

Last Month:



From left: Speakers Mr. Fahndrich & Mr. Gigani

Hot Topics in Corporate & Personal Tax

The Chicago chapter would like to thank all of those who made it to our January event. Our speakers Mr. Fahndrich and Mr. Gigani presented on the coming changes to the 2014 tax laws. They also reminded us that failing to plan is a plan to fail.

Our members had many insightful questions and the discourse proved to help many understand the changes.

We welcome all of you to attend our next event and expand your knowledge.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IMA Chicago Chapter Members:

I trust everyone has been trying to stay warm in this ever so unpredictable weather. I know I have been trying to leave my home as little as possible during this “Polar Vortex”, a concept I had not heard prior to this year. I thank those of you who did brave the cold over this past month to make it to our “Hot Topics in Tax” event. It was full of stimulating conversation and we thank Mr. Gigani and Mr. Fahndrich for coming out to speak to the chapter.

We have two more events this year, “Technology for Management Accounts” and our first of hopefully many “Young Professionals Event”. Help us finish out the year strong by attending both of these last events. Please be on the lookout for coming information regarding the events. For the latest information, please visit our website at chicago.imanet.org.

As we enter February IMA chapters all over the country will start looking at the coming 2014-2015 IMA year. This means the IMA Chicago will be preparing to welcome new members to serve on our Board of Directors. It is a pleasure and honor to serve on the IMA Chicago Board of Directors, whose sole purpose is to engage and equip our members with the skills necessary for today’s market.

In the coming weeks we will be sending correspondence to our members on the available positions within the chapter. We encourage all who are interested to please apply. There is nothing more rewarding than serving your fellow professionals. We will have a wide variety of available positions, each of which makes a significant contribution to the chapter.

Should any member have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly at the information below or any one of our Board of Directors whose information is located on the Board of Directors page.

Regards,

Chase A. Thompson, CAPM
 IMA Chicago Chapter, President & Webmaster
 Phone: (616) 460-6462
president.chicago.ima@gmail.com

As event details are finalized, hyperlinks will be added to the event titles. Click each event to be taken to details including further event descriptions, date and time, location, cost, and CPE offered.

CHICAGO PROGRAM

Only two events are left for this year. Make sure not to miss them!
Be on the lookout for communication about these upcoming events.

MARCH | Technology for Management Accounts

In an ever-increasing technological world it's imperative to stay up-to-date on tools available to leverage, making daily tasks as productive as possible.

MAY | Young Professionals Event

Calling all Young Professionals for IMA Chicago's first-ever event created for Young Professionals and their unique needs.

NOTE: This year IMA Chicago has enabled payment through our website and is currently offering discounts to those who pay early. Should you chose to pay at the time event no discount will be given. At the event location we will be able to process cash, credit, and checks.

CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Certified Management Accountant (CMA) credential offers the vital knowledge and expertise needed to compete in today's business world. More than 30,000 professionals worldwide hold the CMA designation and can deliver the critical accounting and financial management skills demanded by top global employers.

Northwestern's CMA program provides comprehensive, instructor-led CMA exam preparation. The program's two courses — Financial Decision Making and Financial Planning, Performance and Control — mirror the CMA exam and provide students with the knowledge and tools needed to advance their accounting and financial management careers.

Classes begin in September — learn in the Chicago Loop and online.
soo.northwestern.edu/cma • 312-503-0714



SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

Mid-America Council Leadership Training Seminar

April 24-25, 2014

NIU Rockford

Meeting & Conference Center
8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL

<http://midamerica.imanet.org/events.htm>

UPCOMING CPE

So You Think You Know Cloud? - Cloud Options for Finance

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)
CPE: 1.0

Presented by Brian Sommer and Mark Gervase. Small and mid-sized business are facing strong competitive headwinds, and cloud technology is helping thousands of companies deliver stronger operating and cost efficiencies while gaining strategic business insights from their core financial data. But where do you start if you aren't among this group? To view webinar [click here](#)

Conventional Supply Chain Metrics - Fooling Ourselves with Irrelevant Information

Thursday, February 13, 2014
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)
CPE: 1.0

Presented by Debra A. Smith, CPA, EMBA and Chad Smith. In today's volatile and complex supply chain scenarios, conventional unit-cost-centric metrics impede product and cash flow and ultimately compromise return on investment (ROI). The commitment to and maintenance of unit cost minimization is a self-imposed obstacle of contrived measures rejected by management accounting, economics, and physics. Intertwined with forecast error, they have become the major sources of variation in supply chains fueling the "Bullwhip Effect" and eroding performance. Finance and operations teams that overcome this obstacle can create a huge competitive advantage for their company. To view webinar [click here](#)

Mentoring

Tuesday, February 18, 2014
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EST) (UTC -5)
CPE: 1.0

Presented by C.S. "Bud" Kulesza, CMA, CFM. In an ever changing global marketplace, the mentor/mentee relationship can have a significant influence on one's professional development. We hope that after completing this session, you'll feel ready for the challenge, and sign up to participate in the IMA Mentoring Program. To view webinar [click here](#)

How Much Job Hopping Is Too Much?

Robert Half Survey Reveals Five Jobs in 10 Years May Raise Red Flags

JAN 9, 2014

Leaving one job for a better one can be a smart career move, but too many employment changes in a short time span can give human resources (HR) managers cause for concern. In a Robert Half survey, HR managers interviewed said an average of five job changes in 10 years can prompt worries you're a job hopper.

The survey was developed by Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm, and conducted by an independent research firm. It is based on interviews with more than 300 HR managers at companies with 20 or more employees in the United States.

HR managers were asked, "Over a 10-year span, how many job changes, in your opinion, would it take for a professional to be viewed as a job hopper?" The mean response was five.

"The job market has been unpredictable in recent years, and employers understand job

"The job market has been unpredictable in recent years, and employers understand job candidates may have had short stints in some positions," said Paul McDonald, Robert Half senior executive director. "However, businesses look for people who will be committed to the organization, can contribute to the company, and help it reach its short- and long-term goals. Too much voluntary job hopping can be a red flag."

Robert Half offers questions to consider when determining if you should stay at your current job or look for a new one:

1. Why do you want a new opportunity?

Are you looking for greater challenge or more money? A shorter commute or more flexible hours? A better relationship with your manager? Be sure to keep the job factors that are most important to you at the forefront of your decision and pursue a new opportunity only if it helps address those issues.

2. Have you looked within?

Don't assume you need to leave your company to find the job you want. There may be other jobs with your current employer that are a better fit.

3. Where is the greatest long-term potential and stability?

Is your best chance to build your skills and advance your career with your existing firm or another one? Which business is on the most solid footing? You don't want to make a move only to learn your career progression is stalled, or your new company is struggling.

Source: Robert Half Management Resources. For original article [click here](#)

CMA NEWS

The CMA (Certified Management Accountant) is the advanced professional certification specifically designed to measure the accounting and financial management skills that drive business performance. The CMA is tailor-made for finance professionals at all levels, for those that want to enhance their value to a current organization or expand career potential.

Earning the CMA will make you part of a network of over 20,000 credentialed peers worldwide. To participate in the CMA program, candidates must be members of the IMA.



Congratulations to our new CMA's

Wade Formo

Patrick Hatfield

Lingxia Wang

WELCOME NEW IMA CHICAGO MEMBERS

Yuqi Chen
Carol A Cucurullo
Priya Gandhi
Jingyi Guo
Chenming Hu

Elaine Torress Janus
Kyeongwook Jeong
Meng Lei
Jack Jie Shi

Manping Su
Mark Henry Verbeek
Weifeiyue Wei
Wen Zhang
Shiyun Zheng



Your Chicago IMA has partnered with Gleim to ensure your success on the CMA exam! They will provide you the necessary study tools to prepare for this difficult exam.

Gleim has been the trusted name in preparing candidates for success with their extensive self-study course for the CMA exam for over 30 years. The Gleim Review System enables you to identify your weak areas so you know where to focus your efforts to pass each exam part the first time.

As a member of the chapter, you are eligible for significant discounts on any of Gleim's CMA materials, as well as Gleim CPE. To take advantage of the reduced prices, please contact our chapter representative, Melissa Leonard.

By phone: (800) 874-5346, Ext. 131
By email: melissa.leonard@gleim.com
By fax: (888) 375-6940, attn: Melissa Leonard

Please visit www.gleim.com/IMACHapter for more information on the CMA and Gleim.



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Your IMA Chicago Board of Directors is made of dedicated volunteers who constantly strive to add value to your membership. Feel free to contact any board member with questions, comments, or suggestions to help us improve our chapter.