This meeting was at our favorite location - the Carr America Conference Center, which offers a great facility, easy parking and great food. A retired CMG member, Tim McCluskey, showed up to say hi and to show us the viola he had recently built. A long-time passion, Tim now has the chance to build string instruments and is learning to play them. He entertained us with a short piece.

The highlight of the day was a visit by one of our 2010 Mullen Award winners, Fernando Martinez from CGI. For those who could not attend last year, this presentation offered a view into how one deals with a non-typical disaster scenario – a country-wide financial crisis. Literally on the streets when Argentina suffered its meltdown in 2001, Fernando shares lessons learned when the unexpected happens in “IT Performance Management in a Financial Crisis: An Informal Report.” The ominous parallels that were only possibilities when he spoke in December now seem more like events we all need to plan for. He plans to present part 2 at CMG 2011.

Our host company, Data Kinetics, sponsored breakfast and lunch, while providing lunch time education with a session on their in-memory table product. In addition, Anton Niemand provided a great presentation on the benefits of “In Memory Tables and DB2 Optimization.” For many of us familiar with other methods to reduce I/O, this presents a welcome new idea. He highlight real world examples and also noted the complexity to implement, a complexity that can be reduced with Data Kinetics’ products.

Our final presenter was Geetha Valabhaneni from Optier, who talked about business transaction management and how Optier offers a solution to this challenge. This area involves mashing together our traditional IT view of a transaction with the end user business transaction and was focused primarily on establishing something that resembles a UOWid on distributed platforms.

We had time for a lively discussion on ways to draw in more members and be more relevant. The board will be exploring virtual conferencing as an alternative, as people are increasingly having trouble leaving their offices. This might also allow us to invite speakers who cannot travel. Not only were ideas forwarded, but our creative attendees also offered a variety of ways in which we could accomplish this at little or no cost to our chapter. Stay tuned to this channel for more on the subject.

It’s time to register for CMG 2011; get your request into the budget process before your company stops funding training for the year. The agenda should be published in a few weeks. There’s still time to volunteer so contact the conference committee to see how you can help. NCCMG is having officer elections in November; please consider running. The time commitment is not great, and it is time for our long-time officers to cede the floor to new blood.
Our next meeting will be November 1, 2011 – location to be determined. Any questions or comments, please contact Cathy Nolan at (cathy.nolan@comcast.net or nccmg@cmg.org).

Denise P. Kalm
Secretary, NCCMG