



President's Message – July 2020

Dear FEI NEW Chapter Members,

When I raised my hand a few years ago to become part of the leadership in this wonderful FEI chapter, no one could have guessed that our chapter, our jobs, our families and our world as we knew it, would be so impacted by the COVID pandemic. COVID has changed many things in our lives and much of what was developed and implemented in the past – is now different. My main job, as with all those members on the Executive Committee, the Board and Strategic Partners, is to figure out a way to deal with this virus and keep NEW FEI viable and relevant to our membership.

In response to COVID, we recently polled our members and received over 120 responses. Here are the major findings (all % are approximate):

- 80% of all respondents are NOT restricted by their employers from attending a FEI event
- 60% of respondents plan on attending FEI chapter meetings
- 95% of respondents would be willing to attend a 'virtual' event
- 90% would be willing to have separate Keynote and Professional Development sessions

Based on these findings and on numerous discussions with the Board, Executive Committee, our Strategic Partners and FEI National, the NEW FEI Chapter will implement some changes for the September (and probably October) meetings. These changes include:

- Monthly chapter meeting (September 22 – Rock Garden, Green Bay) will include **only** the keynote speaker and will be in person for those who want to attend and will also be virtual (livestream, etc.).
- Professional development sessions will be conducted 100% virtual, and
- Peer group meeting on August 27 will be virtual (as was June 11 meeting)

Please be patient as we work out the technical and other details, but NEW FEI will continue to support its members and provide meaningful content. If any of you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out directly to me or any of the leadership team.

In closing this first message I want to assure you this chapter and its leadership will be creative in addressing the challenges the COVID issue presents. Like many of you have been doing for the last 3-4 months, FEI NEW will not only figure out way to meet its charter to you, its members, but will figure out a way to thrive in these uncertain times.

John Gustavson
2020-2021 Chapter President
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