



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business

MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

MID - AMERICA COUNCIL

THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS AND FINANCIAL
PROFESSIONALS IN BUSINESS

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

President's Message - November 2020

8 months into the pandemic and in spite of the extraordinary changes that have occurred in response to the virus, your Mid-America Council continues to strive to offer educational opportunities and bring value to your membership.

Our Fall Educational Conference was held virtually (a word I am beginning to hate) on September 18. 113 folks attended two sessions, "Are You Lying to Me?" dealing with ethics and "Using the Monte Carlo Method in Excel to do Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics" presented by Harlan Fuller.

Our next Council Webinar, [Embrace the Adventure](#), is November 12. The webinar will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. and will focus on ways to develop mindsets and skill sets to find opportunities in the obstacles, strengthen your resilience and meet every day with clearer perspective and confidence. You will not want to miss this entertaining mix of music and hope-fueling messages by Michelle and Erik Anderson.

The [IMA Student Leadership Conference](#) will be held virtually (there's that nasty word again) on November 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The Council is in the formative stages of planning the Spring 2021 Educational Conference. If you'd like to participate in the planning of the Spring Conference or any upcoming event, or know of excellent speakers who you'd recommend, please contact your chapter's regional director or visit the council's website at www.midamerica.imanet.org and leave a message for one of the council's board members.

Our next [Board meeting](#) will be Saturday, November 7, and we encourage each chapter to have a member attend that meeting. Meeting details are found elsewhere in this newsletter. Having a chapter member from each of the Council's chapters attend the Council's quarterly Board meetings is a great way to take an active role in making sure your chapter has a voice in what the Council is doing to benefit and strengthen your chapter.

The Mid-America Council exists to serve the local chapters within the Council by providing support, guidance, and assistance helping the chapter board serve their members. Please contact your chapter's Regional Director or any of the Council's board members if your chapter requires assistance or has questions.

Stay healthy and don't let the virus fatigue get you down.

Bruce Hamilton, Co-President
David Skora, Co-President



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COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

UPCOMING MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time	GoToMeeting Connection	Phone option
Saturday, November 7, 2020 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Join from your computer or mobile device: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/969922925	Call: (312) 757-3121 Access code: 969922925 13127573121,, 969922925#

1. 9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome & Introductions	Dave	5 minutes
2. 9:05am – 9:10am	President's Report Review Strategic Plan 2020-2021	Dave/Bruce	5 minutes
3. 9:10am – 9:15am	Secretary's Report Approve Minutes from 8/1/20 Meeting	Martha	5 minutes
4. 9:15am – 9:40am	Treasurer's Report Financial Statements for QE 9/30/20 Revised Budget 2020/2021 \$500 Grant for Sept. Conference Chapter Dues - Discontinued Investments - Discontinued	Erin	25 minutes
5. 9:40am – 9:45am	President - Elect's Report MEF Grant – Did Not Apply Council Award of Excellence	Dave	5 minutes
6. 9:45am – 10:10am	CGCR Rep & Regional Directors IMA Global Board Update NWSC Chapter Merged with Chicago Regional Directors - Chapter Reports	Erin/Dave	25 minutes
7. 10:10am – 10:20am	BREAK		10 minutes
8. 10:20am – 10:30am	VP-Communications Newsletter Due Date Council Website Issues	Eric	10 minutes
9. 10:30am – 11:00am	VP-Education Student Grants Chapter Grants Spring 2021 Education Conference Ideas 11/12/20 Webinar – Embrace The Adventure	Bruce/Dave	30 minutes
10. 11:00am – 11:05am	Bylaws Committee Report	Rick	5 minutes
11. 11:05am – 11:10am	Committee Reports Long Range Planning Nominating ICMA Board of Regents	Dave/Bruce & Harlan	5 minutes
12. 11:10am – 11:20am	Old Business North Central Regional Council Dissolution CMA Online Review Course - Carthage	Dave	10 minutes
13. 11:20am – 11:25am	New Business	Bruce/Dave	5 minutes
14. 11:25am – 11:30pm	Past Presidents (Advisory Committee)		5 minutes
15. 11:30am	Meeting Adjournment Lunch is virtual today!		



2020-2021 COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD POSITION	NAME, CHAPTER
Co-Presidents	*Bruce Hamilton, Madison *Dave Skora, Madison
President-Elect	OPEN
Secretary	Martha Paalman, Winnebagoland
Treasurer	*Erin Ankebrant, Greater Milwaukee
VP-Communications / Webmaster	Eric Griffin, Madison
VP-Education	OPEN
General Director	*Rick Bellmore, Winnebagoland
General Director	*Harlan Fuller, Central Illinois
General Director	Royce Hix, Greater Milwaukee
General Director	*William Ramsay, Winnebagoland
General Director	*John Wieland, Winnebagoland
	* = Past President of the Council
COMMITTEES	
Councils & Global Components Roundtable Rep	Erin Ankebrant, Greater Milwaukee
Bylaws Committee	Rick Bellmore, Winnebagoland
Long-Range Planning Committee (most senior active Past President)	Rick Bellmore, Winnebagoland
Nominating Committee	Bruce Hamilton, Madison
Advisory Committee (all active Past Council Presidents)	Erin Ankebrant, Greater Milwaukee
REGIONAL DIRECTOR CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS	
Calumet	Dave Skora, Madison
Cedar Rapids	TBD
Central Illinois	Harlan Fuller, Central Illinois
Chicago	Erin Ankebrant, Greater Milwaukee
Dubuque Tri-State	TBD
Fox River Valley	Royce Hix, Greater Milwaukee
Greater Milwaukee	Royce Hix, Greater Milwaukee
Heart of Wisconsin	John Wieland, Winnebagoland
Illowa	Bruce Hamilton, Madison
Madison	Eric Griffin, Madison
Packerland	Rick Bellmore, Winnebagoland
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	TBD
Winnebagoland	Martha Paalman, Winnebagoland



IMA Mid-America Council Board Meeting
Conference Call Only
August 1, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Table with 3 columns: NAME, CHAPTER, MAC POSITION. Rows include Martha Paalman, Bruce Hamilton, Dave Skora, Harlan Fuller, Erin Ankebrant, Royce Hix, Rick Bellmore, Eric Griffin, and John Wieland.

Quorum gut check – 5 voting attendees from at least 3 different chapters – PASS!

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

PRESIDENT – Dave Skora
2020-21 MAC Board of Directors

The board that was submitted to Global was reviewed – details below. Many people are in the same positions as previous years and there are still some open positions. There are also some Regional Director positions open. Assignments will be made for the three new Iowa chapters shortly.

IMA Mid-America Council
2020-2021 Board of Directors

Officers

Table listing officers and their past roles: Co-President (Bruce Hamilton, David Skora), Secretary (Martha Paalman), Treasurer (Erin Ankebrant), Webmaster (Eric Griffin), VP Communication (Eric Griffin), and General Director (Rick Bellmore, Harlan Fuller, Royce Hix, William Ramsey, John Wieland).



Regional Directors – Chapter Assignments

Calumet	David Skora
Central Illinois	Harlan Fuller
Chicago	Erin Ankebrant
Fox River Valley	Royce Hix
Greater Milwaukee	Royce Hix
Heart of Wisconsin	John Wieland
Illowa	Bruce Hamilton
Madison	Eric Griffin
NW Suburban Chicago	???
Packerland	Rick Bellmore
WinnebagoLand	Martha Paalman

Strategic Plan 2020-21

Bruce and Dave put together a strategic plan for the year to outline high level goals for the council. Plan is as follows:

IMA Mid-America Council
2020/2021 Strategic Plan
August 1, 2020

Support Role to Chapters

1. Provide guidance and assistance to chapter leaders. This is primarily why the council exists. We need our chapters to be strong and relevant. The council needs to be in-tune with chapter activities (or lack thereof).
2. Regional Directors develop and maintain regular communications with chapter presidents on the status of the chapter. Get on their communication distribution lists.
3. Welcome and engage chapters and their members from the North Central Regional Council which is dissolving. Engagement can include board involvement and educational events participation.

Education

4. Due to COVID-19, chapters will struggle to provide effective educational opportunities to their members, especially if in-person meetings are not allowed. The council will strive to provide at least four virtual educational events for an additional 10 CPE hours to chapter members.

Certification

5. Promote the CMA certification program at every opportunity. Certification drives membership, continuing education, meeting participation, etc.
6. Provide council-wide promotion of the new online CMA review courses for students and professionals conducted by accounting faculty at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton, Council Co-President
David Skora, Council Co-President



SECRETARY – Martha Paalman

The minutes from the April 27, 2020 Mid-America Council board meeting were previously emailed to the board and included in the July council newsletter. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Bruce and seconded by Dave. Motion passed.

TREASURER – Erin Ankebrant

Copies of the June Treasurer’s Reports were shared in the WebEx meeting. For FY20, the Council ended with a loss of \$(1,063.34) vs budgeted loss of \$(4,468.00). Erin noted there are some chapters who have not yet paid their FY20 dues: Packerland, Fox River Valley, Heart of Wisconsin, and Madison. She will send the info to the respective Regional Reps for follow-up.

Were the incoming Iowa chapters paying dues? Dave will ask Global. If not, do we offer them a delayed payment plan?

The Council’s balance sheet remains healthy with \$60k+ in funds between investments and other bank accounts.

Chapter Grants: All grants have been paid out in full except for Madison. Their treasurer has asked the council to hold the payment for now.

Student Grants: Oshkosh & Robert Morris – paid out in full. Carthage – didn’t submit post-event so only got half.

Budget 2020/21

Erin presented the proposed FY21 budget:

Revenue:

Dues: proposed budget does not include the new chapters from Iowa. This item will remain open pending the results of the conversations with the new chapters – either leave alone or add in their dues.

Conferences: nothing in the proposed budget for either conference. Fall Conference will be virtual, revenues of zero. Expect the Spring Conference to be in person. Use the same assumptions as previous years - \$6,750 (45 attendees at \$150/ea). There are two other Council events that will be planned (see strategic plan). We would intend to charge for them. Estimate \$1,500 per event (50 people at \$30/ea.)

MEF Grant: Grant awards are generally prioritized for student-related activities. As the Council isn’t planning much that targets students this year, we don’t plan to apply this year. Will remove from the proposed budget.

Other Income: There may be changes coming from Global around chapter/council compensation, but nothing has been published yet so nothing will be budgeted.

Expense:

Student & Chapter Grants: budgeted as per approved subcommittee recommendations - \$5,000 student, \$3,000 chapter

Conferences: budgeting all events at breakeven - \$6,750 for Spring, \$3,000 for 2 webinars.

Council Meetings: At least two of the four meetings will be held virtually. Drop budget to \$200 (vs original \$400.)



Council Travel: While the amount of travel this year is unknown due to restrictions, it was decided to leave money in the budget, but reorganize the titles/amounts based on the updated board structure. Roundtable Rep \$1,000, Council President \$1,000, Directors \$500

Admin: proposed budget of \$400 was agreed to be appropriate

As approved today:

Revenue \$14,154

Expense \$20,850

Net Loss \$(6,696)

Motion to approve the budget as presented/revised today was made by Bruce, seconded by Harlan. Motion passed.

	2020-21 Budget
Dues	3,904
Spring Conference	6,750
Fall Conference	0
Webinar Income	3,000
MEF	0
Interest Income	500
Other	
Income	14,154
Student Grants	5,000
Chapter Grants	3,000
Spring Conference	6,750
Fall Conference	0
Webinars	3,000
Council Meetings	200
Roundtable Rep Travel	1,000
Council President Travel	1,000
Director Travel	500
Admin	400
Expense	20,850
Net	(6,696)

Chapter Grants

Chapter grant due date will coincide with MEF deadline which is the last business day of August. Committee to review these grants will be Rick, Erin, Bruce, and John. Decisions will be made and communicated to chapters by early September. Sub-Committee will approve as they see fit up to the \$3,000 included in our approved budget.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – OPEN (Erin/Dave)

MEF Grant Status

During budget discussion it was decided to not apply for the MEF grant this year.



Council Award of Excellence

This application is submitted in spring. It's very early in the year still. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

COUNCILS & GLOBAL COMPONENTS ROUNDTABLE REP – Erin Ankebrant

IMA Global Board Update

There have been three committee meetings – one official and two impromptu. Discussions have been around serving membership, which lead to the changes that were informally introduced in the Volunteer webinar given by Global on July 14th. There have also been ongoing conversations about how to communicate with our council/chapter members given the privacy policies. There are additional staff at Global to coordinate mailings and other contact methods. If you or your chapter are struggling with this, contact the Community Relations team.

Regional Director Reports

Calumet (Dave Skora): Dave is on their mailing list and can see what they've been up to. They are exploring different meeting options given current restrictions. They have a good board and seem to be doing alright.

Cedar Rapids (TBD): No Report – will assign a director shortly

Central Illinois (Harlan Fuller): Two long-time board members have stepped down. Are struggling to get the board members needed to remain active – board has not yet been submitted. Focus is on spending the money the chapter has on student and membership growth, as requested by Global, through grants and subsidies to student chapters. Their membership does appear to be active with online CPE.

Chicago (Erin Ankebrant): No Report, we suspect they are still struggling and will follow up with the Chicago/NW Sub consolidation

Dubuque Tri-State (TBD): No Report – will assign a director shortly

Fox River Valley (Royce Hix): No Report – will get Royce in contact with the chapter

Greater Milwaukee (Royce Hix): Have had two virtual planning meetings for the upcoming year. Struggling to get full board as well. Working on putting together two web-based meetings this fall, may pivot strategy given what the council is planning. Will continue focused involvement in the Campus Influencer space.

Heart of WI (John Wieland): Last communications indicated they may be struggling to fill their board. John will follow up.

Illowa (Bruce Hamilton): Haven't heard anything lately. Bruce will follow-up

Madison (Eric Griffin): Have held a couple planning meetings. Are planning some virtual events in fall with topics related to remote working and such. Trying to plan the whole year.

NW Suburban Chicago (TBD): see comments in Chicago chapter section

Packerland (Rick Bellmore): Haven't heard anything from the chapter. Rick will follow up.

Waterloo-Cedar Falls (TBD): No Report – will assign a director shortly



*Winnebago*land (Martha Paalman): Chapter is doing well. Program year meetings are all set with the first two meetings web-only and all the rest planned for in-person, but prepared to flip to webinars as needed.

VP-COMMUNICATIONS and DIRECTOR OF NEWSLETTER – Eric Griffin

The next council meeting will be on Saturday, November 7th, 2020. We will assume this meeting will be a virtual meeting for now. If in-person meetings are allowed by then, we will hold the meeting at the Beloit Club in Beloit, WI. The newsletter deadline will be Monday, October 19th.

Council Website

The three new chapters have been added to the member chapter list. **Do any of these chapters have student chapters?**

If we are going to open virtual events from individual chapter to the entire council, we can create a page to summarize all these events on the council website.

VP-EDUCATION – OPEN (Bruce/Dave)

Student Conference & Student Grants

The Student Conference is being held as an online event, free of charge, this year. We will still offer the student grants with the same criteria as previous years and see what submissions are received. Student grant applications will be due on the last business day of September. Committee to review these grants will be Rick, Erin, Bruce, and John. Decisions will be made and communicated to applicants by early October. Sub-Committee will approve as they see fit up to the \$5,000 included in our approved budget.

Student Chapter Outreach

Need to verify who all our student chapters are. Dave will follow up.

2020 Fall Education Conference

Friday, September 18th. Conference will be a virtual format similar to Spring 2020 Conference. Free for all attendees.

Speakers: Chih-Chen Lee (NIU DeKalb) “Are You Lying to Me?”
Harlan Fuller – Forecasting & Data Analytics

Other Council Webinars

Session #1:

Speaker: Michelle & Erik Anderson - composeyourworld.com
Potential Topics: The Best of Both Worlds, Use-less or Use-full Tool
Cost: \$1,500
Tentative Date: November
CPE: 1.5hrs

Session #2:

Speaker: TBD – send Dave your ideas
Potential Topics: TBD – send Dave your ideas

Cost: TBD
Tentative Date: January/February

2021 Spring Education Conference



Looking for speaker ideas for this conference – send to Dave. We do plan to hold this conference in person. Conference will be in April. Date TBD.

Council Events Venue Considerations

With the addition of the Iowa chapters, we need to re-evaluate the physical locations of in-person council events. It may be best to define the council in “Northern” vs “Southern” terms rather than “WI” vs “IL”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws Committee – (Rick Bellmore)

Last update completed 1/26/2019, next update due by 6/30/2024

Are any bylaw revisions needed as a result of the three new member chapters?

Long Range Planning Committee – Harlan Fuller

Not much ongoing activity, Harlan had to drop off the call for a bit

Nominating Committee – Bruce/Dave

Committee will reconvene ahead of the next council meeting

ICMA Board of Regents - Dave

Dave has finished up his first year on this board, two more years to come in his term. There were two in-person meetings (Oct & Feb.) Activity included how to determine pass rate of new CMA exam that was rolled out in Jan. Other topics – how the exam is administered, formatted, graded, exam environment in China, COVID implications and rescheduling.

OLD BUSINESS

Previous Action Items:

- Complete annual “Review” of Council Financials – John – haven’t received any documents from Erin yet (OUTSTANDING)
- Create/Send council survey to see why people didn’t attend Fall Conference (and other council events.) Revise this to be a survey for feedback from the attendees of the Spring Conference. Use the Visa gift card the council already has as a raffle item for respondents – Eric (outstanding)
- Send out feelers on Fall Conference speakers – All (COMPLETE)
- Send “Save the Date” for Student Conference in April – Eric (send with student grant promo)
- Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric (Dave will follow up)
- Send out January and April financial statements to the board – Erin (Outstanding)
- Re-evaluate split between chapter and student grants – bylaw revision needed? Add to August’s agenda. – Martha (COMPLETE)
- Council’s free annual meeting registrations – deal with it in January – add to agenda - Martha

NEW BUSINESS

North Central Regional Council Dissolution

A motion to approve the affiliation of the following chapters from the dissolved North Central Regional Council to the Mid-America Council (MAC):

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Chapter
Cedar Rapids Chapter
Dubuque Tri-State Chapter



...and seek their participation in MAC activities such as training, board of director's meetings, and other support events that arise during the course of a year was made by Martha and seconded by Harlan. Motion passed.

Grant Programs Review

Subcommittee of Rick, John, & Martha reviewed the chapter and student grant programs. Recommendations were emailed to the council board on 6/12/20. After discussion, the recommendations of the subcommittee were accepted by the board. Eric will revise the website as needed and these amounts will be included in the FY21 budget.

CMA Online Review Course – Carthage

The following email blast was sent to council members on 7/29/20. Also see comments on council's strategic plan.

"Carthage College in Kenosha, WI is offering an online CMA Exam Review Course this fall.

The fall section (Exam Part 1) of the course will meet online synchronously from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Saturday from September 10 to November 14 with an optional review day on Saturday, November 21. Tuition for the course is \$1,350, which includes the cost of books and course material. Students will have access to the online course material for 2 years.

Go to www.carthage.edu/cma for more information and to register."

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAST PRESIDENTS)

Rick – As we're in unprecedented times, we as a council need to focus on communications with our local chapters, keeping them up-to-date on what the council is doing and how we can help.

John – good meeting, we're adapting to our COVID environment as needed, we have challenges ahead but seem to be dealing with them ok so far.

Erin – good meeting, being virtual has challenges but has gone well. We need to continue to support each other. Hope all our events go well. Stay healthy.

Bruce – very productive meeting, thank you all for being here. Sorry to see the three new chapters didn't participate today. We will reach out to them again and personally welcome them to the council.

Dave – formal welcome to Royce to our council board. We're glad you're here! Welcome to the three Iowa chapters. We need to continue to put an exerted effort on communication better with our chapters.

Harlan – the main concern is that this entire meeting is composed of past presidents. We need to find more people to participate at the council level. The meeting was productive and we're doing a good job given our "uncharted territory."

MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM

Motion to adjourn by Eric and seconded by John. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Paalman, Council Secretary



Action Items

- Council's free annual meeting registrations – deal with it in January – add to agenda – Martha
- Were the incoming Iowa chapters paying dues? Dave will ask Global. If not, do we offer them a delayed payment plan? – Dave
- Add phone number item to student grant application, remove 3% reference in chapter grant information section – Eric
- Send info to Regional Reps for the councils who have not paid FY20 dues – Erin
- Assign Regional Reps to new Iowa chapters – Dave/Bruce
- Student Chapters associated with new chapters? Tell Eric so he can add to the website – Dave/Bruce
- Think about speaker/topic ideas for future conference events. – All
- Are there any bylaw implications of adding the three new chapters? – Rick
- Complete annual "Review" of Council Financials (FY19 and FY20) – John
- Create/Send council survey about conferences – after Fall Conference, gauge interest in Spring conference. Use the Visa gift card the council already has as a raffle item for respondents – Eric
- Send "Save the Date" for Student Conference in September – Eric
- Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric
- Send out YE financial statements to the board - Erin