual Conference a success, the Region started a conference attendance rebate program. The Region rebated \$5 to each Chapter for every Chapter member in good standing who attended the 2008 conference. This initiative resulted in a total of \$470 in rebates to 7 Chapters.
3. The Region also awarded a total \$900 in Chapter Development grants. The Chapters used this money in a number of ways. For example, the NJ Chapter used their grant to invite all NJ State Government agency HR Directors to an after-work event. IPMA-HR Executive Director Neil R and I attended and discussed the many advantages to IPMA-HR membership.
4. The Region also started a scholarship program for Chapter Leaders to attend the IPMA-HR Leadership Development Conference – held this year in Kansas City,

- in August. While our parent organization generously subsidizes much of the cost this event, the cost of transportation is not included. In recognition of both the importance of attending this event and the financial burden that attendance has place on the attendees and/or their Chapters, the Region awards \$100 to each Chapter who had a leader attending.
5. Probably the most visible initiative undertaken by the Region during this last year has been the development and publishing of our website. As many of you know, for a number of years, our own Mark VanBruggen created and maintained the Region's website. Mark had no special training in web design but he saw a need and, using his own time, made it happen. While Mark's efforts were fantastic, the burden of maintaining the website combined with a need to upgrade lead the Region to develop user requirements and hire a professional web design group. In February, we selected e-IKON as our business partner and in July we went live. In between February and July, a tremendous amount of work went into designing the site, developing content, and constructing functionality. The names of all those involved are too numerous to mention here but I would like to single out our e-IKON web master – Preeti Tikekar for her extraordinary knowledge and patience. She and E-ikon made this daunting project a joy.

During this year as ER President, I have had the privilege of visiting a number of the Region's Chapters, meeting many individual members, and representing the Eastern Region at various events. I am so proud to report that, despite difficult economic times, our Chapters continue to have well attended and content rich events, our annual conference continues to have high attendance and garner terrific speakers, and we continue to produce committed and enthusiastic leaders at both the Region and Chapter levels.

This year has been memorable for me and I am proud to have served you as IPMA-HR Eastern Region as the President.

Submitted by: Kieran Johnson-Lew, IPMA-CP
President, IPMA-HR Eastern Region 2008-2009