

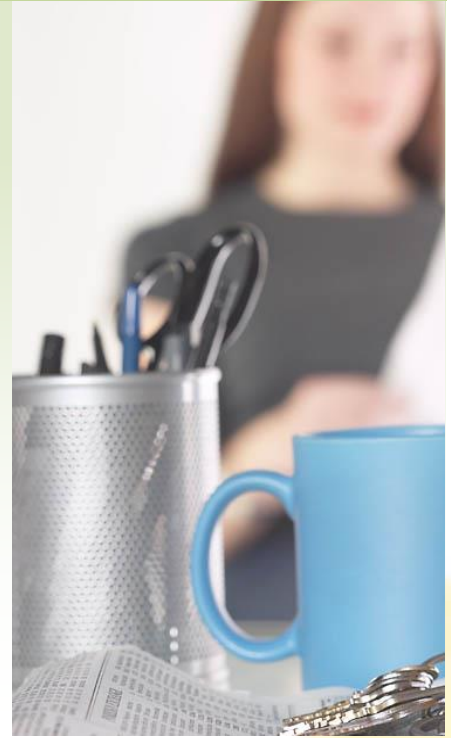


The Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business

The General Ledger

Spring 2025

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER



~ Spring into Success with the IMA Minneapolis Chapter ~



The Association of Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Honoring IMA Members Celebrating 25 Years with our Minneapolis Chapter!

Kari Meyer, CMA

Michael CacCourt, CMA, CFM

Honoring IMA Members Celebrating 10 Years with our Minneapolis Chapter!

Cesar Diaz, CMA

Amy Langdon, CMA

Brian Lawrence, CMA

Travis Ganz, CMA

Kyle Roberts, CPA

Brad McCann, CMA

Liza Soto De Cichowicz, CMA

Shane Rau, CMA

Warda James-Hester, CMA, CPA

Bhavesh Parekh, CMA, ACMA

Nathan Mathison, CMA

Yueping Marquette, CMA, CPA, CIA

Roshni Jaikishen, CMA, CPA

Diana Graff

Brett Ehrhardt, CMA, CPA

Cory Mattson, CMA

Julie Lovaas, CMA

Julianne Johnson, CMA

Troy Abeln, CMA

Jamie Prettner

Joshua Kuss, CMA, CSCA

Evan Bauernschmitt, CPA

Jill Andrews, CMA

Cynthia Ardison, CMA

Brandon Stewart, CMA, CPA

Adrzej Galas

Tori Benson

James Powers, CMA

Randall Drager, CMA

Tyler Yule, CMA

Timothy Rutten-Kempees

Chad Oates, CMA

Jeremy Doyle, CMA

Jacqueline Lehn, CMA

Alana Ronnigen, CMA

Dylan Stensgard, CMA, CSCA

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest chapter members

Jessica Schorr

Wanda Stenson

Trent Osterman

Samantha Zimmerman

Thomas Pesch

Kari Meyer

Shaquille Cassell

Luke Benson, CPA

Frank Neil

Event Recap

January Ethics

In January, Nathan Mueller shared his real-life story of fraud. As an Accounting Manager at ING, he embezzled \$8.5 million dollars. It all started with issuing a \$1,100 check to his credit card company to cover personal debts.

Nathan walked us through his thought process, the lax controls in place, the details of how he perpetrated the fraud, as well as the lessons he learned when it was all said and done. Nathan had authority to approve checks up to \$250,000 and knew his co-worker's password to issue them. As a seemingly "great" boss, he gave his teammates the day off and then would proceed with the theft.



This all played out over the course of four years. As his scheme got more brazen, Nathan was not talking to family members, going through a divorce and feeling miserable. There were many opportunities for those around him to question his newfound wealth: from expensive watches, to cars, motorcycles, and vacations. As a CPA, he even filed all his stolen money on his tax returns—interestingly enough, this did not raise red flags with the IRS.



The gig was up as suspicions of fraud arose along with his co-worker learning millions of dollars' worth of checks were submitted in her name. Nathan was sentenced to 97 months in federal prison. Of the \$8.5 million theft which he meticulously documented, he lost \$6.2 million trying to white-wash the money through collecting W2G gambling winnings. Nathan continues to pay restitution to this day and owes \$7 million.



Mr. Mueller shared his gripping story over the course of two hours without the use of notes or slides. Members in attendance peppered him with questions and he answered every single one of them. It was one of the best ethics presentations our chapter has ever had and hit extra close to home with the perpetrator being within our very own profession. For those interested in learning more, a long form interview with Nathan is available on YouTube [here](#).

Summit Brewery Tour



Pictured (left to right): Wanda Stenson, Todd Stenson, Willy Arevalo, Christopher Waller, Shari Nepper, Trent Kramer, Derek Magdal, Jenny Magdal, Ryan Chase, Charles Swanson, Ashley Davis, and Andrew Galas

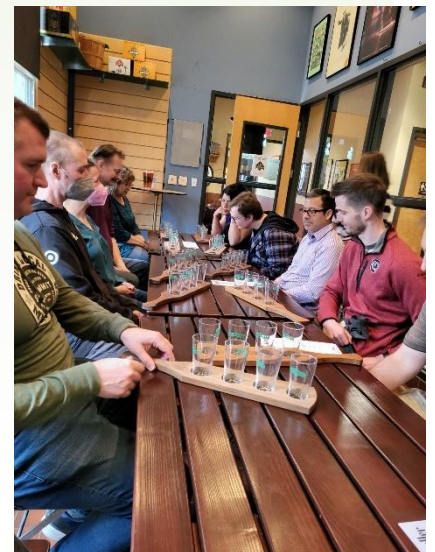


In March, we enjoyed some quality time together at Summit Brewery in Saint Paul. Attendees meandered around the facility led by our trusted tour guide. The group learned the brewery was founded in 1986 before craft brewing was cool. All current-day Summit beer is created using the copper brewhouse which was moved from Germany. Summit beer is made through the tried-and-true process of mashing grain, separating the hops and sugar, fermenting in 11,000-gallon tanks, and then on to bottling/kegging. The frosty brew takes a full business day being crafted, gets heated up to over 200 degrees Fahrenheit and spends a week fermenting.

An Irish band – Hounds of Dublin – primed us beforehand with drinking songs in the Ratskeller Hall. Following the 45-minute tour, we had a private room where we sampled beers and conversed. A good time was had by all.



We also got the Minnesota welcome from the weather. March 14th, the day before this event, set a record high of 75 degrees. The morning of our tour, it snowed. Where else can you experience multiple seasons in 24 hours?



Upcoming Events

IMA Minneapolis Chapter Events

March Madness Virtual Bracket Challenge

Look for the final results in our next newsletter and on the chapter website.

AI is Changing Finance. Are you Ready? (2.0 CPE)

Join our April meeting, "AI: The New Bottom Line," and learn how AI can revolutionize your role as a CFO, Controller, or CMA. We'll break down AI history, explain how it works (no tech overload!), and show you real-world applications for FP&A, Audit, and Risk Management. Get actionable prompts and learn to implement AI ethically.

Chapter Elections:



Elections are coming up for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. We have multiple positions available. Make an impact and help determine the trajectory of the IMA Minneapolis Chapter!

Benefits (to name a few):	Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a meaningful impact• Non-profit board experience• Expand your network• Shape the future of the Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly meeting (virtual 1-2 hours)• Role responsibilities (max. 5 hours per month)• Attend Chapter events

Interested? Contact a current board member or email minneapolis@imachapter.org for additional information.

Stay tuned for more CPE and Networking events. Visit minneapolis.imanet.org and keep an eye out for emails from the Minneapolis Chapter.

IMA Global Conference 2025

The IMA's biggest event of the year is coming to Scottsdale, Arizona in June 2025. Over three dynamic days, you'll collaborate with peers on today's most pressing challenges through hands-on learning, interactive case studies, and specialized tracks.

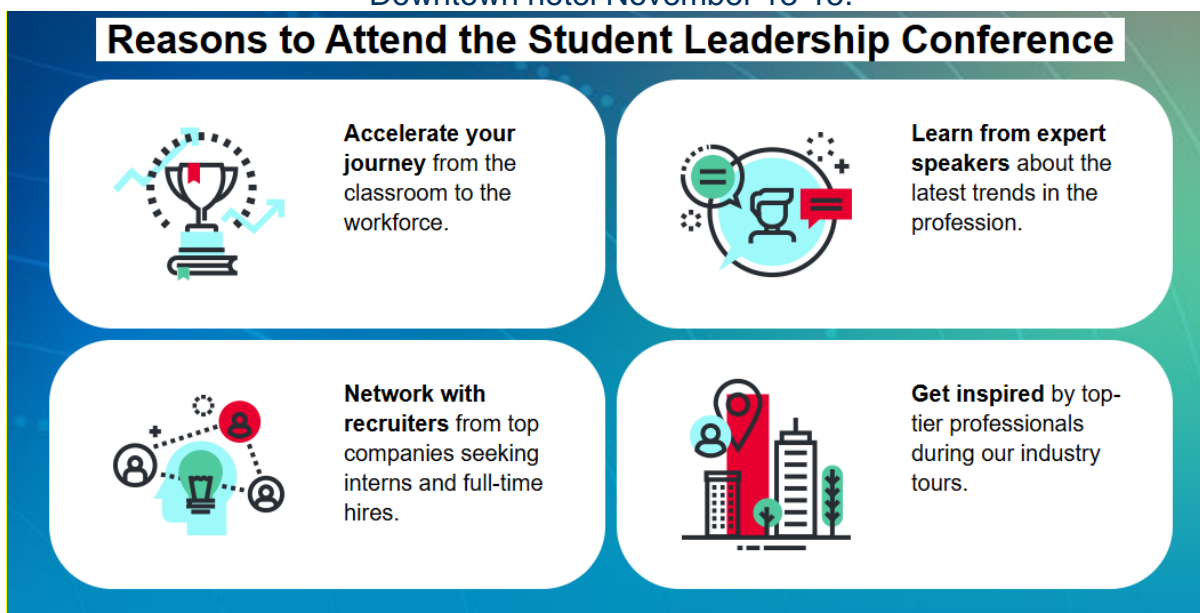


Join the **IMA Community and Global Industry Leaders** for 3 days to:





 <p>Network Connect directly with industry leaders and peers to explore the latest in the industry</p>	 <p>Immerse Engage in interactive case studies and hands-on workshops</p>
 <p>Lead Master new leadership competencies to drive organizational growth</p>	 <p>Gain Specialty tracks tailored to your interests with ready-to-use solutions</p>

IMA Student Leadership Conference 2025

The 2025 Student Leadership Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown hotel November 13-15.



Reasons to Attend the Student Leadership Conference

 <p>Accelerate your journey from the classroom to the workforce.</p>	 <p>Learn from expert speakers about the latest trends in the profession.</p>
 <p>Network with recruiters from top companies seeking interns and full-time hires.</p>	 <p>Get inspired by top-tier professionals during our industry tours.</p>

Resources

Top 10 Accounting Firms

1. Deloitte

2. PwC

3. EY

4. KPMG

5. BDO

6. RSM

7. GT

8. Nexia

9. Crowe

10. Baker Tilly

Top 10 Accounting Firms

Big4accountingfirms.com listed out the top 10 largest Accounting Firms for 2025. Based on prior year revenues, Deloitte leads the pack with \$67 billion along with over 457,000 employees worldwide. PwC held it's ground at #2 with \$55b, followed by Ernst & Young's \$51b and KPMG at \$38b of annual revenues.



IMA's Certification for Accountants and Financial Professionals in Business



Certified in Strategy and Competitive Analysis

IMA Count Me In Podcast

The IMA's Count Me In Podcast has celebrated over 225 episodes. These are generally 15-20 minute digestible bites focused on topics related to the Accounting and Finance world. Check it out.



Free Self-Study CPE

It pays to be a member! Utilize this member benefit by logging into your profile on imanet.org and viewing the Course Catalog in the Education Center drop-down.

[Accounting in the Age of Generative AI](#) (0.5 CPE)

[Becoming a Trusted Business Partner](#) (1.0 CPE) ***new**

[Best Practices for Integrating AI into Finance](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Building a Powerful Personal Brand](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Building Long-Term Value Through Strategic Sustainability Integration](#)
(0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Driving Strategic Management with the Profitability Analytics Framework](#)
(2.5 CPE)

[Finance in the Cloud: Tools and Techniques](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Financial Storytelling: Making Numbers Speak](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[IMA Excel 365: Tips in Ten](#) (0.2 CPE each)

[Integrating Carbon Accounting into Financial Reporting](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Introduction to Agentic AI](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Making Your Next Career Move with Intention](#) (1.8 CPE)

[Measuring the ROI of Sustainability Investments](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Navigating AI's Impact](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Navigating Red Flags in Business Process Transformation](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**
[Negotiation](#) (1.0 CPE)

[Predicting the Future: Anything Can be Modeled](#) (1.5 CPE)

[Preparing for SEC Climate Disclosure Requirements](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Purpose, Performance, and Progress: The Future of Purpose-Driven Reporting](#)
(0.2 CPE) ***new**

[Revenue Management: Methods to Drive the Top Line](#) (1.2 CPE)

[Statement of Cash Flows Tutorial](#) (1.0 CPE)

[Strategic Analysis for Management Accountants and CFOs](#) (2.0 CPE)

[The Intersection of AI and Finance](#) (1.5 CPE) ***new**

[U.S. GAAP vs IFRS: Nonfinancial Assets](#) (1.0 CPE)

[U.S. GAAP vs. IFRS - Liabilities and Related Special Topics](#) (1.0 CPE)

[Unlocking Potential: The Impact of Mentorship in Finance](#) (0.2 CPE) ***new**

Strategic Finance has a New Look!

Check out the latest articles from Strategic Finance, the IMA's publication on all things Finance and Accounting, here: [Strategic Finance](#)



Free Self-Study Ethics CPE

Don't forget to take your two hours of Ethics CPE! All CMAs are required to take at least two hours of Ethics CPE each year. The IMA offers their ethics courses as a complementary benefit for being a member. Sign in to claim your free offer.

[Ethics in the Digital Age](#) (2.0 CPE)

[Can We Count on You?](#) (2.0 CPE)

[Ethical Decisions and Workplace Relationships](#) (1.0 CPE)

[Fundamentals of Fraud](#) (1.0 CPE)

[Mission Impossible: When Benchmarks Undermine Ethics](#) (2.0 CPE) *new

[People and Profitability in a Sustainable World](#) (2.0 CPE)

[Responsible Decision Making in the Digital World](#) (2.0 CPE) *new

[The Power of Trust](#) (2.0 CPE)

As an added benefit for CPA holders, the majority of these courses also qualify for NASBA CPE.



Leadership Academy

Grow Your Leadership Experience

The IMA Leadership Academy (IMALA) supports the development and enhancement of our members' leadership education and skills to aid in career advancement.

All benefits are available at no extra cost to IMA members.

[Leadership Academy | IMA](#)

Student Support



Did you know more than 2,900 colleges and universities from around the world have participated in the CMA Scholarship program? Over \$50 million of scholarships have been provided by IMA to help students pursue the CMA and FMAA certifications at no cost to them.

Be one of the 10 students from your school this academic year to be nominated by professors to receive the CMA or the FMAA Scholarship!

[What is the CMA Scholarship?](#)

[Other Student Scholarships](#)

Looking for a new role?

[Explore IMA's Job Opportunities](#)



Chapter Board of Officers 2024-2025



Pictured (left to right): Willy Arevalo, Bhavesh Parekh, Rudy Hershberger, Dave Franz, Trent Kramer, Lianne Loeks Munson, Andrew Galas, Ashley Davis, Heath Hertel, Shari Nepper, & James Powers
Forefront: Gwen Van Berne (IMA Chair 2022-2023) & Steve McNally (IMA Chair 2021-2022)
Not pictured: Ryan Chase, Warda James-Hester, & Todd Stenson

Position

President
Past President
VP of Engagement
VP of Communications
Treasurer
Director of Education
Director of CMA & Student Engagement
Secretary
Director of Events
Chapter Delegate

Name

Lianne Loeks Munson, CMA, CSCA
Trent Kramer, CMA, CPA, CSCA
James Powers, CMA
Ashley Davis, CMA, CSCA, FPAC
Todd Stenson, CPA
Andrew Galas, MBA
David Franz, CMA
Willy Arevalo, CMA
Ryan Chase, CMA, CSCA
Warda James-Hester, CMA, CPA

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the board reach out to minneapolis@imachapter.org