

Facilitator — April/May 2016



2016 MVP of the Year

Gordon Bruner

The MVP Award is particularly special because Tracy Tomson, Executive Director of RFMA, chooses the recipient personally. She looks for someone who has been a most valuable player on the RFMA team and is deserving of special recognition for going above and beyond.

This year's MVP is Gordon Bruner, Chief Manager/Owner of VMC Facilities. "Gordon was one of our very first involved vendor members when we started recruiting volunteers 10 years ago," Tomson recalls. "From the very first day we met he said, 'Sign me up! What can I do to help?' And he hasn't quit helping out since. Honestly, we are running out of jobs for him to do! He is an integral part of the RFMA family."

Since then he has been a Co-Chair for the Membership Recruitment committee, a Vendor Representative to the Board, a Vendor of the Year award winner, Advisory Council member and RFMA Gives Steering Committee Co-Chair. He was also this year's Co-Project Manager for RFMA Gives.

He has put his heart and soul into RFMA for all these years. Yet still, Bruner said he was shocked to receive the MVP award.

"There's so many people who do so much for RFMA," he said. "A lot of people go above and beyond the call of duty. So for them to pick me as the MVP was very special. I was very humbled and honored to get that award."

After the awards ceremony, he received a tremendous outpouring of well wishes at the annual conference.

"A lot of people reached out to me to say congrats, and many said it was well deserved," he said. "There was a big response on social media, and people stopped by the our booth to say congratulations."

RFMA is much more than a professional organization to Bruner. The RFMA members are like family to him.

"I've been to other tradeshow but none are as special as RFMA," he said. "It's a great association. The relationships and the people make it special. We're a tight-knit bunch, and everyone is a top-notch professional. For me, it's about the camaraderie."

"With RFMA, he has always purchased a booth, brought as many folks from our company as RFMA allows, purchased advertising in the magazine and digital marketplace, served on multiple committees, the Board, donated time, money and company personnel to RFMA Gives," said Phil Dortch, Controller at VMC Facilities. "And he did it because RFMA has been a great experience for him and for VMC. We are talking 10 years now. He doesn't care about recognition; he just wants to make RFMA better."

Bruner will display his MVP award in his trophy case at work. It will proudly stand next to his Vendor of the Year award, all of his RFMA Gives bricks and other professional awards he has received over the years.

"Receiving the MVP award is something I'll be proud of for the rest of my life," he said. "RFMA has awarded five of them in 11 years. Out of the more than 1,300 members in the association, for Tracy to choose me is a very big deal to me. I would've never expected to win that in my wildest dreams."

"I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Gordon Bruner for almost 20 years," said Danny Koontz, Vice President/Director of Operations at VMC Facilities. "Today, I work for him, and the award of MVP couldn't have gone to a finer person. His generosity, ability to laugh and constant will to win makes him special. This award has only gone to a select few, and Gordon was the perfect choice this year."

He can lead, be a team player or fill any role needed with enthusiasm and a will to get it done. He is now my boss, but more importantly, he is my friend. It is well deserved, and Gordon, you have made RFMA proud."

In this year's RFMA Gives feature, "Making the Journey Together," Bruner said he volunteers his time with RFMA and RFMA Gives because he has lived such a blessed life and feels compelled to pay it forward.

Not a day goes by where he isn't thankful for the life he is living.

"I live an amazing life," he reiterated. "I've lived one of the greatest lives in the world. I've been very blessed and more successful than my wildest imaginations. I have great friends and relationships; I'm just happy. I love what I do for a living. I look

forward to getting up and doing what I do every day. I'm one of the most blessed people who have ever walked the face of the earth. I always remember where I came from and remain humble."