
Annual Economic Forecast

Wednesday

January 19, 2011

Damon's (4960 Towne Centre Rd, Saginaw, MI 48604)

Dinner Speaker: Jonathan M. Gardey, CFA, CFP of Gardey Financial Advisors will review the changes in the economy over the past year, and provide us with an update on the economic outlook for the U.S. and Michigan.

5:30 p.m. Networking
6:00 p.m. Presentation
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Board Meeting

RSVP by Friday, January 14 to Courtney Schoch via e-mail courtneyschoch@gmail.com or telephone at 989-274-7176

Also, be sure to put the next **upcoming meeting** on your calendar:
Student Awards Night and Ethics CPE – April 20, 2011 at Midland Country Club



President's Message



Happy New Year! The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is now behind us. Hopefully, each of you had the opportunity this past month to spend some quality time with family and friends. For accountants, this time of year brings some of the busiest times – year end closing, rolling over the next year budgets and tax season. I've found that I remember a few of my favorite moments from the holiday season: the look of excitement on my kids' faces, the smell of sugar cookies and ham at Christmas dinner, the full house feeling of everyone being home for the holidays – and I use those memories to keep my sanity during the first quarter of the new year.

I'm starting this year with hopes that I can fulfill the high standards as set by the previous presidents of the chapter. Thank you, Toni, for your years of service to the chapter in that role, and for your continued support as Web Master. I'm a true cost accountant to the core – I hope I am up for the challenge in this new role as President! My resolution is to learn as much as I can about the administration of the chapter and be a good representative for our local chapter.

What are your New Year's resolutions? Why not make one to attend an IMA meeting this year? Your local chapter is a good place to network with area professionals and gain free CPE credits. This month, Jon Gardey, from Gardey Financial Advisors is back by popular demand with the economic outlook for 2011. I hope to see you there!

Jennifer

Jennifer Rezler - President

About our speaker:



Jonathan M. Gardey, CFA®, CFP®, President, Director of Research, and Chairman of the firm's Investment Committee, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He also earned a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance and in Money & Financial Markets from Columbia University, New York City. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst® charterholder and a Certified Financial Planner™ professional. Jon previously served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He has been employed by Gardey Financial Advisors since 1993 and is a member of the CFA Institute, CFA Society of Detroit, and the Northeastern Michigan Estate Planning Council. He has participated in the work of the CFA Institute and in the analysis and evaluation of commercial real estate investments. He is a Registered Players Financial Advisor with the NFL Players Association and is authorized to provide financial and investment advice to its members.

From: <http://www.gardey.com/our-team/>

Commitment to Professional Development

As December 31st approaches, so does the increase in distractions that is associated with this time of year. With travel plans, friends and family visiting, and holiday parties to plan and attend, it can be easier to procrastinate on more mundane activities, such as preparing for the CMA exam or completing your CPE requirements. However, right now, in this competitive environment, it is imperative to keep your professional development as your top priority.

For some CMA candidates, the end of 2010 brings added pressure to take any remaining parts of the 4-part exam for which you have been preparing. Whether you are trying to complete the 4-part exam or you are transitioning to take the New 2-part exam, passing the CMA exam requires focus and dedication. Remember, passing the exam demonstrates that you have the knowledge, skills, and abilities that a management accountant or financial professional uses on the job today.

As the field becomes more competitive, you want to show your commitment to professional development. This is done not only in completing the CMA exam, but also in meeting your continuing education requirements each year.

Once certified, continuing professional education is required of CMAs to maintain their proficiency in the field of management accounting. Beginning with the calendar year after successful completion of the CMA exam, 30 hours of CPE must be completed annually, which is about 4 days per year. You must report your hours by December 31 each year.

Bottom line -- Don't be distracted in the final weeks of this year. Create a study plan (if you haven't done so already) and carry it out to prepare for and take any parts of the CMA exam you still need to pass this year. If you are already certified, be sure to complete your CPE hours in enough time so that you are not "cramming" them in during the final days of the reporting period.

Gleim is committed to helping you with your professional development. As a Saginaw Valley Chapter member, you receive significant discounts on the Gleim CMA Review materials and Gleim CPE. If you are already a CMA and looking for CPE hours for this reporting period, Gleim is offering a FREE 4-hour CPE course (any one in our course catalog) for members of the Saginaw Valley Chapter! Now through December 31, Gleim will also extend a discount of up to 40% off the retail price of the Gleim CPE packages. To take advantage of any of these offers, contact Melissa Leonard at 800.874.5346, ext 131 or melissa.leonard@gleim.com.

Melissa Leonard
Gleim Chapter Coordinator
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EMPLOYMENT NEWS AND MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Saginaw Valley Chapter member who has accepted a position out of state as a Finance Director.

Member Looking for Position

No additional chapter members have expressed an interest in looking for a position.

Position Opening

Nothing received.

Member Announcements

We are always interested in hearing about any new roles or accomplishments of our members. Please let me know of your new announcements to share in our upcoming newsletters.

Adeline M. Wicker
Team Leader Employment
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Are you LinkedIn?

LinkedIn is an online professional networking site with several million members worldwide. LinkedIn members can connect to professional associates either directly or through groups based on: geography; academic associations; professional certifications or business interests. Members use the site for keeping up to date with colleagues, old and new, regarding industry best practices; IT developments; referrals; employment opportunities; and focused business news. There is no fee for a basic user account and members may control how much they wish to disclose publicly and/or within their networks. There are several LinkedIn groups for accountants, auditors, financial managers, etc. The IMA sponsors an official LinkedIn group called CMA® Connection which has over 2,100 members to date. To learn more or join, see www.linkedin.com.

2010-2011 IMA Saginaw Valley Chapter Board of Directors

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