

Qualified Opinion

Volume LVIII

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Number 8

At a Glance:

Next Meeting:

Jan. 15, 2009

Carlyle's Grill

3660 Jackson Rd

Ann Arbor, MI

(West of Wagner Rd, at Quality Cinemas)

Pre-Dinner Meeting: 5:45pm, \$12

Speaker: Barbara S. Christy

Topic: "Dialing for Dollars: The Crazy World of Healthcare Reimbursement"

After-Dinner Meeting: 7pm, \$25

(includes both meetings and Dinner)

Speaker: Barbara S. Christy

Topic: "Dialing for Dollars: The Crazy World of Healthcare Reimbursement"

Carlyle's Menu

Steak Salad served with soup

Ahi Tuna Salad served with Soup

Rotisserie Herb Chicken & Carlyle salad

Wild Mushroom Ravioli & Carlyle salad

½ Rack of Ribs & Carlyle Salad

Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes & Carlyle Salad

Whitefish & Carlyle Salad

Steak Wrap served with Soup

Steak Pizza with a Carlyle Salad

*****Dessert may be substituted for soup or salad***

RSVP TODAY! Make your reservation today with Mary Cortese at mfcgram@yahoo.com or call her at (734)-434-6218

Join us Jan 15th!



Barbara S. Christy, RN, MSN, MS-Information Science will speak at our January 15th meeting on the topic of healthcare reimbursement. She is a Lecturer at the School of Nursing, Univ. of Michigan, with research interests in Health care administration, Health care outcomes, and Nursing outcomes.

Education: MSIS, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
MSN, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
BSN, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Technology Enablement - Relevance for Management Accountants

By Jeff Thomson

Technology Enablement is one of the IMA's five research practices in its recently formed Research CoE (Center of Excellence). The Research Center of Excellence is designed to provide practitioners with best practice guidance, tools and training (in partnership with the Professional Development team) which enable them to be more effective strategic business partners.

Sounds good, but what does this mean in practice? Simply put, the key word in "Technology Enablement" is not *Technology*, it is actually *Enablement*. Think of all the challenges facing you as a management accountant. The need for a faster book close. The need for better operational detail to enable more complete and actionable budget or outlook variance analyses. The need for more leading indicators to balance the preponderance of lagging indicators in forecasts and in business plans. And of course, dealing with the staggering costs of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance whose bill to shareholders has now reached \$35 B (yes, that's billions) – in addition, market studies clearly indicate that organizations of all sizes have had to delay innovations and investments in technology just to "get through" the compliance jungle. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

The IMA's role is to identify current and emerging technologies which *Enable* you as a management accounting professional to successfully deal with these and other challenges. Here are just a few examples. The IMA is focused on XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language) because of its potential to improve enterprise business reporting from several perspectives – accuracy, speed and value. The focus is on what XBRL as a web-based open standard can deliver for practitioners whose day-to-day responsibilities include producing and analyzing internal "information" for upper management. This information includes financial and non-financial value drivers. Streamlining the information flow from multiple databases should allow for more time spent on converting raw information into intelligence and insights for upper management. Emphasis on practical case studies (rather than theoretical discussions) allows the practitioner to assess the value and portability of the application to their environment. In the case of XBRL, we are working with the FDIC to articulate how they are in the process of using technology enablement to streamline and fundamentally transform the data flow from over 8500 member banks. This topic is the subject of an IMA sponsored webinar and an article in *Strategic Finance* magazine.

There are many other areas of emphasis for the IMA in the area of Technology Enablement that we believe are of great value to management accountants. These include business intelligence, data mining, continuous monitoring/online auditing and advanced business process documentation techniques. What do you think? What are some of your "pain points" in terms of real-world applications issues requiring technology enablement? The "voice of the member" is very important to us – get engaged and give us your thoughts by signing up for the technology enablement listserv and network with your peers! The management accountant must be in a position to drive technology enablement based on applications needs, not be a "victim" of IT solutions that do not fit the need. Partner with your IT team and **take charge!**

Now Available! – earn CPE for attending IMA’s highly popular live Inside Talk webinar series!

Webinars are designed to actively engage members in the latest trends and thinking in the profession without having to leave the office or home. Now CMAs can earn CMA approved CPE credits for attending IMA’s live webinars. Don’t miss out – our webinars are highly popular and close out quickly due to the demand. Register and attend the next *Inside Talk* webinar and earn one hour of free CPE!

How to register: *Inside Talk* monthly webinars are FREE, you may register online immediately. Select the session title of the webinar you are interested in attending on the calendar of events and complete the registration form. On your registration form please enter the promotional code **IMAWEB**. To ensure you receive your certificate of completion & log in instructions, please complete the required information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive an e-mail message that confirms your enrollment and includes the information you will need to join the event.

Webinars are held from 1pm – 2pm EST unless otherwise stated, which will allow you to earn 1CPE credit. Registration closes at 10:00a.m. EST on the day of the scheduled webinar or if the maximum capacity is met. There is no guarantee that space will be available. Registrations for webinars are on a first come first serve basis, so don’t delay in registering today.

To earn CMA approved CPE credit you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Register for the live event and include your IMA member number on the registration form
- Attend the live event on the scheduled date
- Participate completely in the live webinar by logging in on time, responding to all of the polling questions, and completing the event’s evaluation form
- If you meet the event requirements, a CPE Certificate will be emailed to you within 3-5 business days
- Record the credit earned from the webinar into your IMA Member CE History within 30 days of attending the live event.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Air Date	Series	Session Title
January 21	Inside Talk	Internal Control of Fixed Assets
February 12	Inside Talk	Order from Chaos: The FASB Accounting Standards Codification

To view a recording of a past event, visit the [Webinar Library](#). You need to be logged in as a member to view any of our past events.

To view answers to frequently asked questions, visit the [Webinar FAQ](#). **Please note:** The Webinar FAQ provides detailed information on system requirements, CPE and other relevant information regarding webinar participation.

Inside Talk Webinar Cancellation & Complaint Policy: IMA reserves the right to cancel a scheduled webinar if conditions warrant. IMA reserves the right to cancel webinars if minimum registration numbers are not met. In the event of such a cancellation, registered participants will receive notification via e-mail.

Questions about upcoming webinars or for more information regarding complaint and program cancellation policies, please contact our offices at pd@imanet.org or 1-800-638-4427.



Chapter President Bill Ebright (right) receiving the 11th place chapter competition award in the Stephenson Division at the Michigan Council Fall Conference. Our Chapter continues to place very high in the standings year after year!

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Change of Address Instructions

Please update your address, phone, and email at the IMA national web site www.imanet.org.
ALSO email Jim Casper at jcasper@provide.net so that our Chapter has your updates.
If you have questions, call our local chapter board member Mary Cortese at 734-434-6218.