



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

## In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[BINGO Night Results](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

[Sep 23 Webinar](#)

[Sep 30 Webinar](#)

[Meeting Schedule](#)

[Perfect Attendance 20-21](#)

[Student Leadership Confr](#)

[Upcoming Board Meetings](#)

[Comics](#)

[CMA Mentoring Program](#)

[Internet References](#)

## Quick Links

[Akron Chapter Website](#)

[IMA Global Website](#)

[Ohio Council Website](#)

[Meeting Recordings](#)

## Employment News

Please contact [Bob Shapiro](#) if you have a job available or if you are looking for an employment opportunity.

September 2020

## Dear Akron IMA,

Our first webinar of the 2020-21 year kicked off on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The second is on 9/23. Check out the event on 9/30 with Helen Sharky! Our next social event is on October 13<sup>th</sup> (trivia night). Hope everyone is able to join us.

Please forward newsletter items to: [IMA Newsletter](#).

Thanks!  
Kelly Heil

### Follow us on Twitter!

Did you know... you can follow the chapter on Twitter [@AkronChapterIMA](#)? Follow us and keep up to date on news and events for your chapter!

## President's Message

Greetings to everyone!

What a year 2020 is shaping up to be. I choose to look at the positive side of things (otherwise it is too stressful.) One good thing that has come out of this stay-at-home environment is that our chapter has been able to schedule some really fabulous speakers for this upcoming year because of the webinar format.



Our featured speaker for the year is Helen Sharkey, who will be speaking about white-collar crime. Her talk is titled **"Low Man on the Totem Pole – How I Became a White-Collar Criminal"** and the webinar will happen on **September 30, 2020, from 7 to 8:30 pm Eastern**. I have heard Helen speak in front of a crowd of 300 people and you could have heard a pin drop during the entire length of her talk. She will be talking for about 45 – 50 minutes and then will take questions. We are expecting a large crowd for this webinar, so be sure to get registered soon. Register for this webinar and others at the chapter portal at this [link](#). Invite coworkers – the event is free to all. She really does have a valuable message.

Also in the month of September, we have Brandon Shields speaking about "Betting on Business to Help Save the World and Achieve Sustainable Development" on Thursday, September 10, from 12 – 1 pm, and we have Don Tomoff speaking about "Tech Trends for Accountants" on Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30 – 8 pm.

Do take a look at the schedule of webinars the chapter is hosting – I think there is something for everyone. Students, young professionals, midcareer professionals, and seasoned veterans – I think everyone will find something of interest.

Anyways, stay safe and take care.

*Wendy Tietz, 2020-2021 Akron IMA Chapter president*

---

### BINGO Night was fun!

The Akron chapter hosted its first ever **Virtual Bingo Night** on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. It was a lot of fun – we had twelve members show up (online) for the event. The next online social event for our chapter is coming up on Tuesday, October 13, from 6:30 – 8 pm – we will be having an accounting trivia competition using an online tool called Kahoot! It should be a lot of fun. Register on the Akron IMA chapter portal for this event and others. The event is free to all.

---

### Welcome New Members!

| Date Joined | Name                  |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 08/15/2020  | Vanessa Halacsy       |
| 08/27/2020  | Natalie Grace Jackson |
| 08/29/2020  | Leeann Maxine Furney  |
| 08/30/2020  | Jennifer Batone       |

---

### Tech Trends for Accountants: What To Know and What You Can Do About It: Webinar on September 23

From **6:30 - 8 pm on Wednesday, September 23**, the Akron chapter is hosting Don Tomoff to present the webinar “**Tech Trends for Accountants: What To Know and What You Can Do About It.**” AICPA Chair Bill Reeb stated in an July 2019 AICPA interview that “The digital era has swept in a blistering pace of change that’s transforming the world around us. The change is not incremental — it’s exponential.” Advancing technologies, consumer preferences and higher expectations are dramatically changing the accounting profession. Technologies, including data analytics and BI, artificial intelligence, robotics process automation, cloud, and others, are changing the landscape of the profession. The barrage of information can be overwhelming and confusion sets in on how to even start. This session will address the major trends accountants should be considering and provide a process by which to think about proceeding.

Don is the founder of [Invenio Advisors LLC](#), a consulting firm specializing in information management, process improvement, reporting and data analysis, as well as education and training. Don’s experience includes “Big 4” public accounting, senior-level industry finance positions, and consulting. Don’s industry experience includes serving eight years with Jo-Ann Stores as VP, Finance and Treasurer.

Since 2010, Don has focused his efforts with executives and companies on many digital process improvement, data analytics and training initiatives, including developing and implementing mobile information strategies. His efforts are focused on the identification of process improvement opportunities, and leveraging readily available technology tools to drive that change. Don is also an instructor for the [Business Learning Institute](#) and a regular speaker for companies and at conferences.



See the Akron chapter IMA portal to register for this event. [Registration Link](#)

---

## Upcoming webinar on September 30: “Low Man on the Totem Pole – How I Became a White-Collar Criminal”

There is one upcoming webinar we want to draw your attention to – **“Low Man on the Totem Pole – How I Became a White-Collar Criminal” on September 30, 2020, from 7 to 8:30 pm Eastern**. This speaker, Helen Sharkey, will be talking about her excitement when she landed her “dream job” at Dynegy, only to be followed by dismay when she began to doubt the ethics of what they were doing. She also talks about her struggle with the decision to plead guilty, the shame of being branded a felon and her time behind bars. She talks about her mistakes frankly, yet also delivers a message of hope.

Helen’s story is compelling. Her message is important – and she is an excellent speaker. Due to contract restrictions, we cannot record the session. Do register for this webinar early – and invite others to register as well.

See the Akron chapter IMA portal to register for this event. [Registration Link](#)

## Meeting schedule for 2020 - 2021

The board created a meeting schedule for the 2020 – 2021 year. We are planning for 100% online through at least January 2021. The board will be re-evaluating the online/in-person situation this fall for the February – May 2021 meetings, so those dates are tentative.

Here is the schedule of the Akron chapter IMA events that are currently planned (more may be added):

| Date                          | Time (EST)   | Theme or topic                                                                                    | Format and tentative CPE hrs |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday, September 23, 2020 | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Tech Trends for Accountants: What To Know and What You Can Do About It                            | Webinar – 1.5 hr CPE         |
| Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | 7 - 8:30 pm  | Helen Sharkey: Low Man on the Totem Pole – How I Became a White-Collar Criminal                   | Webinar – 1.5 hr CPE         |
| Wednesday, October 7, 2020    | 6 - 7 pm     | Build Your Personal Brand on LinkedIn                                                             | Webinar – 1 hr CPE           |
| Tuesday, October 13, 2020     | 12 - 1 pm    | Accounting Standards Update                                                                       | Webinar – 1 hr CPE           |
| Tuesday, October 13, 2020     | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Kahoot! Accounting Trivia                                                                         | Online meeting               |
| Wednesday, October 21, 2020   | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Cultivating a Bias-Free Workplace                                                                 | Webinar – 1.5 hr CPE         |
| Thursday, November 12, 2020   | 12 - 1 pm    | Technology Anxiety                                                                                | Webinar – 1 hr CPE           |
| Friday, November 13, 2020     | All day      | IMA Student Leadership Conference (\$20 student cost includes one year of student IMA membership) |                              |
| Wednesday, November 18, 2020  | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Emotional Intelligence                                                                            | Webinar – 1.5 hr CPE         |
| Friday, November 20, 2020     | 8 - 9 am     | Tips for overcoming the fear of public speaking                                                   | Webinar – 1 hr CPE           |
| Friday, December 4, 2020      | 8 - 9 am     | CPA vs. CMA: What's the difference? (0 CPE)                                                       | Webinar – 0 hr CPE           |
| Thursday, December 10, 2020   | 11 am - 1 pm | Slippery Slope of Greed - <b>Ethics Webinar</b>                                                   | Webinar – 2.0 hr Ethics CPE  |
| Wednesday, December 16, 2020  | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Embracing Change                                                                                  | Webinar                      |
| Thursday, January 7, 2021     | 12 - 1 pm    | Personal tax update                                                                               | Webinar – 1 hr CPE           |
| Wednesday, January 20, 2021   | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Business tax update                                                                               | Webinar – 1.5 hr CPE         |
| Wednesday, January 27, 2021   | 6:30 - 8 pm  | Accounting trivia team challenge                                                                  | Online meeting               |
| Wednesday, February 17, 2021  | TBA          |                                                                                                   | TBA                          |
| Friday, March 12, 2021        | TBA          |                                                                                                   | TBA                          |
| Wednesday, March 17, 2021     | TBA          |                                                                                                   | TBA                          |
| Friday, April 16, 2021        | 8 - 9 am     | Federal Reserve of Cleveland (online)                                                             | TBA                          |
| Wednesday, April 21, 2021     | TBA          |                                                                                                   | TBA                          |

|                         |     |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Wednesday, May 12, 2021 | TBA | TBA |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|

We have a few more online events in the planning stage for fall and will announce those events when the details have been finalized.

All online events are free this fall. Register through the Akron IMA portal at this [link](#). Once you register, you will receive an email with event information and links about 24 hours before the event.

---

### Perfect attendance accommodation for 2020 - 2021

Traditionally, we have had one meeting a month for the Akron chapter. Now our chapter is hosting 2 – 4 online webinars per month. To earn perfect attendance for the 2020 – 2021 competition year, a member would need to attend one webinar per month for the 2020 – 2021 year. The webinars are on various days and times, so this should work out for members to be able to pick a minimum of one webinar per month to attend to count towards perfect attendance. This change will remain in effect until announced otherwise.

---

### IMA Student Leadership Conference – great deal for students!

The IMA Student Leadership Conference is going to be held on Friday, November 13, 2020 and will be virtual this year. The conference is free to IMA student members. For students who are not IMA members, the conference is \$20 and that registration fee includes one year of IMA membership.

And...if that deal is not sweet enough, the Ohio Regional Council of IMA just voted to reimburse universities and colleges for the cost of the student registrations for the IMASLC this year! Please contact Wendy Tietz at [akron@imachapter.org](mailto:akron@imachapter.org) for additional details before registering any students (there is a process for the school reimbursement – students cannot be reimbursed individually.)

---

### Board meeting schedule for 2020 - 2021

The board meeting dates for the 2020 – 2021 year have been finalized. All Akron chapter IMA board meetings for the 2020 – 2021 year will be online.

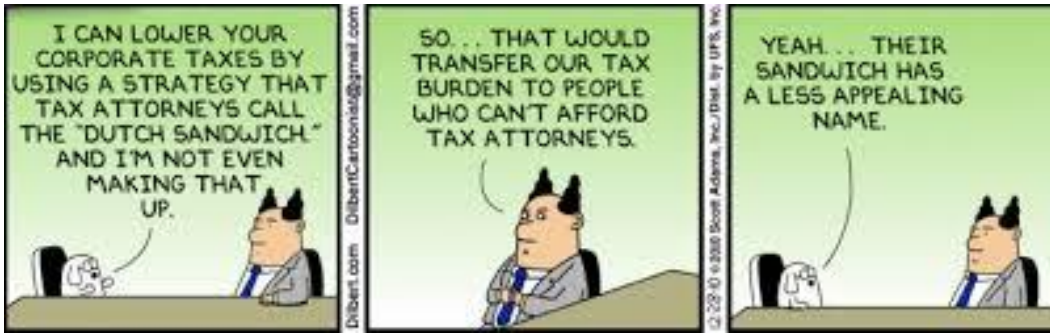
Here is the schedule of the Akron chapter IMA board meetings:

| Date                         | Time (EST)     |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Wednesday, October 14, 2020  | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Tuesday, November 10, 2020   | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, December 9, 2020  | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, January 13, 2021  | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, February 10, 2021 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, March 10, 2021    | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, April 14, 2021    | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday, May 5, 2021       | 6:30 - 7:30 pm |

All Akron chapter IMA members are welcome at the board meetings. Register for the board meetings through the Akron IMA portal at this [link](#). Once you register, you will receive an email with event information and links about 24 hours before the event.

---

## Comics



---

## CMA Mentoring Program

The IMA Akron Chapter is proud to offer its members a mentoring program to assist CMA candidates with strategies to pass the CMA exam. The IMA Akron CMA Mentoring Program will encourage networking and provide career development opportunities designed to help CMA candidates (mentees) and other members (mentors) in our chapter to form valuable mentoring relationships. The success of this program will rely on volunteers to serve as mentors. Mentoring can take place online, by phone, or in person at Akron chapter events or other locations.

Mentees and mentors will be matched based on the needs of the mentee and the availability of the mentors. The ideal mentor for this CMA focused program would be an individual who has obtained the CMA certification and / or who has recently passed one or both parts of the newer two part CMA exam structure. All individuals who are currently enrolled in the CMA program and studying for the CMA exam are encouraged to enroll as a mentee. In addition, individuals who are undecided about obtaining the CMA certification and would like additional information or guidance are encouraged to enroll.

**The CMA Designation** - The CMA (Certified Management Accountant) is the advanced professional certification specifically designated to measure the accounting and financial management skills that drive business performance. Achieving the CMA credential demonstrates your mastery of financial planning, analysis, control, and decision support, as well as professional ethics.

If you would like more information, please contact: Jeff Falter at [akron@imachapter.org](mailto:akron@imachapter.org)

---

## Internet References

Dinner Reservations, Newsletter articles, Employment service, IMA insurance: [akron@imachapter.org](mailto:akron@imachapter.org)

Akron chapter website: [akron.imanet.org](http://akron.imanet.org)

IMA Global website: [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org)

Login: enter user name (your IMA account number)

Enter password (last name, unless you changed your password)

Ohio Council website: [www.ohio.imanet.org](http://www.ohio.imanet.org)

Access online recording of chapter meetings:

Contact the chapter board members at [akron@imachapter.org](mailto:akron@imachapter.org)