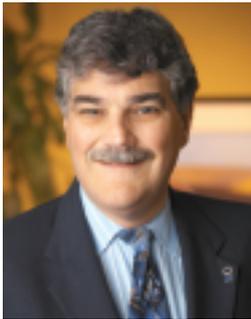




Message from the Chair



'Tis the Season

BY CARL SMITH, CMA, CFM, CPA

As we approach the end of the year, let's take time to reflect on what has happened since the beginning of 2005. Within IMA we have begun to turn the corner on

getting more active in advancing the profession of management accounting. We have done this by changing the governance structure of our Board of Directors; hiring staff in key IMA areas, including member services, business development and research, and professional development; and, most notably, preparing and approving a strategic plan to guide IMA activities for the next three years. But events outside IMA have done a lot more to impact our day-to-day lives.

The largest event I'm talking about is the war in Iraq. This affects some of our members as they get called up for active service or experience the loss of a loved one serving in the military. It appears that the war will continue for at least the near future.

The devastation caused by natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as the tsunami in the Far East earlier in the year, offers pointed examples of how, even with our great technology and innova-

tions, we still can't control Mother Nature. IMA has extended whatever aid our members in these areas need in this time of great devastation and

We all come from different religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, so we should think about the effect of global events on our fellow citizens of the world.

anxiety. Members who have had their lives changed dramatically, especially those in the Gulf states, are of particular concern to us. We hope that their situations and their lives will improve in 2006 and that they will overcome the economic and financial hardships caused by the hurricanes' destruction.

A new year is also a time for reflection and renewal—a reflection on the events that have changed us in the past year and a look forward with a renewed commitment to what we hope to accomplish in the following year. We all come from different religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds, so we should think about the effect of global events on our fellow citizens of the world. We have a responsibility as professionals to look beyond ourselves and our profession.

I ask all of you to give as much as you feel comfortable of your money, time, and effort to the charities of your choice. They all need help. Times are tough, and many people and charitable organizations feel the pinch of rising utility costs and the increased prices of other necessities. Their need becomes more acute each day, so please make as much of an impact as you can.

I wish you all the happiness and prosperity for the coming new year. Let us all hope that 2006 will be a better year for everyone. If you want to share your thoughts with me, please e-mail me at csmith@imanet.org. I welcome all your communications. ■