



# CONNECTIONS

January 2010

## President's Corner

We started the New Year off with a bang at the Annual Holiday party. With 300 guests, this was our most attended get-together yet. I truly enjoy seeing a large group of the UMC Team having a good time and getting to know each other on a different level.

During my remarks, I again threw out the challenge for us to refuse to allow UMC to get mired in the current economic downturn. Thus far, we have done exceptionally well. And the challenges will continue for the next few years. UMC needs to continually prepare for the "New Normal" in order to remain at the top of our game. Our success to date is attributable to many things, and our culture is at the top. UMC's Core Values aptly describe how we do business and this approach is the reason for much of our current business success.

For those of you that couldn't make the party, I'll extend the same "Thanks" to you as I did to the attendees at the party. You continue to do your part to make UMC successful and rest assured, this does not go unnoticed, and motivates me to work even harder towards the continued success of UMC.

I also talked about our efforts in strategic marketing and positioning. We have retained a strategic marketing consultant and

are underway in developing the plan going forward. This is a new approach for UMC and, as a result, our broader-based messaging and positioning have well put us in the most advantageous position in the market. Our current marketing, advertising and proposal efforts led by Gail Kinner are second to none and have set the stage for this approach to excel.

I wish you and your families a safe and successful 2010.

-Jerry Bush



## Safety

2009 was a turning point in safety. The UMC safety culture is growing stronger. More and more people are stepping up to the safety challenge and becoming advocates for safety as the way we do business. All levels understand their role in safety accountability: individual workers, foremen, superintendents, project managers and engineers. More planning is being done with safety as a focus. Pretask plans are being

used to plan safety and prevent accidents. We completed many site specific safety orientations and other training. Safety communication has increased and the Safety Department is being used as a resource for safe work practices.

In the new year, our emphasis will be on planning and communication, as techniques for enhancing our safety culture. We will distribute a monthly job ranking highlighting safety efforts and results, and use it as a motivator.

Even though our statistics don't indicate our safety improvement, with our focus on doing the right things and continuing to raise the standard of how we do business, our stats will begin to reflect the progress.

Safety Tip for January: Drive as if your life depends on it, because it does.

- Pull over to use your cell phone: it is illegal to text while driving and to talk on your phone unless you have a hands-free device.
- Pay attention to your vehicle: keep it in good running condition, including proper tire pressure and good brakes.
- Wear your seat belt: a person wearing a seatbelt has a 70% better chance of surviving a collision than someone who is not buckled up.

### Safety (cont'd)

- Secure your loads: improperly secured loads can be a hazard to yourself and others.
- Drive for the weather: slow down for wet roads, windy weather, and low visibility. Check road and driving conditions at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic) or call 511.

Driving is commonplace for most of us. But don't let bad habits cause an injury or accident. Keep your mind on the task and drive safely!



### Birthdays

#### January

- 2 Pat Damitio
- 3 Chris Gunn
- 5 Steve Bueler
- 7 Wayne Hakola
- 11 Brett Endres
- 11 Kirk Baisch
- 14 Khai Xiong
- 16 Jon Ericson
- 25 Don Kelly
- 29 Scott Locke
- 30 Rick Hawkins
- 30 Bill Rasmussen

#### February

- 3 Davin Chea
- 6 Paul Donohue
- 7 John Eimer
- 8 Greg Cannon
- 10 Deb Jones
- 10 Matt Thibeau
- 14 Matt Kopicky
- 14 Sheila McBroom
- 17 Warren Rose
- 22 Ruthann Browne
- 24 Shane Jacob
- 26 Wayne Denton
- 29 Dean Petterson



### Anniversaries

#### **10 Years:**

Paul Schuler (Jan)  
Steve Russo (Jan)

#### **5 Years:**

David Babington (Jan)  
Michael Monaco (Jan)  
Scott Young (Feb)  
Tom Boysen (Feb)



### 2009 Calendar of Events

#### AUGUST

Summer Picnic  
TBD

#### SEPTEMBER

Golf Tournament  
TBD

#### OCTOBER

Trick or Treat Party  
TBD

#### NOVEMBER

Book Fair  
TBD

#### DECEMBER

Santa Party  
TBD

#### JANUARY, 2011

Holiday Party  
TBD

