



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

## The General Ledger Spring 2026

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER



**~ Spring forward with the IMA Minneapolis  
Chapter ~**



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

# Celebrating Our Members

## Honoring IMA Members Celebrating 20 Years with our Minneapolis Chapter!

Wesley A. Nettleton, CMA

Jesus A. Sandoval, CMA

John H. Thompson, CMA, CPA

Kristian G Mortenson, CMA

Christopher J. Sherman, CMA

Amy L. Blaz, CMA

Terry J. Meyers, CMA

Yanfen Yang, CMA

---

## Honoring IMA Members Celebrating 15 Years with our Minneapolis Chapter!

Derek S. Johnson, CMA

Jolene D Sieben, CMA, CPA, CFP

Melissa Anne Soupir, CMA

Kelsey A. Walker, CMA

John Lucking, CMA, CPA

Ben Nelson, CMA

Dean W. Hensel, CMA

---

## Honoring IMA Members Celebrating 10 Years with our Minneapolis Chapter!

Subhankar Bhattacharya, CMA

Eun Young Lee, CMA

Lee Joseph Adamic, CMA

Yoanne Stella Bosc

---

## New Chapter Members

*Please welcome our newest chapter members*

Rebecca Willenbring

Rachel Wilder

Patrick Healy

Angela Sommer

Sepideh Ghalichi

Bryan Smith

Sandra Lee Peichel

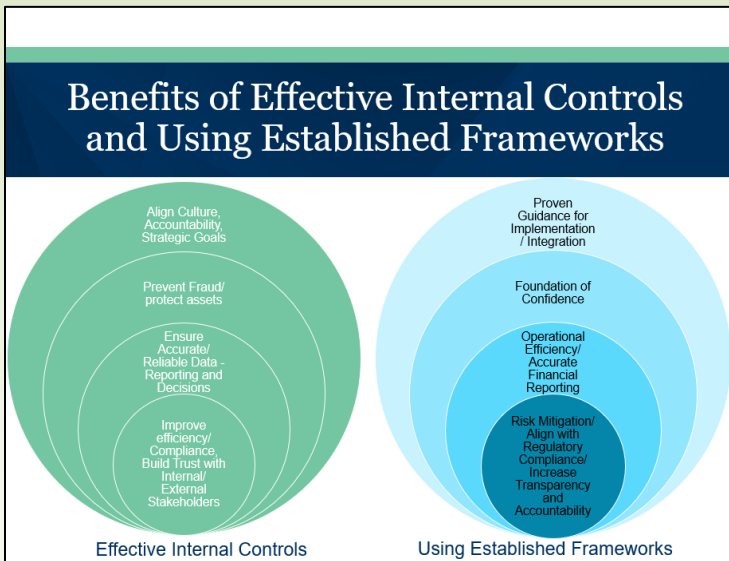
# Chapter Events Recap

## Internal Controls

In December, Mike Phillips, CMA, CFM, CTP presented the *10 Key Steps for Effective Internal Controls*. He is the Chief Strategy Officer at South Georgia Banking Company and also serves on the IMA Global Board of Directors. Drawing upon his 35+ years of expertise, he spoke at great lengths on the subject without the need for notes.



Mike set the groundwork for the importance of internal controls. He emphasized the alignment of culture, accountability and strategic goals. These pillars serve as a deterrent to protect assets and prevent fraud. Effective controls improve the accuracy/reliability of financial reporting while also streamlining processes and ensuring regulatory compliance.



To the heart of the conversation, Mr. Phillips introduced us to the ten key steps for effective internal controls and then proceeded to talk through each one. From setting the tone at the top and on down to helping employees understand their role in a system of accountability. Interconnecting a framework that fosters transparency for both internal and external stakeholders.



As a best practice, he is an advocate of the RACI model:

- Responsible (R): The person or people who perform the work or execute the control
- Accountable (A): The single individual who is ultimately answerable for the correct and thorough completion of the control
- Consulted (C): The people or groups whose opinions are sought before a decision is made or a task is executed
- Informed (I): The individuals who are kept up-to-date on the progress or outcome of a control

Tools, Techniques and Best Practices – the RACI Model - Example				
Examples of applying the RACI model				
Key Control Activity	Responsible (R)	Accountable (A)	Consulted (C)	Informed (I)
Perform general ledger (GL) account reconciliation Control: The reconciliation of key GL accounts is performed monthly to ensure balances are accurate and substantiated.	Senior Accountant	Accounting Manager	None required for this task.	Financial Controller, Director of Finance
Perform the three-way match for invoices Control: Invoices are matched with purchase orders and receiving documents before payment is authorized	Accounts Payable Clerk	Accounts Payable Manager	Purchasing Manager	General Accounting
Review and approve monthly financial statements Control: A detailed review of the income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows is performed prior to management distribution.	Financial Controller	CFO	Business Unit Heads, Accounting Manager	Board of Directors, External Auditors

Keep an eye out for IMA webinars with Mike Phillips as the presenter. We barely scratched the surface due to a time constraint. This was his first presentation and it was impressive how much knowledge he has on the subject.

## New Excel Features & Tricks

In February, MrExcel himself enlightened us with the newest features within 365 including AI applications. Over the course of two full hours, Bill Jelen presented directly from within Excel showing us the integration of Copilot and Python along with other enhancements.



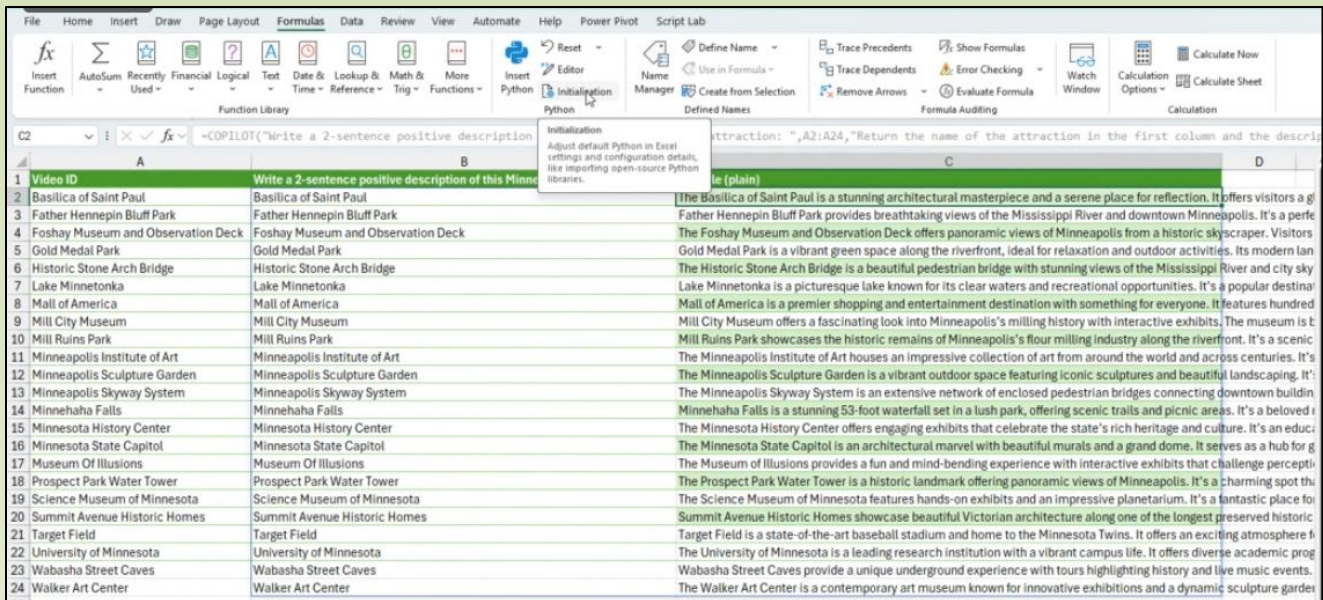
On the next page is his demonstration on utilizing AI via the COPILOT function to generate a list of Minneapolis attractions. Then writing a brief two-sentence description for each. It's a pretty slick introduction to it. At current state, this feature is limited to those with Copilot subscriptions (you'd see an icon on the right side of the Home ribbon) as well as how much you can use it over a short period of time. Linked in the graphics below are video tutorials.

### COPILLOT usage limits

- Only available to people with a Copilot subscription
- Only 100 functions per ten minutes
- Only 300 calls per hour
- Will not calc if workbook is Confidential or highly Conf.

**Them:** *"It's just a spreadsheet."*

**Me:** *"Just a spreadsheet? This is my life's work, my child, my legacy."*



From there, using Python to create a Word Cloud to highlight common themes from the Copilot descriptions above. The below graphic incorporated Microsoft's AI and open-source Python programming. To tell if you have this functionality available, look at the middle of the Formulas ribbon for an Insert Python icon. MrExcel suggested this can be used for marketing among other situations to visualize key themes and trends.



Excel has now surpassed 500 different functions. A recently added one that MrExcel found interesting is TRANSLATE. You can type a phrase in English and use the ISO code to convert to numerous languages at once. Excel connects to the internet for the translation. There is also a DETECTLANGUAGE function that helps identify a foreign one.

Phrase in English	Language	Code	TRANSLATE
Excel is my favorite program	German	de	=TRANSLATE(A4,C4)
Excel is my favorite program	Basque	eu	Excel da nire programa gogokoena
Excel is my favorite program	Bulgarian	bg	Excel е любимата ми програма
Excel is my favorite program	Czech	cs	Excel je můj nejoblíbenější program
Excel is my favorite program	Dutch	nl	Excel is mijn favoriete programma
Excel is my favorite program	Irish	ga	Is é Excel an clár is fearr liom
Excel is my favorite program	Italian	it	Excel è il mio programma preferito
Excel is my favorite program	Hmong Daw (Latin)	mww	Excel yog qhov kev pab cuam uas kuv nyiam tshaj plaws
Excel is my favorite program	Portuguese (Brazil)	pt	Excel é meu programa favorito
Excel is my favorite program	Samoan (Latin)	sm	Excel o la'u polokalama e sili ona ou fiafia i ai
Excel is my favorite program	Spanish	es	Excel es mi programa favorito
Excel is my favorite program	Tahitian	ty	Excel o ta'u ia faanahoraa au roa a'e
Excel is my favorite program	Tongan	to	Ko e Excel 'a e polokalama 'oku ou sai'ia taha ai
Excel is my favorite program	Turkish	tr	Excel en sevdiğim program

Bill Jelen has been in the game for nearly 30 years and never stops learning. His presentations are both interactive and entertaining. This is how to build a reputation that precedes you. In addition to receiving a link to the webcast replay, each attendee was provided a copy to his book “MrExcel 2025 Navigating Excel”.

## Feed My Starving Children

In March, a group of Minneapolis Chapter members volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. This was followed by a happy hour at the nearby Hackamore Brewery. The team had fun supporting a great cause.



## March Madness

We recently kicked off our sixth annual March Madness challenge. Filling out a bracket and following the games can make the month go by faster. Doing so eases the transition from the remnants of winter to warmer outdoor weather. Maybe you can even best your fellow Accounting & Finance peers.



### IMA Minneapolis Chapter Hall of Champions:

- 2025 Jeff Grund, CPA
- 2024 Maureen Downey-Horowicki
- 2023 William Frater, CMA
- 2022 Tavia Lundquist, CPA, CGMA
- 2021 Ken Rein, CMA



# Upcoming Events

## April Chapter Conference

April marks the return of the in-person conference. This will be hosted in Bloomington on the 23rd & 24th. Registration is open and attendees can earn up to 12 CPE.

Our keynote speaker Ross Bernstein kicks off the conference on Thursday. This is followed by an opportunity to fulfill the annual ethics CPE requirement with a presentation by Professor Michealson of the University of St. Thomas.

From 8am to 4:30pm each day, we have speakers on behavioral economics, business partnerships, fractional workplaces, tariffs, taxes, trends, LLMs and more. There is a happy hour to round out the end of the first day. The conference concludes with the IMA's Chief Financial Officer, Christine Millaway, sharing her expertise on *The Modern CFO*.

## June MSP Airport Tour

A little over a year ago, CFO Tim Simon of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) presented to our chapter. He graciously offered to host us on-premise with an exclusive tour. Our schedules have aligned and we'll have the ability for a small group of members to do so on June 24th.

This is in the early afternoon during the work week. Our hosts include CEO Brian Ryks giving us an overview of this city-within-a-city followed by an airfield tour by the Government Affairs leadership team. While this is limited to a small group, we'll take pictures to share in the next newsletter and hopefully get a few for the website too.

The board puts forth a great deal of effort to make these possible. Keep an eye out for communications regarding future events. We'll also have them on our [minneapolis.imanet.org](http://minneapolis.imanet.org) website.



# Newly Certified Chapter Members



## Congrats on earning your CMA in 2025!

Kimberly Barth, CMA

Jordan Phillip Fader, CMA

Austin Nelson, CMA

Everett Owens, CMA

Elizabeth Benoit, CMA

Wenqi Li, CMA

Alec Overland, CMA

Jessica Schorr, CMA

Sten Taracks, CMA



## Congrats on earning your CSCA in 2025!

Peyton Zivkovich, CMA, CSCA



## Congrats on being our first-ever FMAA in 2025!

Marie Therese Saunders, FMAA, CMA

# Continuous Learning Through Daytime Webinars

The IMA has free webinars that are hosted weekly on Wednesdays at noon. If you have the flexibility to grab your lunch and tune in, this is a great way to broaden your knowledge. Stay current on emerging trends while also earning CPE.

[Free Weekly IMA Webinars](#)

**DATA**



Another great source for webinars is [FreeLiveCPE](#). This site aggregates live presentations that are hosted by the likes of Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC and more into a one-stop calendar.

Selecting from the breadth of topics that these firms put on is akin to a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book. These range from introducing concepts to crafting an advanced narrative.

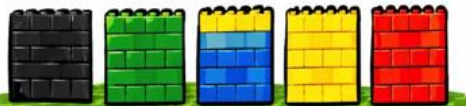
**SORTED**



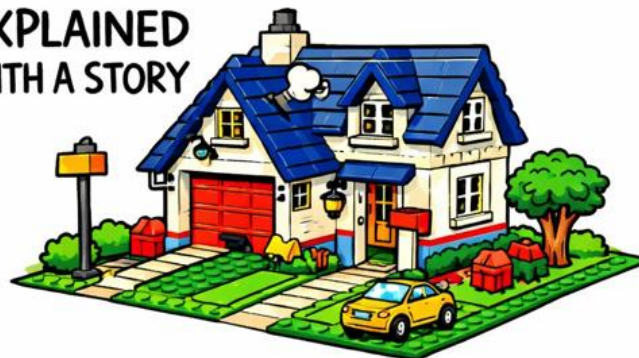
**ARRANGED**



**PRESENTED  
VISUALLY**



**EXPLAINED  
WITH A STORY**



# IMA Global Conference 2026

The IMA's biggest event of the year is coming to Tampa, Florida in June 2026. There is a dais of great speakers along with a series of fun activities for attendees. Registration and more info is available [here](#).



## Additional Resources

### IMA Corporate Membership Plans

Corporate Membership plans are available through the IMA. This offers similar benefits to that of an individual with group discounts available. It is a great way to level-up as a team.

The Corporate Membership is designed to enhance employees' skills, broaden their knowledge, and support their career growth by offering:



- Access to a diverse range of on-demand courses and training materials
- Participation in exclusive webinars and events
- Opportunities for networking through professional communities
- Tools for tracking progress and managing certifications

#### Plans that scale with your business

Tailored solutions to drive growth at every level of your organization.

[Learn more](#)

[Compare all features:](#)

 <p><b>Team Plan</b> For companies enrolling 5 to 29 employees looking to elevate their team's skills &amp; capabilities</p> <p><b>\$250</b> per person/year</p> <p><a href="#">Get started now</a></p> <p>On-demand course library, valued at \$1,300 pp 60+ live member-only webinars per year Local chapter events &amp; networking opportunities Discounts on our CMA and CSCA Certifications</p>	 <p><b>Enterprise Plan</b> For organizations enrolling 30 to 299+ employees seeking to drive large company-wide growth</p> <p><b>Custom Price</b> per year</p> <p><a href="#">View our pricing</a></p> <p>PLUS: Extensive course library, valued at \$2,000 pp Private labeled microsite &amp; self-service portal Analytics and tracking for your team US Only: 1 CFO Alliance Membership (\$500 value)</p>
--	---

More information is available here:

<https://enterprise.imaglobal.org/pages/pricing>



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 350 episodes. These are generally 20-25-minute digestible bites focused on topics related to the Accounting and Finance world. They can also be downloaded and listened to at your convenience.

[Check it out.](#)



## Taking the Next Step

The IMA has a series of resources available [here](#) to assist professionals on their career path. This includes tips on interviewing, writing a resume and other advice to help advance your career. Most of these are relatively quick reads and includes over one hundred in total to choose from. Find a topic that is relevant to your ambitions.

## Career Articles

Access career-related articles featuring tips on leadership and advice for navigating a successful career path.

Leadership

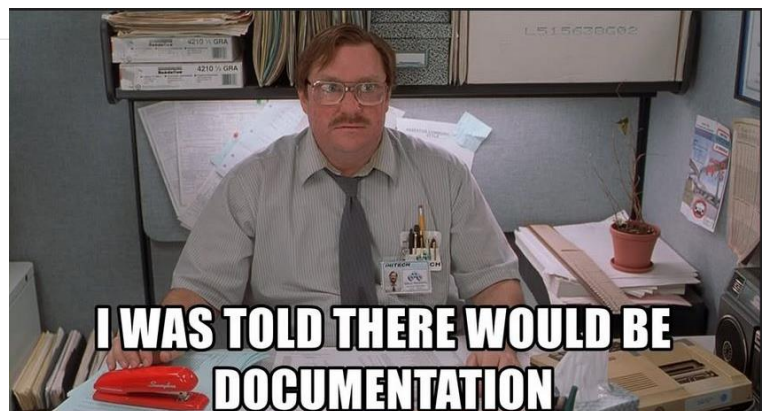


Resume Writing Tips



Interviewing Tips

- [Finding the Right Job](#)
- [The New Basics of Interviews](#)
- [Do I really need to send a thank you note after an interview?](#)
- [Ace the Job Interview Process](#)
- [How Hiring Managers and Job Candidates Can Make the Most of an Interview](#)
- [This is how to write a job resignation letter, with examples](#)
- [Don't Forget to Do This Before a Job Interview](#)
- [New Job Offer? 5 Red Flags](#)
- [Top Video Job Interview Tips](#)



# IMA Count Me In For CPE

The IMA's Count Me In podcast now comes in the form of 0.5 self-study CPE. These are free to members and there are a variety of topics to choose from. Adam Larson does an excellent job hosting conversations with industry thought leaders.

Courses consist of listening to a ~30-minute episode followed by a couple knowledge checks and a quiz at the end. You can literally put on wireless headphones and earn credits while carrying about your day.

[Accelerate Growth with Adaptive Transformation](#)

[Achieving Growth and Loyalty Through Clear Brand Differentiation](#)

[Aristotle and Accounting: Building Virtue to Fight Fraud](#)

[Bridging the Gap Between Certification and Work](#)

[Building Strong HR and Finance Partnerships](#)

[How Companies Can Attract and Retain Top Accounting Talent](#)

[How to Stand Out in International Finance with the CMA and CSCA](#)

[Leading With Purpose: How Volunteering Fuels Professional Growth](#)

[Learning and Growing with Every Career Leap](#)

[Practical Ways to Lead Yourself Through Change and Everyday Stress](#)

[Small Changes, Big Impact: Building Strong Financial Foundations](#)

[Unlocking AI in Finance for Better Forecasts](#)

[Unlocking Efficiency: AP And AR Automation for Finance Teams](#)



## Free Self-Study CPE

It pays to be a member! Utilize this member benefit by logging into your profile on [imanet.org](https://www.imanet.org) and viewing [Courses](#) within the Education & Events drop-down.

[Crypto Forecasting: Machine Learning Strategies for Finance Pros](#) (0.2 CPE) \*New

[Driving Forecasting Accuracy with CRISP-DM](#) (0.2 CPE) \*New

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

[From Burnout to Balance](#) (0.2 CPE)

[IMA Ethics Series: Data Ethics and AI](#) (1 Ethics CPE) \*New

[IMA Excel 365: Tips in Ten](#) (0.2 CPE each up to 6.4 in total)

[Investor Diversity and the Future of Financial Disclosures](#) (0.2 CPE) \*New

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

[Navigating Climate Disclosures: A Financial Reporting Perspective](#) (0.2 CPE) \*New

[Negotiation](#) (2 CPE)

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

[Proven Ways to Use AI and Automation](#) (1.2 CPE) \*New

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

[Scenario Planning in a Shifting Environment](#) (1.5 CPE)

[Statement of Cash Flows Tutorial](#) (1 CPE)

[Strategic Analysis for Management Accountants and CFOs](#) (2 CPE)

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

[U.S. GAAP vs IFRS: Nonfinancial Assets](#) (1 CPE)

[U.S. GAAP vs. IFRS - Liabilities and Related Special Topics](#) (1 CPE)

[Understanding the Risks and Uncovering the Rewards of AI in Finance](#) (1 CPE) \*New

[Whistleblowing and Leadership](#) (0.2 CPE)

[Why AI Should Be Built on Trust](#) (1.4 CPE) \*New

## Strategic Finance

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



## Join Up Now

People from all over the globe are doing their part to fight for the future. Join our board via enlisting today. The IMA recently sent out a [call for volunteers](#). You can also learn about opportunities by reaching out to [minneapolis@imachapter.org](mailto:minneapolis@imachapter.org)



# IMA's Shared Interest Groups

IMA's Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum where members of the global accounting and finance community can come together to share insights, discuss best practices, explore new technologies, and support one another through friendly and engaging interactions.



## 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 2025-2026



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, Natasha McCalmont & Todd Stenson

## Position

**President**  
**VP of Engagement**  
**VP of Communications**  
**Treasurer**  
**Director of Education**  
**Director of CMA & Student Engagement**  
**Secretary**  
**Director of Events**

## Name

**Ashley Davis, CMA, CSCA, FPAC**  
**James Powers, CMA**  
**Trent Kramer, CMA, CPA, CSCA**  
**Todd Stenson, CPA**  
**Andrew Galas, MBA**  
**Natasha McCalmont**  
**Willy Arevalo, CMA**  
**Ryan Chase, CMA, CSCA**

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the board, reach out to [minneapolis@imachapter.org](mailto:minneapolis@imachapter.org)



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER