

FOURTEENERS CLUB UPDATE

By

John P. Morris, Lead Climber

There were five RMA members accepted into the 14ers Club at the RMA 2008 Annual Educational Forum. These charter members are Eakle Barfield (Montana State University – Billings), Harvey Chace (University of New Mexico), John Morris (University of Colorado at Boulder), Tommy Moss (Colorado State University), and Wayne White (retired – University of Utah). John Morris was elected as Lead Climber. Since then we have received one application from Craig Bohn (University of Utah) and our first Climbing Buddy – Paula Marshak (University of Regina).

If you are not familiar with this new RMA program, the purpose of the Fourteeners Club (a.k.a. 14ers Club) is to:

- (a) Promote a recognition program for individuals within RMA who aspire to greater heights.
- (b) Support RMA in its mission to “promote and develop the leadership capabilities of the higher education facilities management professional by providing timely opportunity for communications, partnerships, and education.”
- (c) Recruit and mentor others to prepare for and fulfill leadership roles at their own institutions, within RMA and within APPA International.

This recognition and mentorship program will only be successful if we have RMA membership participation. We have many qualified members who deserve recognition for their achievements and participation in RMA and APPA. These individuals have much to offer to those new to the facilities management profession and those new to RMA and APPA. Becoming a mentor will allow you to share what you know, help others succeed and make some new friends. How is that for a win-win opportunity?

I recall when I first joined RMA that I felt a little isolated. There were many close friendships within RMA and as a new member I felt it was not easy being accepted. Some of that may have been my fault (its not easy being an introvert), but I did not know who to start working with to become part of this tight group. After many years however, I have become part of the RMA family of friends and have many close friendships. The 14ers Club can help new members become part of the RMA family of friends. Becoming a Climbing Buddy can link you to long time RMA members and help ease that transition from a lone outsider to a close insider.

When I decided I would like to start contributing to the organization I was a bit shy thinking I didn't know enough to be an effective contributor. The new administrative structure of RMA can help if you would like to become involved by allowing you to start out as a committee member. However, becoming a Climbing Buddy is another method to start understanding how RMA and APPA function. There are many long time RMA members who can help you get up to

speed so that you too can become an effective contributor to our profession and our professional organization. As Alan Bigger, APPA Past President, and Lander Medlin, APPA Executive Vice President, both noted APPA is a volunteer organization and will only succeed if you get involved.

So, I encourage all RMA members to get involved with the 14ers Club. The 14ers Club has something to offer you, whether you have been involved with RMA for a long time or you are new to the organization. Applications are available on the RMA website or by contacting me at john.morris@colorado.edu