



Message from the Chair



As Time Passes By...

BY CARL SMITH, CMA, CFM, CPA

IMA lost a true friend in February when Carl Menconi, chair of IMA's Ethics Committee, passed away. Carl was what IMA is all about. He was a friendly person and always had a kind word for everyone. A true professional, he had a good perspective on what we need to accomplish in IMA and was always there to support our organization. Carl also had a number of

interests besides IMA. Of particular note was his involvement with Northern Illinois University, where he had earned his university degree.

He also was the oft-times president of an Italian-American social club in the suburbs of Chicago. Several of us on IMA's Board of Directors participated in a bocce tournament there one night during the Annual Conference in 2004, which Carl had co-chaired. You could tell that, to Carl, there was nothing more important than having our group out to his club.

I attended his funeral on behalf of IMA, and it became clear to me that Carl was as important to everyone there as he was to us. He was a vital friend to all. We will miss him both

as a friend and as an exemplary IMA member.

Changes to Committee Structure

At its February meeting, the Board of Directors voted to revamp IMA's committee structure. As part of its ongoing governance review process, the Board evaluated how advisory committees were helping achieve the organization's mission and the active participation of the committee members during their August 2005 meetings. After a careful, extensive review, the Board felt that the structure as it existed wasn't effective for supporting the Board's strategic work or IMA staff operations. The evaluation also found that the committee structure itself wasn't very

adaptable for addressing emerging critical issues and environmental changes. Most important, the Board felt that volunteer and staff resources needed to be deployed more effectively to drive critical elements of IMA strategies, some of which were outside the responsibility of the existing committees.

As part of the changes that were made, seven of the 10 advisory committees were eliminated: Academic Relations, Students, Member Interest Groups, Information Technology, Member Services, Financial Reporting, and Professional Development. The three remaining advisory committees are the ICMA Board of Regents, Management Accounting/Foundation for Applied Research, and Ethics. And, of course, the four Board committees remain: Governance, Planning and Development, Performance Oversight, and External/Member Relations.

We used the committee meetings that took place last month in Dallas as a venue to develop charters for a new committee structure that will allow more members to volunteer their expertise. The charters of these new committees will clearly define their scope of work, specific deliver-

ables, and specific start and end dates. The charters will also describe the skills and experience that members of each advisory committee will need to complete the committee's work successfully.

This month you will be receiving an e-mail from IMA about the committees that we are forming. If you see one that looks interesting to you or to which you can lend your expertise, please respond to the call. We will make every effort, as best we can, to give people their choices. The process will require you to give us some information about yourself, including your work position, company, and relevant skill sets that can enable the process.

If you have any questions about anything above, please let me know at csmith@imanet.org. ■