



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



President's Message July 2015

The summer season is well under way, a few of the major summer holidays having passed (Memorial Day and July 4th). Hope all of you are enjoying your summer so far, and that you are enjoying many outdoor activities now that the weather is more cooperative (sunny and warm).

The Council's chapter boards are all in summer planning mode, determining how best to reach and serve their respective members for the upcoming chapter year. The Council, as well, uses its quarterly meetings to assess the progress of the chapters toward that end, planning to lend a hand to chapters that might be faltering, working to find ways to grow and sustain chapter involvement, making plans for the Council's Leadership Training Session (LTS) next spring, and otherwise striving to advance the goals of the global IMA (see attached agenda for more details).

The Council consists of two appointed members from each of its chapters and the past presidents of the Council as far as official actions are concerned (having a voice in the democratic process). I believe that it was structured this way so that no one chapter would have undue influence on Council operations. In addition to determining Council operations, the Council serves as a regional resource among like-minded colleagues serving in leadership positions for the various IMA chapters in the Council's region. Council members discuss and seek solutions for areas of chapter concern, examples of successful, sharable chapter operations and programs, and promote and conduct the annual LTS as an additional educational resource for IMA members.

Each of the chapter representatives to the Council become, if I am allowed an analogy, a spoke in the wheel of the Council operations. To expand on this analogy, the Mid America Council is just one of the wheels on the IMA Global vehicle. If a chapter does not send all or any of its representatives to the Council meetings, you might see that it might be an issue in getting the wheel (the Council) to function properly. This is similar to the problem the chapters have when only a few of the chapter membership involve themselves with chapter operations and/or events.

In my 35 years of chapter membership and involvement in chapter and Council affairs, I appreciated the education, networking, and practical, hands-on leadership training (having an active role in Chapter operations) that came with my participation. If you are your chapter's representative to the Council, please plan to attend, live or by phone dial-in, the 2 to 3 hour Council meeting at 9:00 a.m. on July 25, 2015 in Janesville, Wisconsin. Your ideas and expertise are essential in order for the Council to achieve the best possible results for its regional IMA members.

Yours truly,
Jim Spice, Council President



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The IMA Annual Conference in Los Angeles First Impressions, Second Thoughts, and the Third Degree

First Impressions

1. Big, big, big city. What should I have expected?
2. Smog!?!? I think that is what was blocking my view of the mountains.
3. What a nice hotel! Four towers of accommodations. Easy to get lost. Figured it all out by the last day.

Second Thoughts

1. Another impressive conference! Always top-notch! 700 participants.
2. Great topics and speakers! Broadened my career horizon.
3. Met many very nice people from all over the world.

Third Degree

1. I do not want to miss an IMA Annual Conference.
2. I cannot wait to see my IMA friends in Las Vegas next year.
3. What a great value for the price!

Will I see you in Las Vegas on June 18-22, 2016? Start planning now! I began attending in 1999 and have not missed one since.

David Skora
Mid-America Council Past President

IMA GLOBAL AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Mary Strautmann of the Greater Milwaukee Chapter for receiving the IMA's Exemplary Volunteer Award! This award recognizes an IMA member who exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism through exemplary volunteer service to the IMA, demonstrating unselfish commitment and exceptional performance in support of the organization. This award is truly for an individual who goes beyond what might be expected and serves as an example of volunteerism for others to follow.



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IMA Mid-America Council Meeting Agenda

Date & Time	Teleconference Information	Location
Saturday, July 25, 2015 9:00am – 12:00pm	Dial-in number: 712-432-1500 Access Code: 514007#	Holiday Inn Express 3100 Wellington Place Janesville, WI 53546 (map)

9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome & Introductions	Jim	5 minutes
9:05am – 9:15am	President’s Report Chapter Grants	Jim	10 minutes
9:15am – 9:20am	Secretary’s Report Approve Minutes from 4/24/15 Mtg	Angela	5 minutes
9:20am – 9:40am	Treasurer’s Report Financial Bills	Rick	20 minutes
9:40am – 9:55am	President-Elect’s Report 2016 LTS Council Award of Excellence	TBD	15 minutes
9:55am – 10:15am	Regional VP & Regional Directors IMA Board Update Regional Chapter Reports	Dave	20 minutes
10:15am - 10:25am	BREAK		10 minutes
10:25am -10:35am	VP-Communications Newsletter Due Date Council Website Event Schedule	Eric & Angela	10 minutes
10:35am–11:05am	VP-Education Student Conference / Student Grants Student Chapter Outreach 2016 Education Conference	Bruce & Jason	30 minutes
11:05am–11:10am	Bylaws Committee Report	Mary	5 minutes
11:10am–11:15am	Committee Reports Long Range Planning Committee on Academic Relations Member Relations Committee	Harlan	5 minutes
11:15am–11:20am	Old Business		5 minutes
11:20am–11:35am	New Business		10 minutes
11:35am–11:40pm	Past Presidents		5 minutes
11:40am	Meeting Adjournment		



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**IMA Mid-America Council
NIU-Rockford, Rockford, IL
April 24, 2015**

ATTENDANCE

NAME	CHAPTER	MAC POSITION
John Wieland	Winnebagoland	President
Jim Spice	Calumet	President-Elect
Angela Truong	Fox River Valley	Secretary/Director-Newsletter
Rick Bellmore	Winnebagoland	Treasurer
Sheryl Elliott	Fox River Valley	Regional Director/Past President
Erin Ankebrant	Greater Milwaukee	Regional Director
Bill Ramsay	Winnebagoland	Past President
Harlan Fuller	Central Illinois	Regional V.P./Past President
Bruce Hamilton	Madison	VP Education/Past President
David Skora	Madison	Regional Director/Past President
Todd Hilliard	Rockford	Chapter Delegate
Mark Camareno	Calumet	Chapter Delegate
Martha Paelman	Winnebagoland	Chapter Member
Wesley Christiansen	Calumet	Chapter Member
Richard Mielcarz	Calumet	Past President

John Wieland called the meeting to order at 4:30PM. The meeting began with introductions of the members that were present.

PRESIDENT – John Wieland

IMA Global is hosting CLEW webinars for chapter leaders. The webinars are scheduled for May 6th and May 12th from 12-1:30pm, Central time.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – Jim Spice

Jim provided a recap of the Leadership Training Seminar that occurred today. LTS went well and he is reviewing the post-event surveys that attendees had submitted. There is additional money from one sponsor, Hub International, that is expected to be received and a few more expenses need to be submitted to Rick Belmore, council treasurer, by Jim Spice. Jim thanked David Skora for his help with organizing LTS.



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For the 2015-2016 MAC board, David Skora will be replacing Harlan Fuller as the Regional Vice President. A short discussion about regional directors and board members for the 2015-2016 MAC board occurred.

Jim said a Porte Brown LLC representative told him that Porte Brown can provide speakers to chapters, door prizes, etc. if asked. Jim will follow-up with the representative to discuss this more.

The Council Award of Excellence application is due to IMA Global on April 30th. Jim will finish the application and submit it by the deadline.

SECRETARY – Angela Truong

The minutes from the January 24, 2015 MAC board meeting were previously included in the newsletter. Richard Mielcarz motioned to approve the January minutes and Bill Ramsay seconded the motion. No changes were requested during the discussion of the minutes. Motion passed.

TREASURER – Rick Bellmore

Copies of the April Treasurer's Report were distributed at the meeting. Bruce Hamilton motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and David Skora seconded the motion. No changes were requested during the discussion of the report. Motion passed.

Rick reviewed the financials and expenses with the council. Illowa and Greater Milwaukee chapters had their events recently that they had requested council grants for, so the post-event paperwork is expected to be submitted soon to Rick. No students have requested reimbursements for student grants awarded to them to attend the IMA Student Conference. John Wieland will discuss this with Kathy Horton.

VP-EDUCATION – Bruce Hamilton

Bruce said 26 people attended the April 23rd Spring Conference. It was suggested that Mark Hogan from NIU, a speaker at this year's conference, be asked to be a speaker at next year's conference as well. Topics complemented well between the Spring Conference and LTS and there were not duplicates either. Bruce suggested that for next year's Spring Conference speakers and promotion be finalized sooner than they were finalized this year. The evaluation surveys submitted by attendees were positive. The Spring Conference had a profit this year, with the breakeven point being 20 people.



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REGIONAL VP – Harlan Fuller

Due to the short meeting time for today's meeting, regional director reports were not given during the meeting. Reports can be emailed to Harlan Fuller and Angela Truong to be included at the bottom of the board minutes for today's meeting and/or in the MAC newsletter that will be emailed out in July.

VP-COMMUNICATIONS and DIRECTOR OF NEWSLETTER – Eric Griffin (absent) and Angela Truong

It was decided that the due date will be July 6th for submissions of articles for the next newsletter.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT RELATIONS – Jason Leabman (absent)

No report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE – Mary Strautmann (absent)

No report.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE—Harlan Fuller

No report.

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC RELATIONS – Harlan Fuller

The IMA Student Honor Society is a new society offered by IMA Global for students and student members will receive a lifetime membership to the honor society.

MEMBER RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Harlan Fuller

IMA Global is considering changes to the Council Award of Excellence rules. If changes are made, they would go into effect for the next IMA year.

OLD BUSINESS

None.



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NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that July 25th would be the next council meeting and it will probably be at the Holiday Inn in Janesville, WI, which is the same location as the January council meeting. There will be no charge from the Holiday Inn for the July meeting if held there due to some technology issues that were experienced in January.

It was announced that the NW Suburban chapter is experiencing significant difficulties in filling a board for the 2015-2016 IMA year. Two people have left the board and currently there is no one who has accepted the chapter president position. If no volunteers are received for the chapter president and other open board positions then the chapter will most likely go inactive. John Wieland had recommended to current chapter president, Debra Mraz, that quarterly instead of monthly chapter technical meetings be held. Sheryl Elliott said that NW Suburban chapter members should be given the opportunity to join another IMA chapter based on where they live. Bruce Hamilton and Sheryl Elliott both said that they don't recommend the NW Suburban chapter merging with another chapter. John Wieland will follow-up with Debra Mraz.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Positive comments and suggestions were shared about the Spring Conference and LTS. This included a suggestion that handouts from the LTS speaker about security be provided to attendees since handouts were not in the packet given to attendees at the start of the day.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 5:10pm

Motion to adjourn by Bill Ramsay and seconded by David Skora. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Truong, Council Secretary



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Regional Director Reports emailed to Angela Truong:

Illowa Chapter - From David Skora

- Attended their 4-hour educational conference on March 20 at Black Hawk College in Moline, IL. Attendance was 18 people. Good topic – Dynamic charts/graphs in Excel, estate planning, and revenue recognition.
- Planning a second Student Night at St. Ambrose University in Davenport for April 16. The topic is “Career Readiness” presented by Robert Half.
- Overall, the chapter seems to be doing well. Has a small core group board led by Ray Tiedeman.

Heart of Wisconsin Chapter - From David Skora

- Attended their chapter meeting on February 17 at Sentry World (golf complex) in Stevens Point. 35 people in attendance. Topic was the golf course renovations and management. Attended their board meeting before the technical meeting. Well organized board. Next year’s board looked to have many of the positions filled. Kim Buehler is next year’s president.
- Are holding a half day Mr Excel seminar on May 20th at the Stevens Point Country Club from 12:30-4:30.

Packerland Chapter - From David Skora

- Attended their chapter meeting on February 18 Hagemeister Park in Green Bay. It was student night (panel discussion) with 23 in attendance. There were 8-10 students from UW-Green Bay plus 3 professors.
- Bonnie Nelsen is the incoming President. Next year’s board was coming together well.
- Alison Hendrickson, current president, has done a very nice job leading this chapter.

Madison - From Michele Reagan

- Attended their chapter meeting on April 21st. They had about 30 people at the meeting, which Michele was told was a very good turnout. Michele talked to the Chapter President and he said that they have a full board for next year and are ready to go.

NW Suburban - From Michele Reagan

- Michele received an email from Debra Mraz from the Northwest Suburban Chapter on the previous Saturday. Michele had inquired if Debra had received any response to the email she sent out asking for people to volunteer for the board and for someone to take over as President. Debra said that they had one woman who had shown interest, but now is not responding to them, so she thinks that the woman has decided not to do it. Right now they only have a Secretary, Treasurer, and a part-time Board member for next year, so it is looking like they may put the Chapter on hold (go to inactive status).