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RFMA 2024

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2024 Vendor of the Year

Steve Vollrath

Co-Founder of Addilan Group

By Sherleen Mahoney

Steve Vollrath and Justin Yaskowski launched Addilan Group with a clear focus on communication as the cornerstone of its success. "We're a communications company that happens to provide facilities services," Vollrath said.

Vollrath defines excellent communication by responding quickly when issues arise, providing frequent updates and embracing the reality of a situation.

"Our job is to be a trusted partner, keeping our clients' best interest top of mind," he said. "We need to be open and honest with them so they can make the right decisions. Sometimes that means delivering bad news but in a way that is constructive and solutions oriented."

The partners created a culture that prioritizes integrity, gratitude and diversity. They hire for culture and teach for business, creating an environment where individuals feel empowered to make decisions, supported and valued for their individuality.

"We invest in communication with our clients, communication with our partners, and professional and personal development of our employees," Vollrath said. "If we continue that focus, we continue to build a great organization that brings value to our clients."

"Friendly. Professional. Caring. Supportive. These are just some of the most frequently used words others have used to describe Steve Vollrath," said Justin Yaskowski, co-founder at Addilan Group. "It is Steve's passion that makes him such a wonderful person. You see it every day in everything he does, with a mantra of 'How you do anything is how you do everything.' He is one of the most liked and respected people in our industry and will always go out of his way to make you feel special, even if it is a simple 'Happy birthday or 'Hope you're doing great' message."



Above: Vollrath alongside some of his RFMA peers, Mike Synder, Rob Foraker and Justin Yaskowski.
Left: Vollrath receiving his Marvelous Mentor RFMy award at RFMA 2023 in San Antonio.



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Steve Vollrath is a true advocate of people and brings this passion as an active member of RFMA. Steve can be found volunteering at RFMA Gives, serving on the Board of Directors, and was part of the Leadership RFMA: Class 2023. Steve always has time to discuss ways to be involved in RFMA and how it has impacted him. One of Steve's strengths is how he creates time to share his story and supports all RFMA members. Thank you, Steve, for all you do and for encouraging me to be more involved. Your passion and commitment to RFMA are inspirational and one of the things that make this such a great organization to be a member of.”

- Todd Holmes, Starbucks Coffee Co.



Vollrath accepting his RFMA award from Debi Kensell, executive director and CEO at RFMA, and Bevin McPherson, CRFP, RFMA board chair.

Vollrath recently served on the board for two years as a vendor representative, contributing his insights and dedication to the association's growth. He emphasizes that RFMA is an association where the more one invests, the more one receives in return.

"RFMA provides so many opportunities to engage, share your thoughts, and be able to grow yourself and your business," he said.

Leading the Vendor Voice committee, Vollrath has brought together leadership from various companies to share diverse viewpoints. The collaborative discussions, even when opinions differ, contribute to a stronger vendor voice within RFMA.

When RFMA was experiencing challenging times during the pandemic, he was inspired by the resilience of the RFMA community.

"The association's ability to adapt, continue events and maintain a sense of unity was a testament to the dedication of its members, staff and board," he said.



Vollrath attending RFMA's Member Meet-Up in Nashville.

Vollrath's professional journey is intertwined with the Restaurant Facility Management Association (RFMA), where he applies the same ethos that has propelled Addilan to new heights.

Upon entering the facilities industry 15 years ago, Vollrath encountered a resounding question from restaurant facility professionals: "Are you a member of RFMA?" Recognizing the significance of the association, Vollrath became a member within the first year, where he found a thriving community that not only shaped his professional growth but also fostered meaningful relationships and partnerships.

"The journey through RFMA has been an experience like nothing I could have ever imagined," he said. "I've built great friendships, relationships and partnerships. I'm part of a community that is working together to support each other so that everyone can succeed in what they do."

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Steve is a salt-of-the-earth guy. He genuinely cares about you, your business and your success both personally and professionally. I have valued his friendship and support since the day we met and look forward to seeing his continued success. He and the Addilan Group deserve it.”

- Nic Stoyer, CRFP, bartaco

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One random encounter at a RFMA Gives event has provided a friendship and mutually beneficial business relationship with Steve and the Addilan Group. Steve is an advocate for RFMA in everything he does from his time on the Board of Directors to his participation in committees and events throughout the year. Steve treats his clients like they are family – making sure that he is providing the best vendors for his clients to partner with to execute any service needed. Steve and Addilan Group are highly deserving of the Vendor of the Year award! Congratulations!”

– Samantha Boardstarr, Unlimited Services

He felt compelled to come forward to be there for the association.

“I believe everybody has to step up and do their share to help continue to move RFMA forward,” he said. “I don’t know another association, particularly in the facilities world, that emerged through the pandemic so unbelievably stronger than when we went in. I felt like it was my time to do my share to keep pushing RFMA forward.”

Ever the champion of vendors, Vollrath recognizes their current hardships, such as labor shortages and economic uncertainties. Within RFMA, he stresses the importance of empathy, urging the restaurant community not to judge those who might be absent at conferences and events due to various challenges. He encourages the members to share information about job opportunities and support those facing job losses. He advises vendors to continue fostering their connections within RFMA to ensure the overall well-being of the industry.

For Vollrath’s passion and important contributions, he was awarded the prestigious honor of Vendor of the Year.

“I’m humbled to be mentioned in the same sentence with some of the previous winners of this award,” he said. “They are great individuals from great companies.”

“Steve is so deserving of this award,” said Debi Kensell, executive director and CEO of RFMA. “He is one of those people who holds ethics to the highest level, commits to leadership roles and then gives 110%. His servant heart comes through when he brings new ideas to the table that are for the betterment of RFMA and is never self-serving. I loved working with him during his tenure as the Vendor Board Representative and I’m so happy he’s being recognized with this award.”

Vollrath’s steadfast leadership of Addilan Group, shaped by a commitment to partnership and transparent communication, serves as an inspiring example. His involvement with RFMA underscores the



Vollrath volunteering at The Wells House, RFMA’s 2024 RFMA Gives project recipient.

importance of a collaborative approach that ensures sustained success and growth for both the association and its members.

Looking ahead, Vollrath envisions a bright future for RFMA. He notes record membership numbers and the association’s continued value proposition. His commitment is unwavering, aiming to contribute in any way possible to ensure RFMA’s success and benefit to its members.

“Steve is a fantastic supplier partner – proactive with communication, building relationships and always following through on commitments,” said Jennifer Schmidt, CRFP, CSCS, 2024 RFMA Board Chair. “He is also an incredible friend – kind, supportive and he even humors me with our football rivalry. Steve genuinely cares about the trajectory of RFMA. You can see it in his thoughtfulness with ideas, engagement with the Board, Vendor Voice Committee leadership, and his involvement with in-person and virtual events. He has found benefit and growth from RFMA, and he wants others to as well. Quite simply, Steve walks the talk. Steve is one of the best and very deserving of this award.”

Humbled by the acknowledgment, Vollrath attributes his success to the entire Addilan team.

“This is truly a company award,” he said. “My name is tied to it, but I can’t do everything I do without the Addilan team. They’re unbelievable people. The award validates that everything Justin and I have built is on the right path.” ■