

**Message from the Chair**  
By John C. Macaulay, CMA



# Across the Spectrum of the Profession

IMA® truly impacts members' lives in a variety of ways. Here are just a few I rediscovered during recent travels.

**A**s the association of accounting and financial professionals in business, IMA has a broad mission to fulfill. Recently I had the opportunity to meet with individuals and organizations who illustrate quite well the depth and breadth of IMA's impact.

In late September, I took a trip with two stops: one in Akron, Ohio, and another in Norwalk, Conn. The first stop was to celebrate the 75th anniversary of IMA's Akron Chapter. This well-planned and executed Diamond Anniversary Celebration was attended by nearly 100 professionals (including 26 past presidents of the Chapter) and featured an inspiring presentation on the Chapter's illustrious history.

My trip to Akron also included two corporate visits to meet with employees at FirstEnergy Corporation (one of the largest investor-owned utilities in the United States) and Davey Tree Expert Company (an international horticultural services organization). My itinerary also featured gatherings at Kent State and the University of Akron, where I spoke with faculty members and students. During all four visits, I met with IMA members

and nonmembers to discuss the management accounting profession in general and IMA and the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant) certification in particular.

Throughout the trip, I gained a greater appreciation for the way that IMA has directly influenced so many accounting and finance professionals. It was apparent that membership had made a significant difference to many of them, especially those at the Akron celebration: individuals who had learned leadership and technical skills, developed lasting friendships, and even found jobs that changed the course of their careers. At the grassroots level, IMA is an organization that directly impacts members' lives.

A day later, I flew to Norwalk, where I participated in IMA's Financial Reporting Committee (FRC) meeting at the offices of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The FRC serves an important role in representing IMA members to standards-setting bodies, including the FASB, the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Members of the Committee come from diverse backgrounds and serve at the highest

levels of industry, education, consulting, and public accounting. They represent some of the top leaders in their respective fields.

The goal of this September meeting was to provide an update on the technical issues currently being addressed by the FASB, the IASB, and the SEC. FRC members got to meet with FASB Chair Leslie Seidman and the full Board to share their thoughts on the convergence of U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), particularly the converged standards related to revenue recognition, financial instruments, and leases. Also discussed during the meeting was the new private company decision-making framework now under consideration.

It was clear by the content of this meeting that IMA plays a valued role in offering the management accounting perspective to standards-setter discussions. The FRC has done a tremendous job in making our voice heard on advocacy issues that impact our members and the management accounting profession and that make a difference to practitioners working in large and small organi-

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## Perspectives

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zations alike, around the corner and around the world. (To learn more about some of the latest regulatory and technical issues and IMA's advocacy efforts, visit the new "Advocacy Corner" blog at [www.imanet.org/about\\_ima/advocacy\\_activity.aspx](http://www.imanet.org/about_ima/advocacy_activity.aspx).)

I'm proud to be part of an organization that touches our members in the most direct, personal ways and that has an impact on policy at the broadest, most general level. I hope you're proud, too.

I invite you to share your thoughts with me on this or any other subject at [jmacaulay@imanet.org](mailto:jmacaulay@imanet.org). **SF**