QUALIFIED OPINION

Final Meeting of the 2015-2016 Season:
Angie (Chapter President) with Larry Donaldson and Jeffrey Hengeveld – attorneys at Plunkett Cooney

Carlyle Grill: 3660 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 213-9800

Time: 5:30-8:30pm   Date: September 15, 2016

Price: $30 for students, members, and retirees; $40 for non-members

DID YOU KNOW?
The Ann Arbor IMA has Meals-on-Wheels on the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 to 12:00. If you are interested in joining the party, contact Evan Scarbrough at escarbro@emich.edu. Ideas for possible community service for the future are definitely welcome and will be considered!
**Contact me, Chris, at my email below if you have ideas for the newsletter.**

My email: christopherwozniak@outlook.com

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**Dinner Choices**

**Appetizer**
- Carlyle Salad
- ½ Carrot Cake

**Main Course**
- Pecan Chicken
- Pasta Carlyle
- Steak Frites
- Rotisserie Herb Chicken
- Half Rack of Baby Back Ribs

**Beverages**
- Coffee, Pop, or Tea

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**CMA PREP:**

Walsh College will begin offering preparation classes for the **Certified Management Accountant (CMA)** Exam this fall at its Troy campus.

http://www.walshcollege.edu/cmaexamprep

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**News of Interest**

**Join our LinkedIn Group**

www.linkedin.com/groups/ima-ann-arbor-chapter

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**JOIN THE ANN ARBOR IMA CHAPTER BOARD:**

We meet at Big Boy Restaurant off of Plymouth Road just west of US-23 (on the north side next to the Red Roof Inn) every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6pm. We always have openings for positions.

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IMA® (Institute of Management Accountants) is forging ahead in the movement to offer digital badges that help you realize career success. Previously, members received medallions for their accomplishments in the IMA Leadership Recognition Program, part of the IMA Leadership Academy (IMALA). Now they will receive digital badges. The five ascending levels of achievement (Pewter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) are based on amount of service, courses completed, and other criteria. For more details, see [http://bit.ly/1EjJIT4](http://bit.ly/1EjJIT4).

Congrats to Evan for receiving his bronze leadership badge for his service to the organization.

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Enjoy the three months of summer off. We’ll miss you.
Surprise! Finance Professionals Prefer Problem Solving Over Crunching Numbers

There’s this stereotypical image of accountants: math whizzes who punch calculator buttons with glee and crunch numbers for breakfast. But a recent Robert Half study found that working with numbers plays a secondary role in their career satisfaction. When asked what they enjoy most about their profession, accountants’ top response by far, at 44 percent, was solving problems.

These results suggest that while mathematical aptitude leads finance pros to their present occupation, what truly motivates them is finding answers to tough challenges and improving outcomes for their clients and employers.

Heroes of the story
Consider these two math problems:

- Solve for x: 2 + x = 7
- If Dad has two apples but needs seven to make a pie, how many more apples does he need?

These problems are asking the same question, but a child learning to solve basic equations is likely to find the second one more appealing. Why? Because it introduces a character and a conflict: the two basic ingredients of a story. By solving the problem, the child is able to help out and make a difference: Dad needs five more apples to make a pie.

Now, extrapolate this puzzle to the finance world. If a CFO announces that the company needs to reduce its cash-flow cycle time from 60 days to 10 days, his staff will get to work on the numbers: gathering and analyzing data, brainstorming potential solutions, and calculating the risks and probability of success for each idea. But most will find job satisfaction in not just the process, but how the final result benefits the company. In other words, the journey is important, but finally arriving at the destination is even sweeter.

Making a difference
Accounting and finance professionals can find work in nearly any field, from agriculture to zoo operations. Many are drawn to these jobs not just because they love numbers and are highly organized, but also because of the mission of their role. Problem solving is where accountants can make a direct, positive impact on an issue or within an industry they’re passionate about. For example, a tech-savvy accountant at a startup uses her skills to identify technology trends and determine how to best price a new product to help it compete in the marketplace. A business analyst passionate about the environment could help a nonprofit by troubleshooting its finance reporting process, identifying weaknesses and delivering recommendations that would result in accomplishing its mission.

An accountant working at an Indianapolis bank says the profession attracts logical thinkers and problem solvers. They also need a “good dose of skepticism, for professionals in auditing and internal controls,” she added.

Referring to finance professionals as mere number crunchers, bean counters or calculator queens/kings can be humorous, but doing so tends to diminish their key role in the long-term success of any business. Without their expertise and insights, organizations would lack essential strategic guidance. Problem solving is where accountants get to resolve conflicts and find happy endings for their companies — a sure reason for career satisfaction.