



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



President's Message April 2016

Dear Chapter and Council Leaders,

When I was in college, an older student had a column in our organization newsletter called "From the Desk of the Aging Radical." While I am not a radical, I am aging. We are going to have a rotating presidents position as we re-establish our succession plan.

I hope you have looked at the Spring Educational Conference on Thursday, April 21, 2016, and the Leadership Training Session (LTS) on Friday, April 22, 2016. These events have 16 hours of very reasonably price educational content. Something that you can take back to your employer that adds value to your enterprise, both corporate and personal. Registration is also open for the Global Conference and Exhibition that will be in the Las Vegas, June 18-22.

The LTS will be followed by a short Mid-American Council board meeting. If you can stay, you can find out what goes into creating the activities for the year and how the Council can be helpful to your personal development and your chapter activities. I hope to see many chapters represented.

Sincerely,
Harlan Fuller
Past Mid-America Council President, 2005-2007



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



IMA Mid-America Council Meeting Agenda

Date & Time	Teleconference Information	Location
Friday, April 22, 2016 4:00pm – 5:15pm (Following LTS)	None Available	NIU Meeting & Conf Center 8500 East State Street Rockford, IL 61108

1. 4:00pm – 4:05pm	Welcome & Introductions	Harlan	5 minutes
2. 4:05pm – 4:10pm	President’s Report	Harlan	5 minutes
3. 4:10pm – 4:15pm	Secretary’s Report Approve minutes from 1/30/16 meeting	Angela	5 minutes
4. 4:15pm – 4:30pm	Treasurer’s Report Financial statements / Bills	Rick	15 minutes
5. 4:30pm – 4:40pm	President Elect’s Report Nominating Committee 2016-2017 Council Board of Directors Council Award of Excellence	Open (Sheryl)	10 minutes
6. 4:40pm – 4:50pm	SCMS Update	Sheryl	10 minutes
7. 4:50pm – 5:10pm	VP Education Preliminary recap of MAC Conferences	Dave/ Bruce	20 minutes
8. 5:10pm – 5:12pm	Old and/or New Business		2 minutes
9. 5:12pm – 5:15pm	Past Presidents		3 minutes
10. 5:15pm	Meeting Adjournment		



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



2015 - 2016 Board of Directors

BOARD POSITION	NAME, CHAPTER
President	Bruce Hamilton , Madison
President Elect	OPEN
Secretary	Angela Truong , Fox River Valley
Treasurer	Rick Bellmore , Winnebagoland
VP - Communications	Eric Griffin , Madison
Director - Newsletter	Angela Truong , Fox River Valley
VP - Education	Bruce Hamilton , Madison
Director - Education	Dave Skora , Madison
Director – Student Relations	Kathy Horton , Fox River Valley
Regional VP	Dave Skora , Madison
Regional Director - Calumet	Stephen Craig , Chicago
Regional Director - Central Illinois	Mary Strautmann , Greater Milwaukee
Regional Director - Chicago	Mary Strautmann , Greater Milwaukee
Regional Director - Fox River Valley	Bruce Hamilton , Madison
Regional Director - Greater Milwaukee	Stephen Craig , Chicago
Regional Director - Heart of WI	Dave Skora , Madison
Regional Director - Illowa	Dave Skora , Madison
Regional Director - NW Suburban Chicago	Michele Reagan , Rockford
Regional Director - Madison	Michele Reagan , Rockford
Regional Director - Packerland	John Wieland , Winnebagoland
Regional Director - Rockford	Sheryl Elliot , Fox River Valley
Regional Director - Winnebagoland	Mary Strautmann , Greater Milwaukee
MAC Long-Range Planning Committee (Most Sr. Active Past President)	Harlan Fuller , Central Illinois
Council Bylaws Committee	Mary Strautmann , Greater Milwaukee
Nominating Committee	Bruce Hamilton , Madison
Committee on Academic Relations (IMA Global)	Harlan Fuller , Central Illinois
CLEW Development Committee (IMA Global)	Mary Strautmann , Greater Milwaukee
Volunteer Leadership Committee (IMA Global)	Dave Skora , Madison



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



2016 - 2017 Proposed Board of Directors

BOARD POSITION	NAME, CHAPTER
President	Rotation of John W., Harlan F., Michele, R, & Bruce H.
President Elect	Rick Bellmore, WinnebagoLand
Secretary	Martha Paalman, WinnebagoLand
Treasurer	Stephen Craig, Chicago
VP - Communications	Eric Griffin, Madison
Director - Newsletter	Dana Riess, Fox River Valley
VP - Education	Kas Henry, NW Suburban Chicago
Director – Student Relations	Kathy Horton, Fox River Valley
Regional VP	Dave Skora, Madison
Regional Director - Calumet	Joel VanderWeele, Chicago
Regional Director - Central Illinois	
Regional Director - Chicago	Pam Voorhees, Fox River Valley
Regional Director - Fox River Valley	Joel VanderWeele, Chicago
Regional Director - Greater Milwaukee	
Regional Director - Heart of WI	John Wieland, WinnebagoLand
Regional Director - Illowa	Bruce Hamilton, Madison
Regional Director - NW Suburban Chicago	Pam Voorhees, Fox River Valley
Regional Director - Madison	Connie Lusietto
Regional Director - Packerland	John Wieland, WinnebagoLand
Regional Director - Rockford	Connie Lusietto
Regional Director - WinnebagoLand	Bruce Hamilton, Madison



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



**IMA Mid-America Council Board Meeting
Serafino Square Apartments, Wauwatosa, WI
January 30, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

NAME	CHAPTER	MAC POSITION
John Wieland	Winnebagoland	Past President
Angela Truong	Fox River Valley	Secretary/Director-Newsletter
Sheryl Elliott	Fox River Valley	Regional Director/Past President
Bill Ramsay	Winnebagoland	Past President
Bruce Hamilton	Madison	VP Education/Past President
David Skora	Madison	Global Director/Past President
Todd Hilliard	Rockford	Chapter Delegate
Martha Paalman	Winnebagoland	Chapter Delegate
Eric Griffin	Madison	VP Communications
Michele Reagan	Rockford	Regional Director
Mary Strautmann	Greater Milwaukee	Regional Director/Past President
Harlan Fuller	Central Illinois	Past President
Rick Bellmore	Winnebagoland	Treasurer
Stephen Craig	Chicago	Chapter Delegate
Kate Sala	Greater Milwaukee	Chapter Delegate
Jim Wilbur	Chicago	Chapter Delegate

John Wieland called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The meeting began with introductions of the members that were present.

PRESIDENT – John Wieland (Interim)

The Council of Excellence Award application is due on the last business day of April. Work on the application should begin soon on it and Sheryl Elliott volunteered to write the application this year.

A report from the Nominating Committee for the council was given. There have been calls and emails to discuss potential candidates for the 2016-2017 council positions. Currently the open positions are for President-Elect, Director-Student Activities, and several Regional Directors. The positions that have been filled are President, Treasurer, Secretary, VP-Communications, VP-Education, Director- Newsletter, Regional VP, and several Regional Directors. President will be filled by four past presidents on a rotating basis. Mary Strautmann said Connie Lusietto will probably join the council. It was decided by the Nominating Committee that incoming Regional Directors don't have to have served as a Chapter President, but the person needs to be familiar with chapter operations. Dave Skora and Michele Reagan will continue to serve as Regional Directors. Dave said his term as Regional VP is through September 2016, so there will need to be two people's names submitted to IMA Global. Dave will be one name submitted and another person needs to be submitted as well.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



PRESIDENT-ELECT – Open
No report.

SECRETARY – Angela Truong

The minutes from the November 7, 2015 Mid-America Council board meeting were previously included in the newsletter. Angela motioned to approve the November minutes and Dave Skora seconded the motion. During the discussion of minutes, it was requested that Stephen Craig be added to the attendance section since he had attended the meeting by phone. Motion passed with this change to the minutes.

TREASURER – Rick Bellmore

Copies of the January Treasurer's Report were distributed at the meeting. Mary Strautmman motioned to approve the January Treasurer's Report and Bill Ramsay seconded the motion. In the discussion of the Treasurer's Report, it was noted that the Statement of Activities is missing a receipt from November 2015 from the Chicago chapter for chapter assessment dues. The missing receipt will be added. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report passed with this change to the report.

The financials were reviewed and discussed. A new CD from American Express Centurion was purchased on 9/30/2015 with a balance of \$8,000. All chapter dues have been received, totaling \$4,158. Four checks for student grant winners were paid.

Record of Action Taken by the Board of Directors from the bank was signed by Bruce Hamilton (Council President) and Angela Truong (Council Secretary).

REGIONAL VP – David Skora

It was announced at the IMA Global meeting that Steve Weiss at IMA Global has resigned. Several people have been promoted to fill the open position.

IMA Global award nominations are due in February and people are encouraged to submit people's names for these awards.

IMA Global is looking for volunteers to be Campus Influencers. Responsibilities for the volunteers include giving presentations at campuses about IMA and the CMA certification. Monday, Feb. 1st is the deadline for submitting people's names for Campus Influencers. There is no application to volunteer to do this. People can contact IMA Global if interested in learning about being a Campus Influencer. Two training sessions about how to give presentations on campus are scheduled for Feb. 2nd and 8th. If someone at chapters regularly gives presentations at campuses then council members were asked to talk to them about volunteering as a Campus Influencer. 25 and 45 minute presentations have been designed by IMA Global to be given in the campus presentations.

Dave said that he is going to Phoenix, AZ for a IMA Global board meeting in February.

Sheryl Elliott gave a report on SCMS. She said that the mid-year SCMS meeting will be in Jacksonville, FL on October 23-25, 2016. SCMS members are encouraged to attend.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



Regional director reports:

Rockford--Todd Hilliard, chapter member, reported that Sheryl Elliott will be at the February 16, 2016 meeting to give a presentation on ethics in the workplace. The April technical meeting will have a topic on cyber-risk for businesses. The March and May meeting topics still need to be finalized. Attendance at meetings is average relative to prior years.

Fox River Valley--Sheryl Elliott, Chapter President, said there are currently open board positions for the 2016-2017 year for President and Director-Newsletter.

Greater Milwaukee—Stephen Craig, Regional Director, and Mary Strautmann, chapter member, gave the report.

- Stephen said the Chapter President is experiencing some health issues and Mary Strautmann is serving as acting President.
- One of the meetings in the fall had a topic of expediting month end closes.
- The February meeting will be student night and is a joint meeting with AFWA.
- March and April meetings will have topics on Lean Operations. One month on Lean Manufacturing and the other month on Lean Accounting. Speakers are Jim Sullivan and Jim Fackelman from WMEP.
- The chapter board has lost members and is down to 4 people.
- A mass email was sent to all chapter members and a couple of responses were received. The responses were not positive and there is a feeling that the chapter might dissolve at the end of the 2015-2016 IMA year.
- Mary Strautmann said that two volunteers have come forward to get involved in the chapter operations. A consultant is helping to gather names and send email blasts to get people interested in joining the board. Three organizations (IMA and two others) in area are drawing from the same accountant population and Mary suggested they have joint meetings to have higher attendance. The other two organizations are considering this.

Calumet—Stephen Craig, Regional Director, gave the report.

- The chapter has formed a student chapter at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. A formal presentation of the chapter will take place January 29, 2016.
- Jim Spice chaired the November and December board meetings. Adolph Ferber chaired the January meeting and will continue as interim president for the remaining year or until Mark Camareno returns.
- The February meeting is scheduled for February 16th and the topic is “Managing your total cost of risk”.
- The March meeting is scheduled for March 15th and the topic is “Stock market outlook”.
- The board is working on two more events--a speaker on Fraud from NIU for April and a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank in May.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



Chicago—Mary Strautmann, Regional Director, gave the report based on a discussion with Stephen Craig, chapter member.

- The board meeting in December 2015 was productive. Jim Wilber, Chapter President, is still undergoing chemotherapy.
- The board is wanting to hold a social event before the end of January, but that will likely not take place.
- The board is wanting to conduct a Career Night in March or April and an Excel seminar in May or June.
- Brittany Baldery has agreed to update the chapter website as there is currently limited and/or old information on the website.
- The board is currently waiting for a newsletter draft.
- Lukasz Budolak was in contact with the DePaul campus and they are discussing with the students to see if they are interested in re-registering the IMASC on campus. There are several accounting organizations on campus already. He will invite the students to the next Chapter meeting.
- Mary was not available to call into the January board meeting.

Winnebagoland--Mary Strautmann, Regional Director, gave the report based on an email from Mo Ranpara, Chapter President.

- Things are going well at the Winnebagoland Chapter. There was great attendance and responses for the first half of the chapter year. The key to this was some professional speakers that were invited to talk to the group to cover technical and soft skills, including an ethics presentation. For the second half of the year, there will be a tax update and some more technical and soft skills. The board is starting succession planning for next year's board – this is one area that they struggle with and hopefully can address it sooner than later.
- The student chapter is more involved than before, which helps with succession planning. The students are planning CMA Night for March 2nd. Typically, it's a networking night with a professional from the area that will address the group after dinner.
- Overall, Mo is looking forward to an exciting remainder of this year with the agenda that they have planned.

Central IL-- Mary Strautmann, Regional Director, gave the report based on an email from Eric Dubrowski, Chapter President.

- The chapter met for a holiday dinner and they talked about 2016 meeting topics. They discussed options for a plant tour, student night(s), possible seminars, and a CMA training course. Harlan Fuller will handle the CMA training at Caterpillar. Elliot Kammeyer is looking into the plant tour and student nights. They typically hold such events at Bradley or ISU, but this year they may take a road trip to WIU as this is their newest student chapter, though it is farthest from the board members. There will be another conference next fall, in similar fashion to the one that was held in 2015.
- Eric requested that if there are any speakers that the council members have seen recently that they should consider, send him a list of the names / topics. That will help as they brainstorm on ideas.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



Packerland--John had chapter visits in November and December 2015.

- Strengths of the chapter management are a strong board and many members. Weaknesses are that Greg Franda resigned from the board after retiring from working and they are working to get new board member.
- Greatest concerns are getting new board members and the current board members not wearing out. They are doing things to encourage new board members to join and also to attend LTS.
- Two people were identified that may serve on the regional council or Global board. They are Allison Hendrickson and Bonnie Nelson.
- Other comments from John's chapter visits are: chapter seems to be one of the more consistent ones of the region, they are working to get new board members, attendance at technical meetings is around 20 people, and they will be having a joint meeting with Winnebagoland in February.

NW Suburban—Michele Reagan, Regional Director, gave the report.

- Attendance has been fair, but this is in line with the experience of other chapters. They are trying different marketing methods, which have yielded varied results. They have tried sending postcards, phone calls, and reminder e-mail blasts. Their next meeting is January 28th. Jennifer asked about a referral system for speakers, so Michele directed her to the IMA website to the Speakers Bureau.

Madison--Michele Reagan, Regional Director, gave the report.

- All of their meetings are schedule for this year and have been going well. They are working on identifying the board for the next chapter year. They had two board members move away and one that is not continuing due to work constraints. Joe is hoping he can find replacements.

Illowa-- Dave Skora, Regional Director, gave the report.

- Ray Tiedeman, Chapter President, reported targeting both a student night and a regular meeting "Spring Conference" toward the end of the first quarter of 2016. Dave is planning to visit them at that time.
- The board has not had much response in a call for new board members. Dave is concerned that there are not enough new members coming in to replenish leadership. That is one of the reasons why they have decided to spend more time on the Student Nights.

Heart of Wisconsin—Dave Skora, Regional Director, gave the report.

- Kim Buehler, chapter president, reported that they had decent attendance at their December tour of the Great Dane Brewery in Wausau. No meeting will be held in January, as planned.
- They will be working on next year's board soon.
- They are dealing with the common issue of increasing meeting attendance.
- Dave is planning to visit their chapter meeting on March 15th in Stevens Point.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



VP-EDUCATION – Bruce Hamilton

Bruce said that everything is set for the Spring Conference. He is waiting to hear back from a person at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in order to finalize the reservation of a block of rooms at a reduced rate. Dave said there is no penalty if the block of rooms isn't all filled. Dave also said that the website could list 6-7 hotels that are close by and people can choose their own hotel.

In terms of LTS sponsors, Dave distributed a list to people present today that shows the names of sponsors and the total dollar amount that each are giving. Dave is waiting on Hub International and Gleim to respond. Dave thinks there could be \$4000-5000 in total sponsorships. There is a new sponsor called goVirtualOffice that gave \$1000. Bruce asked if Dave has reached out to any other sponsors at the IMA Global level and Dave said he hasn't. Dave may consider this for future years.

For the breakout session about chapter operations, Dave said that the same presentation used last year can be used this year. Sheryl Elliott and Michele Reagan volunteered to lead the breakout session.

Sheryl Elliott gave a report on the IMA Student Conference. She said the conference was excellent. Thursday night was an exhibition where Sheryl and other people handed out information about IMA and free shirts. There were breakout sessions during the conference. Sheryl was very impressed by the students dressing professionally and talking enthusiastically. Friday night was a murder mystery event. She said it is important for the council and chapters to continue to support students who are going to the conference. Next year's conference will be in Detroit, Michigan.

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

The newsletter deadline will be Monday, April 4th.

The council website has been updated to list the dates of LTS and Spring Conference. One person wasn't able to pay using a credit card with a chip, so council members were encouraged to contact Eric if anyone has similar trouble. Eric is not sure how many people have registered so far for LTS and the Spring Conference. John Wieland reminded people to promote the conference at chapter meetings and to mention that registration is open.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT RELATIONS – Kathy Horton (absent)

No report.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – Mary Strautmman

No report.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE—Harlan Fuller

No report.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – David Skora

David said that IMA Global has developed a Diversity and Inclusion statement and it is now in place.



The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business



OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce was notified that the council has two free registrations for the IMA national conference. Eric Griffin said last year people paid \$5 to submit their name for a raffle and two people were chosen from this raffle. He said \$300 was raised from the raffle last year. It was decided that Eric will send out an email blast to council members about the conference registration and raffle. The deadline for people to pay to be in the raffle will be March 4th. In early March IMA Global can send out an email blast with a reminder about LTS and the spring conference and Bruce will work with Tara Barker to get the email sent out.

Several people gave ideas for meeting topics based on recent and upcoming chapter technical meetings.

- Mary Strautmann--Topic of speedier ways for month-end close. There was good attendance at that meeting.
- Mary Strautmann—Speaker idea of William Breitbart at LinkedIn as a speaker.
- John Wieland--Topic of projecting a positive attitude at work. This was a meeting topic.
- Sheryl Elliott--Two authors of a Strategic Finance article will talk about accountants not living in the past generation and being willing to share Information with others. This will be the speaker at the February chapter meeting.
- Dave Skora—Speaker idea of Susan Richardson to discuss workplace/business/dining etiquette. She has spoken at multiple events and she probably prefers to speak at Wisconsin chapters because of where she lives.
- Other ideas--Rick Merlin with IRS Criminal Investigations group. Joseph Villa with Criminal Investigations group. Harry Eng as a tax speaker. Mark Hogan, NIU professor. Harlan Fuller. An IRS speaker's bureau is also available.

Mary suggested that speakers at chapters be asked if they can be included in the regional speaker's bureau. The speakers should specify if they have travel limitations, preferred topics, and/or speaker's fees. Mary will create a template that people will fill out and send to the speakers.

It was decided that Harlan Fuller will lead the April council meeting.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Harlan Fuller said that people should bring a guest to the council meetings to encourage new people to join the council. Mary is pleased with the speaker's bureau idea that was discussed today.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Motion to adjourn by Bill Ramsay and seconded by Mary Strautmann. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Truong, Council Secretary