

Members,

It's now 2008 and it's time to talk about the future of MRMUG. 2007 was a very productive year with our format change, a variation in topics not just focused on System I, and offering up a round table discussion.

With our move to a lunch meeting and to Bennigan's, we were able to save some money that we can actually put forward towards speakers and/or new member incentives. We still need to increase our membership - that is an ongoing goal.

The board wanted to have a January meeting that discussed not only the 2007 year, but also make plans for 2008. A couple of agenda items that we believe need to be discussed with the extended membership are below:

- Discussion topics and speakers - Given that this is a Users Group, the board is only too happy to bring speakers to our members with valuable information and insight into new products, announcements and offerings that we believe would be of value to the extended membership. In 2008 some of these topics include but are not limited to:
  - 2008 product announcements
  - IBM System I education initiatives
  - DB2 and data mining for business intelligence
  - Voice over IP
- Round table discussions - we need more interaction from the membership in this area. This is a users group and being such, our membership should be willing to speak to us on topics that they find of help or interest to them in their daily jobs. We've had requests from other users groups to share internal speakers, but we have no one willing to speak to us so we are hesitant to put ourselves out for that type of reciprocity.
- Membership - we still need to increase our membership as well as the attendance at our meetings. Moving to a lunch meeting has certainly helped. We are looking at ways to increase membership with incentives for both the member and the new member. More to come on this.
- MRMUG web site - we need to understand how much this site is used by the membership, what would be helpful content for it and how should it be managed in the future.
- Financials - the board would like to share with the membership our financial status as of January 2008 as well as some expenses we would like to incur.
- Open Board positions - we have had one open board position and we have a board member who is vacating their seat. We need to fill these two spots.

As said above, we'd like to use the January meeting to address these subjects and anything else the membership would like to discuss and set a course for 2008. We hope this will be a very interactive meeting, leading us to the path of a stronger MRMUG for 2008.