



The Association of  
Accountants and  
Financial Professionals  
in Business



## President's Message October 2013

Greetings to all Mid-America Council Members and Friends!

Time sure flies when you are having fun! It was a while ago when we were wondering when summer would arrive (well into June). Now fall is here and it too seems to be a little late in arriving (though I believe we would all agree that is just fine). And fall means that we have started another chapter year. I trust that all of the summer planning has translated into a great year of member activities and opportunities to learn and grow and share.

The council also has been busy planning a number of activities that we hope our chapters will find to be of significant benefit to their members. It is our desire to support your grassroots efforts at the chapter level. Let me take this opportunity to update you.

The Council has been trying for several years to provide an educational conference more technical in nature that would complement our already popular Leadership Training Session (LTS). On Thursday, April 24, 2014, this full-day technical conference will become reality. On the following day, our LTS will take place in a format similar to past years. We had about 140 people attend last year's LTS. Both of these 2014 sessions will be held at the NIU Outreach Center in Rockford, IL. It is our hope, that by scheduling these two sessions on successive days, more participants will be able to attend at least one of the sessions, if not both. So...mark your calendars now for April 24-25, 2014. It will be two fantastic days of practical learning at an unbelievably low cost. Watch for more details in the coming months.

IMA's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 14-16 in Charlotte, NC. This is a great opportunity for students to network and learn from accounting/finance professionals, fellow students, and educators from across the country. The council and many of our chapters have developed a variety of ways to provide financial assistance to students wanting to attend this student conference. We realize that these students will become our future leaders.

At times, the council can feel out of touch with the local chapters and chapters can feel the same regarding the council. Sometimes, the only contact between council and chapter is an email message from a Regional Director. One of my goals for this year as Council President is to attend one educational meeting of each chapter. This may be a daunting goal knowing that I have several excursions of 3+ hours to reach some chapters. But...I feel that the council needs to do more than just say it supports our chapters. The council needs to be there in person for all to see and for the chapter to know that we really do want to support their activities. Plan to hear from me in the coming months about scheduling a visit. I see many very interesting topics and speakers and I can't wait to make new friends within our council.

Our next Council board meeting will be on Saturday, November 2, in Rockford, IL starting at 9:00 am. The meeting agenda and directions can be found in this newsletter. All IMA members are welcome to attend or call-in. Attending a board meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about things that affect your chapter.

I am always open to ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at [diskora@fristampumps.com](mailto:diskora@fristampumps.com). Hope you have a great chapter year and I look forward to seeing you soon.

David Skora  
Mid-America Council President, 2013/2014



### IMA Mid-America Council Meeting Agenda

Date & Time	Teleconference Information	Location
Saturday, November 2, 2013 9:00am – 12:30pm	Dial-in number: 712-432-1500 Access Code: 514007#	CliftonLarsonAllen LLP 1639 N. Alpine Rd. Rockford, IL 61107 <a href="#">Map/Directions</a>

1. 9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome & Introductions	Dave	5 minutes
2. 9:05am – 9:15am	President's Report Award Presentation/Other Recognition Tentative Travel Schedule	Dave	10 minutes
3. 9:15am – 9:20am	Secretary's Report Approve Minutes from 7/27/13 Mtg	Patricia	5 minutes
4. 9:20am – 9:35am	Treasurer's Report 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Financials/Bills Board Mileage Reimbursement	Rick	15 minutes
5. 9:35am – 9:50am	President-Elect's Report 2014 LTS Update – 4/25/14 Nominating Committee Formation Council Award of Excellence	John	15 minutes
6. 9:50am – 10:35am	Regional VP & Regional Directors IMA Board of Directors Update SCMS Mid-Year, October 20-22 Regional Director Chapter Reports	Harlan	45 minutes
7. 10:35am – 10:45am	BREAK		10 minutes
8. 10:45am – 10:50am	VP Communications Newsletter Due Date Council Website	Barb/Eric	5 minutes
9. 10:50am – 11:20am	VP Education Student Grant Program Student Conference, November 14-16 MEF Grant – Student Focus Educational Conference – 4/24/14	Bruce & Jason	30 minutes
10. 11:20am – 11:25am	By-Laws Committee Report	Mary	5 minutes
11. 11:25am – 11:30am	Committee Reports Long Range Planning Committee on Academic Relations Member Relations Committee	Harlan	5 minutes
12. 11:30am – 11:40am	Old Business	Dave	10 minutes
13. 11:40am – 11:50am	New Business	?	10 minutes
14. 11:50am – 12:00pm	Past Presidents		10 minutes
15. 12:00pm – 12:05pm	Meeting Adjournment	Dave	5 minutes
16. 12:05pm	Lunch Invitation		



### Chapter Grants

Congratulations to the following chapters for receiving grants from the Council for the 2013/2014 year:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fox River Valley	Membership Growth	\$165
Calumet	Student Activity	\$266
Greater Milwaukee	Student Activity	\$266
Heart of Wisconsin	Student Activity	\$266
Madison	Student Activity	\$266
Northwest Suburban Chicago	Student Activity	\$266
Rockford	Student Activity	\$266
WinnebagoLand	Student Activity	\$266
Total Grants Awarded by the Mid-America Council		\$2,027

### Student Grants

Our new student grant program deadline was on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We received 6 applications and we have people looking them over. The Council has set aside \$1,000 for this program. Grant winners will be selected prior to our board meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### 2013 - 2014 Board of Directors

BOARD POSITION	NAME, CHAPTER
President	<a href="#">Dave Skora</a> , Madison
President Elect	<a href="#">John Wieland</a> , Winnebagoland
Secretary	<a href="#">Patricia Cox</a> , Madison
Treasurer	<a href="#">Rick Bellmore</a> , Winnebagoland
VP - Communications	<a href="#">Barb Sheedy</a> , Greater Milwaukee
Webmaster	<a href="#">Eric Griffin</a> , Madison
Director - Social Media	OPEN
VP - Education	<a href="#">Bruce Hamilton</a> , Madison
Director - Student Relations	<a href="#">Jason Leabman</a> , Madison
VP - Corporate Development	OPEN
Regional VP	<a href="#">Harlan Fuller</a> , Central Illinois
Regional Director - Calumet	<a href="#">Sheryl Elliott</a> , Fox River Valley
Regional Director - Central Illinois	<a href="#">Sheryl Elliott</a> , Fox River Valley
Regional Director - Chicago	<a href="#">Mary Strautmann</a> , Greater Milwaukee
Regional Director - Fox River Valley	<a href="#">Mark Camerena</a> , Calumet
Regional Director - Greater Milwaukee	<a href="#">Bruce Hamilton</a> , Madison
Regional Director - Heart of WI	<a href="#">Dave Skora</a> , Madison
Regional Director - Illowa	<a href="#">Michele Reagan</a> , Rockford
Regional Director - NW Suburban Chicago	<a href="#">Michele Reagan</a> , Rockford
Regional Director - Madison	<a href="#">Michele Reagan</a> , Rockford
Regional Director - Packerland	<a href="#">Mary Strautmann</a> , Greater Milwaukee
Regional Director - Rockford	<a href="#">Bruce Hamilton</a> , Madison
Regional Director - Sangamon Valley	<a href="#">Harlan Fuller</a> , Central Illinois
Regional Director - Winnebagoland	<a href="#">Erin Ankebrant</a> , Greater Milwaukee
Regional Director - Wisconsin Lakeshore	<a href="#">Erin Ankebrant</a> , Greater Milwaukee
MAC Long-Range Planning Committee (Most Sr. Active Past President)	<a href="#">Harlan Fuller</a> , Central Illinois
Council By-Laws Committee	<a href="#">Mary Strautmann</a> , Greater Milwaukee
Committee on Academic Relations	<a href="#">Harlan Fuller</a> , Central Illinois
Member Relations Committee (National Board Standing Committee)	<a href="#">Harlan Fuller</a> , Central Illinois



**IMA Mid-America Council Meeting**  
**Comfort Suites, Oak Creek, WI**  
**July 27, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>MAC POSITION</b>
Erin Ankebrant	Greater Milwaukee	Chapter President/Regional Director
Mary Strautmann	Greater Milwaukee	Past President/Regional VP
David Skora	Madison	President
Bill Ramsay	Winnebagoland	Past President
John Wieland	Winnebagoland	President - Elect
Sheryl Elliott	Fox River Valley	Past President/Past Secretary
Kathy Horton	Fox River Valley	Delegate/Chapter VP Education
Stephen Craig	Chicago	Delegate/Chapter VP Membership
Angela Truong	Fox River Valley	Delegate/Chapter Secretary
Jason Leabman	Madison	Director - Student Relations
Eric Griffin	Madison	Webmaster
Patricia Cox	Madison	Secretary
<b>VIA PHONE</b>		
Bruce Hamilton	Madison	Past President/VP Education
Michele Reagan	Rockford	Past President/Regional Director

David Skora called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Experienced teleconferencing issues that may have presented more from calling in. The meeting began with introductions of those present. It was determined that we do have a quorum present.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – David Skora**

David introduced the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan. The main goal of the plan is to support chapters.

Dave motioned that the board approve the strategic plan. Mary seconded. The motion passed

Board members need to sign the Ethics and Core Values Agreement forms today. David will forward it to Global.

A copy of the strategic plan is available at the website.

The Mid-America Council has won the Council Award of Excellence at the IMA Conference for seven straight years. David presented the award to the council.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT – Patricia Cox**

The minutes were reviewed and revised to include the date that the Fox Valley meeting was cancelled because of floods. Sheryl moved to approve the April 19, 2013 minutes & John Wieland seconded; motion was approved.



## **TREASURER’S REPORT – Michele Reagan**

Michele reviewed financials & expenses. The Discover Bank CD matures in September and will need to be addressed by the Investment Committee. The Bank of America CD matured and funds from it were moved to the Lord Abbett Income Fund. All chapter dues have been paid. Chapter grants have been paid out as post evaluation reports from them have been received. Not all post evaluation reports have been received. \$25 is due from an LTS no-show from Calumet.

Mary moved to approve the treasurer’s report and John seconded; motion approved.

Dave mentioned that account signers at Chase Bank need to be updated. Bruce Hamilton, Michele Reagan, and Sheryl Elliott will be removed. David Skora, Rick Bellmore, and Patricia Cox should be added. A “Record of Action Taken by the Board of Directors” document was created by Rick. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed. Dave and Patricia will sign this Record of Action for the bank.

## **REGIONAL VP AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS – Mary Strautmänn**

Mary worked with member relations council. They recommended putting the ethics agreement signing at the beginning of the year. ACCA members will be eligible to get the CMA. CMA’s will have to take 2 tests to get the ACCA credential. Details on the website.

Sheryl – Global is questioning the viability of Councils? There 22 councils currently. Give feedback to Harlan to for his vote at Global.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CALUMET – IRS issues have been resolved with their bank accounts. Need a certificate of good standing from the state. The chapter has a detailed plan for events for the year. Jim Spice is retiring at the end of July.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS – Harlan indicated that the chapter has events planned for 8 months. They include workplace diversity, ethics, forensic auditing, agricultural auditing, a Caterpillar plant tours and much more.

CHICAGO – Booming. Chapter president Chase Thompson taking charge with things. Entire year planned out.

Stephen Craig – plans for a summer get together. Sept 26 – Sears Tower (Willis) Dave indicated take a look at the web site. IMA Chicago Google search. Chapter sites are linked through the chapter site

FOX RIVER VALLEY –The board for this year is put together and plans are being made. Sep/Oct meetings are being planned.

GREATER MILWAUKEE – Erin reported a really good year this year.

HEART OF WISCONSIN – Dave indicated that the chapter has recently sent out the treasurer’s report.

WISCONSIN LAKESHORE – No report.

ILLOWA - Dave mentioned that we will discuss this chapter later in the meeting.



MADISON – Madison has plans well on the way for the year.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – No report. Dave has had recent contact with their new chapter president.

PACKERLAND – Mary has been in contact planning to attend August meeting. Appears they are well into scheduling for the year. Delegates named - Greg past president, Allison current president.

ROCKFORD – Bruce has been in touch with Rockford and will attend August meeting.

SANGAMON VALLEY – Erin has not been able to contact them. Per Erin the web site has not been updated since 2010.

Sheryl mentioned that the Chapter decided to go inactive. Sheryl answered chapter questions about how long a chapter could be inactive and how it would affect CMA work. Treasurer will write a check and give it to the council and funds will be segregated. At the next board meeting we will discuss what we would do to account for the funds in the short and long term.

WINNEBAGO LAND – Erin reported that she has been in touch with the president and that plans appear to be well underway for the year.

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT – John Wieland**

John discussed the upcoming LTS. April 25 was selected as the date. NIU Rockford was selected as the location since it is a central location. It was recommended that prices be raised to \$15 per student, \$30 for members and \$85 for non-members. John is still looking for additional speakers. If anyone has any ideas, please contact him. Some additional sponsors would also be welcomed.

#### **VP COMMUNICATIONS – Barb Sheedy**

Mary S. requested that regional directors please advise the Council of delegates and send them to meetings. Eric is doing the newsletters and is gathering information if anyone has something to share. Please copy both Barb and Eric so they can follow through.

#### **WEBMASTER – Eric Griffin**

No report.

#### **VP EDUCATION – Bruce Hamilton**

Bruce- talked about having a conference this fall on Nexus. The group discussed the day before LTS as an option to fall. The Thursday before seems best because of the evening networking session. Dave thought we might be able to get out of the red with 2 days. Mary thought we could work with ILCPA and WICPA to partner on the Nexus topic. Another potential topic is IFRS for small and medium sized entities.

Mary Indicates that the Nexus speaker Toni Spina is available on the morning of April 24. We would Auditorium and lunch facilities. But do not need breakout rooms. John was requested to book a two day event ~~in~~ at NIU Rockford for April 24-25, 2014. Bruce will proceed with planning this event.



Jason shared some comments about his plans to work with students and noted that they were consistent with the Strategic Plan. One idea was to change from student scholarships to individuals to scholarships for groups of students in student IMA chapters or Accounting clubs.

Kathy Horton commented about a North Central IL Conference in Sept 27/28 that she would like to see an IMA presence there. Mary could attend.  
Bill asked a question about smaller colleges. Jason would appreciate getting suggestions for colleges in our area. Student grants for groups of students to participate in IMA events rather than individuals was finally agreed to. Jason Motioned to modify leadership awards program into a group award. Bruce seconded.  
Dave would like Jason to get a plan out to us by the end of August. Any minimum for a student group? No

A committee can review grant submissions.

A motion was made to change the individual grants to financial support for groups. The motion passed.

### **GLOBAL BOARD/COMMITTEE – Mary Strautmann**

Mary is officially off the Global Board at this point.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

ILLOWA chapter – Dave wanted to make sure we did not lose sight of them. Michelle. Spoke with the chapter in April. They are beginning to organize with a president and board members. Michelle has been keeping the checkbook. Michelle will forward a letter from their June 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Dave asked Michelle to forward the emails she has received. Michelle agreed to be the regional director for this chapter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget** was prepared by Rick. Dave reviewed the budget. With the Professional Development day on 4/24, Bruce could project a breakeven level. Dave asked that Bruce add revenue and expenses when they can be estimated. Also reduced Membership Growth Revenue by \$1050 as a conservative approach.

Sheryl suggested we add \$1000 to Regional VP travel. With revisions, the net loss would be \$2586. Motion to approve the 2013/2014 budget with revisions by Bill, Mary seconded, Unanimously approved.

### **2013-14 Chapter Grants**

Handout from Dave, \$2027 granted to chapters as follows:

- Fox River Valley – membership growth - \$165
- Calumet – Student Activity - \$266
- Greater Milwaukee – Student Activity - \$266
- Heart of Wisconsin – Student Activity - \$266
- Madison – Student Activity - \$266





Northwest Suburban Chicago – Student Activity - \$266

Rockford – Student Activity - \$266

WinnebagoLand – Student Activity - \$266

### **Chapter Compensation and Competition Guide**

Dave handed out list of changes to the guide. The major change is to points awarded for CMA exam parts passed and certifications now calculated based on regional averages. The full guide is available at the Global website.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **By-law committee**

Mary went over recommended changes to the by-laws.

- Verbiage added (p. 2).
- Who is allowed to vote (p. 3)
- Changes recommended. (p. 4)

After a thorough discussion, wording from “Certified Delegates” was changed to “Designated Delegates” to more accurately reflect how delegates are identified.

Mary documented changes and will update her document and process it. Eric will put the revised document on the website.

Mary moved that her changes be accepted as revised. Seconded by Kathy.  
Motion passed

## **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Sheryl – looking forward to the coming year. Good meeting

Mary – new faces, excited about the coming year

Bill – we are looking at evaluating new ideas

Bruce – we got a lot done and productive discussion

Michelle – great meeting – discussion – ideas. Good luck with the year David!

Future meeting date October 26. Michelle will look at possible Illinois locations and get back to David.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm**

Motion to adjoin by Mary, seconded by Bill. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Cox, Secretary