



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 - January 2021

Happy New Year! And what a year 2020 was for everyone around the world. I am sure you are glad to put 2020 in the rearview mirror and look forward to a much better 2021.

In November, the Mid-America Council presented an uplifting webinar, Embrace the Adventure, which was a huge success mixing music with a message of hope. This webinar was very timely in the midst of the pandemic. Over 80 IMA members attended this event and we received many positive comments.

Planning is nearing completion for the MAC’s spring conference scheduled for April 23, 2021. At this point, we are planning for a virtual event similar to the one last September. More details will be coming soon. If you ever hear of a great topic or speaker for a future educational event, please tell us.

Our next Council Board meeting will be Saturday, January 23. As we have become accustomed to in the last year, this meeting will again be virtual. We encourage each chapter to have at least one board member attend the meeting. This is a great way to hear what other chapters are doing and to ensure your chapter has a voice in what the Council is doing to benefit and strengthen your chapter. Details of the virtual board meeting are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Mid-America Council exists to serve the local chapters within the Council by providing support, guidance, and assistance to the chapter leaders as they 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.

We all look forward to a much better 2021 with hope that we can soon get back to “normal”. In the meantime, stay healthy and give us a smile on January 23!

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

JANUARY 2021

In this issue:

Message from the President	1
MAC January Meeting – Agenda	2
MAC 2020-2021 Slate of Officers	3
MAC Meeting Minutes (November)	4-8

JOIN US

Special points of interest:

Next Council Meeting

When: Saturday, January 23, 2021
9:00am – 12:00pm

Where: Virtual - GoToMeeting



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time	GoToMeeting Connection	Phone option
Saturday, January 23, 2021 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Join from your computer or mobile device: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/748591165	Call: (571) 317-3122 15713173122,,748591165# Access code: 748591165

1. 9:00am – 9:05am	Welcome & Introductions	Bruce	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 11/7/20 Meeting	Martha	5 minutes
4. 9:15am – 9:30am	Treasurer's Report Financial Statements for QE 9/30/20 Financial Statements for QE 12/31/20 \$500 Grant for Sept. Conference Annual Review of Financials FY19 & FY20	Erin	15 minutes
5. 9:30am – 9:35am	President - Elect's Report Council Award of Excellence	Dave	5 minutes
6. 9:35am – 10:15am	CGCR Rep & Regional Directors IMA Global Board Update Regional Directors - Chapter Reports	Erin	40 minutes
7. 10:15am – 10:25am	BREAK		10 minutes
8. 10:25am – 10:35am	VP-Communications Newsletter Due Date Council Website Issues	Eric	10 minutes
9. 10:35am – 11:05am	VP-Education Student/Chapter Grants – Revisions Spring 2021 Education Conference 11/12/20 Webinar Recap	Bruce/Dave	30 minutes
10. 11:05am – 11:10am	Bylaws Committee Report	Rick	5 minutes
11. 11:10am – 11:20am	Committee Reports Long Range Planning Nominating Committee ICMA Board of Regents	Dave/Bruce & Harlan	10 minutes
12. 11:20am – 11:25am	Old Business North Central Regional Council Dissolution	Dave	5 minutes
13. 11:25am – 11:30am	New Business Annual Conference – Free Registrations	Bruce/Dave	5 minutes
14. 11:30am – 11:35pm	Past Presidents (Advisory Committee)		5 minutes
15. 11:35am	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
November 7, 2020

MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7

ATTENDANCE

Table with 3 columns: NAME, CHAPTER, MAC POSITION. Lists attendees including Martha Paalman, Dave Skora, Bruce Hamilton, Eric Griffin, Royce Hix, Sheryl Elliott, Erin Ankebrant, Rick Bellmore, Amy Pilcher, Harlan Fuller, and Bill Ramsay.

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

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

PRESIDENT – Dave Skora

The Council has had a hard time getting contact info from Global for the new chapters and existing chapters. They seem to be backlogged by the large number of webinars they’re moderating. Will continue to work through that.

Strategic Plan 2020-21

The board reviewed our strategic plan, which was introduced at the last council meeting.

Support: see previous comment on communication challenges

Education: upcoming webinar on Nov 12th

Certification: see comments in old business

SECRETARY – Martha Paalman

The minutes from the August 1, 2020 Mid-America Council board meeting were previously emailed to the board and included in the October council newsletter. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Eric and seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

TREASURER – Erin Ankebrant

Copies of the October Treasurer’s Reports were not available for today’s meeting. Erin will distribute to the board when they are completed.

Revised FY21 Budget

- Collection of chapter dues has been discontinued per Global. We were apparently the last council collecting dues. The income from dues has been removed from our budget. Can we take voluntary contributions? Erin will ask Global.
The Council can receive funds from Global for holding events as part of the new Global Compensation program. Erin will investigate how to submit the form for the September Educational Conference.
Investment of council funds has been discontinued per Global. As CDs mature, we will bring those funds back into the checking account. Remaining Edward Jones CDs mature 9/2021 and 12/2021.



- Revised budget is a \$9,300 loss.

Motion to approve the revised budget was made by Bill and seconded by Sheryl. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT-ELECT – OPEN (Erin/Dave)

MEF Grant Status

During the budget discussion at the August 1st meeting it was decided to not apply for the MEF grant this year.

Council Award of Excellence

Will discuss further at our January board meeting.

COUNCILS & GLOBAL COMPONENTS ROUNDTABLE REP – Erin Ankebrant

IMA Global Board Update

Erin is on the Member Engagement Team and on a sub-team that's working on the manual for onboarding new volunteers. This manual will give info on time commitments and troubleshooting. Should see something from Global in early 2021.

Reminder: with all these virtual meetings, be sure you password protect your Zoom meetings and enable the registration link to avoid Zoom hackers and make CPE reporting easier.

Regional Director Reports

Calumet (Dave Skora): Dave has been receiving their communications. They are active, have been having virtual meetings and board meetings. They are working with the Chicago chapter with communications and cross promotion. They have a meeting coming up next week.

Cedar Rapids (TBD): No Report

Central Illinois (Harlan Fuller): Chapter has been providing scholarships to local universities, but the chapter hasn't been holding events.

Chicago (Erin Ankebrant): Now includes previous NW Suburban Chicago members. They are working with Global to straighten out the administration end of that combination. They have events planned and they have a board.

Dubuque Tri-State (TBD): No Report

Fox River Valley (Royce Hix): No Report. Working on getting contact info for the chapter to Royce.

Greater Milwaukee (Royce Hix): Had a virtual meeting last month. Have been promoting council events rather than planning a lot of local webinars. Active in campus influencer space and have been doing virtual presentations but not sure they're very effective.

Heart of WI (John Wieland): Per an email passed along by Rick, the chapter appears to be struggling with filling their board. They have been discussing disbanding the chapter. Need to follow up with the chapter to see how the council can help.

Illowa (Bruce Hamilton): No Report

Madison (Eric Griffin): Held virtual events each month so far. Planned meetings in Nov and December. Figuring out the spring still.

NW Suburban Chicago (TBD): Officially merged with the Chicago chapter. Council has received confirmation that this combination happened in March.



Packerland (Rick Bellmore): Chapter has been holding virtual meetings over lunch each month. Has been working well for their chapter.

Waterloo-Cedar Falls (Amy Pilcher): Have held virtual events each month. September's meeting was a reschedule of March's event that had been cancelled. Chapter is trying to figure out how to have more social events, given the new Global competition & compensation structure. Discussing a happy hour trivia night for December.

Winnebagoland (Martha Paalman): September & October meetings were always planned as virtual events and now the chapter is flipping from in person to web-based as each meeting approaches. November is student night, doing a Virtual Escape Room networking activity. December will also be a webinar. TBD for the rest of the planned events. All meetings can easily be made webinars except for a tour planned for April.

VP-COMMUNICATIONS and DIRECTOR OF NEWSLETTER – Eric Griffin

The next council meeting will be on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021. We will assume this meeting will be a virtual meeting. The newsletter deadline will be Monday, January 4th, 2021.

Council Website

Council websites were having issues for about a month, with edit access being restricted. Global IT is working on fixing it, but access has been removed again. Chapter sites don't appear to have the same issues.

VP-EDUCATION – OPEN (Bruce/Dave)

Student Grants

No Student Grant applications were received

Chapter Grants

One Chapter Grant application was received – Winnebagoland. Grant was approved @ \$500 by the committee.

A discussion took place about changing the grant programs administration structure. Rather than having a specific deadline early in the year, Bruce proposed that we have an open-ended application period where chapters can apply for grants at any time as funds are needed in the program year. The current deadline is left over from a previous financial structure and no longer aligns with the Global financial policies. The current grant sub-committee could approve any incoming grant up to the budgeted amount. Requests received exceeding that budget would be reviewed by the board on a case by case basis.

Motion to approve this revision to our student & chapter grant program policies was made by Sheryl and seconded by Bill. Motion passed.

Other Council Webinars

Session #1:

Speaker: Michelle & Erik Anderson - composeyourworld.com

Potential Topics: Embrace the Adventure

Cost: \$1,500

Date: November 12, 2020 @ 1PM

CPE: 1.5hrs

2021 Spring Education Conference

Minimum of 3 CPE as a virtual format.

No planning has occurred yet. Consider volunteering to lead the planning/moderation.

Harlan has offered to host the Zoom meeting. We will likely try and record the conference.

Potential Topics:

Blockchain & Bitcoin, Software Integration – Royce has a contact



COVID adaptations in business
Identity Theft (Unemployment Fraud, Phishing emails, Banking, Ransomware)
AI
Social Media data collection & privacy, analytics and marketing potential

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws Committee – (Rick Bellmore)

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

No changes are needed to the bylaws to officially incorporate the three new Iowa chapters.

Long Range Planning Committee – Harlan Fuller

May need to investigate other revenue sources long long term, but nothing currently to be concerned about.

Nominating Committee – Bruce/Dave

FY22 Nominating Committee: Harlan, Bruce, Dave, Rick

ICMA Board of Regents - Dave

Virtual meeting held this week. Discussions about the CMA program and how COVID has impacted the testing. IMA’s largest revenue source is the CMA program. Testing sites were closed for a while. China was especially hard hit as this is where the highest growth in certifications is occurring. India is also currently mostly on hold since many of their events are held in person. Expected volume of certifications is down about 50%.

Some good has come out of this – more people working from home has meant more people are considering taking and studying for the exam.

Current CMAs – consider volunteering for the CMA question review committee to evaluate potential new CMA exam questions. Meetings are held virtually.

OLD BUSINESS

North Central Regional Council Dissolution

Paperwork isn’t completed yet for official dissolution and incorporation into MAC. Communication has been slow – may be due to natural disaster this summer + COVID

CMA Online Review Course – Carthage

Course was cancelled due to lack of interest. May look to try again in the spring.

Previous Action Items:

1. Council’s free annual meeting registrations – deal with it in January – add to agenda – Martha NEXT MEETING
2. ~~Were the incoming Iowa chapters paying dues? Dave will ask Global. If not, do we offer them a delayed payment plan?—Dave.~~ No longer applicable as all dues have been discontinued
3. Add phone number item to student grant application, remove 3% reference in chapter grant information section – Eric DONE
4. ~~Send info to Regional Directors for the chapters who have not paid FY20 dues—Erin . will not pursue these dues~~
5. Assign Regional Directors to new Iowa chapters – Dave/Bruce/Sheryl IN PROCESS
6. Student Chapters associated with new chapters? Tell Eric so he can add to the website – Dave/Bruce IN PROCESS requested from Global
7. Think about speaker/topic ideas for future conference events. – All
8. Are there any bylaw implications of adding the three new chapters? – Rick DONE
9. Complete annual “Review” of Council Financials (FY19 and FY20) – John, per Erin ready to send



10. 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 now (or when we can) for topic suggestions for the spring conference
11. Send “Save the Date” for Student Conference in September – Eric, not sent – website was broken. Global sent reminders.
12. Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric . website was broken.
13. Send out YE financial statements to the board – Erin. In PROCESS

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAST PRESIDENTS)

Sheryl – it was nice being here today. Glad that technology allows involvement even 800 miles away!

Erin – take things one day at a time

Harlan – I got a lot of good ideas to take back to my chapter, which is one of the benefits of these council meetings.

Rick – nice to hear everyone’s voices again. Can the council list all the meetings for the member chapters? (*Note from Martha: go to <https://linkup.imanet.org/events> to see all the meetings planned by chapters/councils worldwide. Of course, this only lists events that are created on the chapter or council websites.*) Can the regional directors be copied on whatever is sent to chapter presidents?

Dave – good meeting, glad to see everyone. Accomplished good things. Reminder to be in contact with our member chapters.

Bruce – good meeting, glad everyone could make it. Glad the technology worked.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM

Motion to adjourn by Dave.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Paalman, Council Secretary

Action Items

1. Council’s free annual meeting registrations – deal with it in January – add to agenda – Martha
2. Assign Regional Directors to new Iowa chapters – Dave/Bruce/Sheryl
3. Student Chapters associated with new chapters? Tell Eric so he can add to the website – Dave/Bruce
4. Think about speaker/topic ideas for future conference events. – All
5. Complete annual “Review” of Council Financials (FY19 and FY20) – John
6. 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.
7. Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric
8. Send out YE financial statements to the board – Erin
9. Investigate how to submit the council funding form for the September Educational Conference - Erin
10. Distribute Q1 financials to the board when they are completed - Erin
11. Can we take voluntary contributions from our chapters? Erin will ask Global.
12. Heart of Wisconsin: Need to follow up with the chapter to see how the council can help -Bruce/Dave
13. Revise website for new grant format – remove deadline, say notification of award within 30 days. - Eric
14. Send communication on new grant program policy to chapter presidents - Dave/Eric