



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 Message - April 2021

A Happy Spring to Chapter Leaders!

I can imagine that everyone has been anxious for spring to arrive. Winter in the Midwest is one thing to endure but COVID-19 and all its restrictions on top of that becomes almost unbearable. It is hard to believe that just over a year ago I was in Austin, TX attending an ICMA Board of Regents meeting – oblivious to what we were all about to face. That was my last in-person IMA event in over a year.

Hope is now on the way with the vaccine as we all scramble to book that appointment (some sooner than others). We can now envision the near future as something closer to what we had been used to. I sure miss being at IMA's Annual Conference and our chapter/council events. I am hoping that the word "virtual" becomes a distant memory.

As our chapter/council year is in its final quarter, I would like to bring a few items to your attention.

April 23 – Hopefully this is the Mid-America Council's last "virtual" Spring Educational Conference. Three great sessions are available. Select as many as you are able. This is a free event. This will be the MAC's last event of the year. Check the [website](#) for more details.

April 26 – MAC virtual board meeting. Join us to see what the Council is up to. More details/agenda is on the following page.

June 14-16 – This will be IMA's first (and hopefully last) virtual [Annual Conference](#). More than 50 live and on-demand sessions to choose from. The cost is a very low \$195 if you register by April 30. This is a real bargain for improving your skills and knowledge.

Chapter/Student Grants – In early February, the MAC announced a change in our grant programs. Applications for a grant will now be accepted throughout the year with a limit of one grant application per year (July 1 to June 30). An award determination will be made within 30 days of receipt. The applications can be found on the MAC's website. Please take advantage of these programs as you begin planning for the next chapter year.

Fall Education Conference – Planning is underway for the MAC's Fall Educational Conference. If you have any ideas for a great topic or speaker, please pass that on to a board member. More details about this conference will be coming this summer.

Yes, it has been a challenging year! Thank you for your service during this difficult year. Let us look forward to more normal times as we begin planning for a new year. As usual, the Mid-America Council is here to serve you. Your comments and questions are always welcome.

Have a great spring!

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



## COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time	GoToMeeting Connection	Phone option
Monday, April 26, 2021 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Join from your computer or mobile device: <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/474548109">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/474548109</a>	Call: (571) 317-3122 15713173122,, 474548109# Access code: 474548109

1. 12:00 pm – 12:05 pm	Welcome & Introductions	Bruce/Dave	5 minutes
2. 12:05 pm – 12:10 pm	Secretary's Report Approve Minutes from 1/23/21 Meeting	Martha	5 minutes
3. 12:10 pm – 12:15 pm	Treasurer's Report Financial Statements for QE 3/31/21 \$500 Grant for Fall Conference Annual Review of Financials FY19 & FY20	Erin	5 minutes
4. 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Regional Directors Chapter Reports	All	15 minutes
5. 12:30 pm – 12:35 pm	VP-Communications Newsletter Due Date	Eric	5 minutes
6. 12:35 pm – 12:45 pm	Education Spring Conference Recap (Dave) Fall Conference Planning (All) - Virtual or in-person - Date - Location (if in-person) - Topics/Speakers	Dave/All	10 minutes
7. 12:45 pm – 12:50 pm	Bylaws Committee Report Effect of changes in chapter dues & investments	Rick	5 minutes
8. 12:50 pm – 12:55 pm	Nominating Committee Report Slate for 2021/2022 Board	Dave	5 minutes
9. 12:55 pm – 1:00 pm	Old/New Business	All	5 minutes
10. 1:00 pm	Meeting Adjournment		



## 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	Dave Skora, Madison
Central Illinois	Harlan Fuller, Central Illinois
Chicago	Erin Ankebrant, Greater Milwaukee
Dubuque Tri-State	Sheryl Elliott, Fox River Valley
Fox River Valley	Royce Hix, Greater Milwaukee
Greater Milwaukee	Royce Hix, Greater Milwaukee
Heart of Wisconsin	John Wieland, Winnebagoland
Illowa	Sheryl Elliott, Fox River Valley
Madison	Eric Griffin, Madison
Packerland	Rick Bellmore, Winnebagoland
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	Bruce Hamilton, Madison
Winnebagoland	Martha Paalman, Winnebagoland



IMA Mid-America Council Board Meeting
Conference Call Only
January 23, 2021

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

PRESIDENT – Dave Skora

Strategic Plan 2020-21

Support Chapters:

Regional Directors need to enhance their contact with chapters
Focus on bringing in new chapters from Iowa

Education:

Council has provided additional CPE activity to supplement chapter offerings, additional webinars to complement the standard fall and spring conferences.

Certification:

Council is supporting certification where possible, but fall class got cancelled.

SECRETARY – Martha Paalman

The minutes from the November 7, 2020 Mid-America Council board meeting were previously emailed to the board and included in the January council newsletter. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Sheryl and seconded by Dave. Motion passed.

TREASURER – Erin Ankebrant (Absent, Bruce covered)

Copies of the January Treasurer’s Reports were shared in the meeting. Bruce will send them to the board for review. Discussion and approval will take place via email or other virtual format.

Has the audit been completed for last year’s financial statements? Open action item for this task already exists.

Reminder that Global has instructed that chapters and councils should not be investing any funds in income-generating accounts. We are encouraged to use that money to support chapters and members and not sit on large reserves.



**PRESIDENT-ELECT** – OPEN (Dave)

MEF Grant Status

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

Council Award of Excellence

We may be able to use some of our strategic plan activities in this application. Will address in spring.

**COUNCILS & GLOBAL COMPONENTS ROUNDTABLE REP** – Erin Ankebrant (absent)

IMA Global Board Update

No Update

Regional Director Reports

*Calumet (Dave Skora):* Dave has connected with their chapter president. Their website is recently updated, and they've been meeting monthly via webinar. They've historically been active at the student level, but with universities shut down, those opportunities have been limited. Doing fine, maintaining.

*Cedar Rapids (Dave Skora):* Dave connected with them. Chapter has been inactive since last spring. Can the council provide assistance to get things jump started again? Dave has a list of contacts from their previous board.

*Central Illinois (Harlan Fuller):* Joint Zoom meeting with Western Illinois student chapter will be held in February. Continue to support scholarships at local schools. Starting the endorsement process with two universities shortly.

*Chicago (Erin Ankebrant – Dave reported):* Merger with NW Suburban has been going well – boards have been combined nicely. Have continued some joint activities with the Calumet & Fox River Valley chapters as well.

*Dubuque Tri-State (Sheryl Elliott):* Sheryl sent an introduction email to them, no response yet.

*Fox River Valley (Royce Hix):* Royce reached out and connected with them. They have been holding virtual events. Have another event planned for February. Challenged a bit with only three board members.

*Greater Milwaukee (Royce Hix):* Board is struggling where their value is in this virtual world. Have been pointing members to other CPE opportunities rather than coordinating their own events. Hoping to be more active as in-person opportunities come back. Will continue to engage with members and will be working with the Campus Influencer program at Alverno College.

*Heart of WI (John Wieland):* John has emailed their president with no response. They have had a few meetings, one tax update is coming up.

*Illowa (Sheryl Elliott):* Sheryl sent an introduction email to them as well, no response yet.

*Madison (Eric Griffin):* Most recent meeting, held this week, was well attended. Don't have anything else scheduled at this point. Considering holding an ethics webinar using the Global resources.

*Packerland (Rick Bellmore):* Rick has been in touch with their president. Have been holding their events on Zoom as lunch-time meetings. Have also been encouraging chapter members to be involved in all the other CPE opportunities provided by Global.

*Waterloo-Cedar Falls (Bruce Hamilton – Denise reported):* Board will be meeting next week to discuss spring programming. Conferences held in the fall went well. Core board has been the same since probably 1995. 8-10 active members with a few on the periphery. The inability to have in-person meetings has led to a dip in activity. Good financial position.



*Winnebagoland (Martha Paalman):* The chapter board officially made the rest of the planned meetings “online only” events at the January board meeting. We will have three board members trained on the new ON24 platform. All events are listed online on the chapter website and IMA events page. (Feb – COVID Impact on Business, Mar – D&I w/IMA Global, Apr – Sustainability, May – Identity Theft.) The chapter has starting to work on confirming the board members for next year and thinking about how the 2021-22 year will look.

Note: Chapters should have their events listed on their website so they’re picked up in email blasts from Global. You may need to check your settings to make sure you haven’t blocked them. Members/Guests can also look at all upcoming events on the Global events site (<http://linkup.imanet.org/events/calendar?ssopc=1>).

Pro Tip from Harlan - college professors looking for tenure could be great speaker opportunities. Look for the people working on research projects!

**VP-COMMUNICATIONS and DIRECTOR OF NEWSLETTER** – Eric Griffin

The next council meeting will be on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Noon. This meeting will be a virtual meeting. The newsletter deadline will be Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Council Website

Council website security issues noted at our last meeting (Eric was unable to log in and edit) have been resolved.

ON24 Platform

Replacing WebEx platform currently being used by Global.

*Advantages:*

Attendees can download their own CPE certificate after the event  
CPE hours will be uploaded to IMA site automatically  
Registration is managed through that platform

*Disadvantages:*

Requires additional planning – need two people to support each meeting  
Dry run is held an hour before the live event instead of in the previous week  
Require a 4-6 week notice to coordinate with the Global staff  
Require slides to be submitted to Global 72 hours ahead of time  
Cannot collect payment through the registration platform

**VP-EDUCATION** – OPEN (Bruce/Dave)

Chapter Grants

Website has been updated for new Chapter Grant process (open year-round.)  
Winnebagoland Post Event form has been submitted, Eric will forward to the Erin and the review committee.  
No new applications received

Student Grants

Website has been updated for student grant process changes as well.  
No applications received

November Webinar Recap

75-80 attendees, although registration was over 100. Great comments, people appreciated it.

Other Potential Council Webinars

Ethics – 1 or 2 hours, one of Harlan’s co-workers has a presentation (Harlan)  
Data Security – speaker from Wipfli (Martha)



### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bylaws Committee – Rick Bellmore

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

Need to review the bylaws for any changes needed regarding the elimination of collecting dues from member chapters and holding investments.

Long Range Planning Committee – Harlan Fuller

A potential concern is the effect of the change in funding, but that issue isn't immediate or pressing.

Nominating Committee – Bruce/Dave

FY22 Nominating Committee: Harlan, Bruce, Dave, Rick

Haven't yet met, current board members and others should expect an email shortly. Board is due to Global on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

ICMA Board of Regents - Dave

Have been meeting virtually. Hot Topics: The Future of Certification – not going away but may be administered differently. Experience Requirement – need 2 years of management accounting work. Not debating the 2 years, but what qualifies as acceptable experience?

CMA testing has gotten back up and running worldwide, but Global targets on candidates and new certifications are going to be hard to meet for the year.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

North Central Regional Council Dissolution

Council officially dissolved as of the fall. Chapter members are now incorporated into the MAC rosters.

Previous Action Items:

1. Council's free annual meeting registrations – deal with it in January – add to agenda – Martha - **DONE**
2. Assign Regional Directors to new Iowa chapters – Dave/Bruce/Sheryl **DONE**
3. Student Chapters associated with new chapters? Tell Eric so he can add to the website – Dave/Bruce **still waiting for Amy R**
4. Think about speaker/topic ideas for future conference events. – All **ongoing**
5. Complete annual "Review" of Council Financials (FY19 and FY20) – John **NOT DONE**
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. **CANCELLED – bumped to when we do in person events?**
7. Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric **Harlan will come up with something after he's done with the two on his plate**
8. Send out YE financial statements to the board – Erin **NOT DONE**
9. Investigate how to submit the council funding form for the September Educational Conference – Erin **NOT DONE**
10. Distribute Q1 financials to the board when they are completed – Erin **NOT DONE**
11. Can we take voluntary contributions from our chapters? Erin will ask Global. **NOT DONE**
12. Heart of Wisconsin: Need to follow up with the chapter to see how the council can help -Bruce/Dave **COMPLETE**
13. Revise website for new grant format – remove deadline, say notification of award within 30 days. – Eric **COMPLETE**
14. Send communication on new grant program policy to chapter presidents - Dave/Eric **NOT DONE**



### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Annual Conference - Free Registrations**

Conference will happen but will most likely be virtual. No confirmation from Global yet. We don't know whether there will be a charge for the conference or not. The student conference had a fee for non-students but was free for students/education members.

Preference for free registrations (if applicable) will be given to council leaders who have never gone/not gone recently, then current chapter presidents. Interested parties should submit their name to the council president for consideration.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAST PRESIDENTS)**

Sheryl – good meeting, nice to see new faces here. Still a lot of past presidents on our board. How can we get more chapter officers to call in?

John – good meeting, we have some challenges ahead, but this last year has been good

Bill – liked the meeting, very positive, glad to see we're making do with the technology we have during this pandemic

Rick – good meeting, feeling nostalgic about the old CLEW sessions that were used to onboard and train new leaders. How can we get back to that virtually? Need to continue being engaged with the local chapters

Harlan – got a lot done today

Bruce – good meeting, got a lot done, looking forward to figuring out the new ON24 system

Dave – good meeting, encourage everyone to have contact with their chapters and their regional contacts, participate in other virtual events, looking forward to the spring conference

MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Motion to adjourn by Bill, seconded by Denise.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Martha Paalman, Council Secretary

#### **Action Items**

1. Student Chapters associated with new chapters? Tell Eric so he can add to the website – Dave/Bruce, waiting on Amy R
2. Think about speaker/topic ideas for future conference events. – All
3. Complete annual "Review" of Council Financials (FY19 and FY20) – John
4. Send email blast to academic members about the endorsement project – Eric/Harlan
5. Send out YE financial statements to the board – Erin
6. Investigate how to submit the council funding form for the September Educational Conference – Erin
7. Distribute Q1 financials to the board when they are completed – Erin
8. Can we take voluntary contributions from our chapters? Erin will ask Global.
9. Send communication on new grant program policy to chapter presidents - Dave/Eric
10. Send Q2 financials reviewed at this meeting to the board - Bruce
11. Cedar Rapids – plan to get the chapter restarted? - Dave
12. Confirm no issues with recording and distributing the spring conference speaker's presentation – Dave
13. Do we need to amend the bylaws for chapter dues or investment changes? Rick
14. Create/Send council survey about conferences – Use the Visa gift card the council already has as a raffle item for respondents – Eric. On Hold - Discuss again when we do in person events?