

BINARY GROUP LENDS A HELPING HAND TO THE FINANCE REGIMENTAL BALL

Each year, during the first week in May the Financial Management School (FMS) hosts its Annual Financial Management Workshop (AFMW) in Columbia, SC. This year, it was no different with workshop participants descending upon Columbia and Fort Jackson from around the world from places like Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq to Hawaii, Korea and points across CONUS. As a Binary Group (Binary) employee supporting the FMS to develop sustainment training for the General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBs), I had a bird's eye view of the planning and execution of this major event.

More than a workshop, AFMW includes many events of vital importance to financial managers across the Army. Fondly referred to among the school's staff and faculty as their Army Training and Evaluation Program, AFMW week begins with the Financial Management Leaders Preparatory Course (FMLPC). Comprised of both officers and NCOs identified to fill key Corps, Division and Sustainment Brigade level billets, the FMLPC Program of Instruction and teaching staff use the first 2 days of the course to fill students' rucksacks with the technical tools they need to be effective stewards of scarce Army resources. For the rest of the week, the training venue shifted from Fort Jackson to the AFMW location and the spacious conference rooms of the Marriott Hotel, in downtown Columbia.

The theme for this year's AFMW, "Executing Today—Planning for Tomorrow" allotted 2.5 days for intense discussions of lessons learned from past and current operations to help set the azimuth for the future. Spelled out in the Financial Management Campaign Plan (FMCP) with its five Lines of Operation (LOO), the FMCP distributed responsibility for execution of the LOOs among the community's key stakeholders. Interspersed with an impressive group of keynote speakers and panel discussions, AFMW keynote speakers and panelist, skillfully engaged conferees in discussion to promote greater understanding of the 'way ahead' and the selected routes to march towards the desired end state. In the audience paying rapt attention to the Finance Corps' way ahead was Binary's Chief Operations Officer (COO) Mr. Gene McKinney. On asking him about the purpose of his participation, he offered, "...That's simple! In order for us to make good on our commitment to add value to our customers' projects, we have to understand what is important to them... how they define success. Through this understanding, we can tailor our deliverables and solutions to meet their needs."

One of the highlights of AFMW is its culminating event—the Regimental Ball. The important business of the AFMW behind participants, the ball presents a well-anticipated opportunity for members of the regiment and their families to enjoy the traditions of mess night, which provide a social setting that allows them to rekindle old friendships, make new ones, and receive recognition for their significant contributions to the corps and regiment.

Committed to the same values and ideals of the regiment, is the Financial Management Corps Association (FMCA). A private organization, the FMCA supports the regiment in its efforts to promote esprit de corps and camaraderie among its members. Along with the change in its name, the FMCA has outlined a bold strategy to increase its membership through increased communication and support to Soldiers and their families. In addition to its Awards Program, scholarships to family members, and operations of a Regimental Store, the FMCA uses its revenues to help reduce the cost of participating in events, such as, the Regimental Ball. To this end, it relies on corporate sponsors like Binary to lend a helping hand.



Mr. McKinney, Binary COO and a former Sergeant Major of the Army, presents the President of the FMCA, COL Milt Sawyers, with a check for \$3,000.00 to support the Regimental Ball. On hand to witness the presentation were CSM Scott Brady, the School and Regimental CSM and Binary Group's team left to right: Mr. Curtis Freeman, Cletis Allen, Norman Harris, Robbin Long, Audrey McCaskill and Eric Evans (not shown)

Binary develops the sustainment training for GFEBs, the Army's new Enterprise System, which will replace STANFINS. On her visit to the Soldier Support Institute and the Financial Management School in April, Ms. Rose Wang, Founder and CEO of Binary expressed, "We want our customers to know that we are not only committed to delivering quality products on time, but see ourselves as an active partner with them in all of their endeavors."

"As a former Soldier, Binary employee, and Regimental Ball attendee, I appreciate the Binary's generous contribution to a memorable evening of fun and camaraderie," said Curtis Freeman, Binary Program manager.

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By Curtis Freeman

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