

# Member Interest Groups and E-Mail Exchanges

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Are you aware of all the things IMA has to offer? Let me share some valuable tools and benefits that you may not be aware of—our Member Interest Groups (MIGs) and e-mail exchanges.

Currently, we have three Member Interest Groups in which members can network peer to peer to feel the pulse of what is happening in various areas of the profession. This type of interchange is vital to keeping abreast of trends, improving your skills or adding new ones, and expanding your resource base. The Controllers Council helps you learn more about the controllership function and how you can improve your ability to contribute to your company's bottom line. You don't even have to be a controller to be a member. The Cost Management Group explores the latest developments in cost management. The Small Business Group is for those who work for small companies. In a small company, you often wear many hats, so this MIG gives you a resource for learning about those things you didn't necessarily study in school, such as HR issues, benefit plans, raising capital, credit policies, technology issues, and more.

I'm very excited about our fourth MIG, to be launched December 1. This will be the SOX Knowledge Network, devoted to Sarbanes-Oxley implementation. And it will introduce a change in the format of our Member Interest Groups. In addition to the e-mail exchange, we will have a mini site portal providing access to a resource library that contains the complete text of the legislation, regulations, and amendments. There will also be an anonymous Q & A Forum where you'll find answers to your questions

about legislative implications, implementation of the Act, and ethics issues. The questions and answers will be posted on the site. In addition, members of this MIG will be updated with articles and news reports related to the Act.

You will be able to register for this group on our website at [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org) by the middle of this month. So check it out!

As for our free e-mail exchanges, there are five. Our most active one is Financial Management, whose participants discuss a broad range of finance, accounting, and other business topics. Family Business is tailored to those working for small, closely held, family-run businesses. Our Certification exchange is a resource for those sitting for the CMA and

CFM exams. The International group gives you an opportunity to share ideas on global topics. And the Water Cooler is for our members who want to socialize and talk about things other than business.

We also have 14 industry sector exchanges that are specific to a particular industry or topic. They are Banking, Communications/Telecommunications, Healthcare, Financial Services, Not-for-Profit, Construction, Government, Manufacturing, Natural Resources, Services, Transportation, Wholesale/Retail, Technology, and Utilities.

If you aren't already enjoying the benefits of these resources, I encourage you to check them out. As always, keep in touch. I can be reached at [kwallin@imanet.org](mailto:kwallin@imanet.org). ■



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