

**Message from the Chair**  
By Joseph A. Vincent, CMA



# Opportunities for Continuing Education

Although many organizations offer courses and programs from which you can earn CPE credits, IMA® has developed specialized courses that are unique to management accounting and financial management professionals.

**C**ontinuous learning is a lifelong journey that's essential to any professional. We learn on the job and in our daily lives by listening to others, reading articles and books, and searching various Internet sites. Structured presentations, however, can provide a deeper level of understanding on a particular subject that we can build on or apply to our personal interests or business situations.

IMA's 95th Annual Conference & Exposition is now behind us. Held this year in Minneapolis, Minn., the Conference was hugely successful, well attended, and offered a great program and speakers. Highlights included presentations by Russell Golden, chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB); Christine Romans, chief business correspondent at CNN; Bill Rancic, entrepreneur and first winner of "The Apprentice"; Joe Theismann, former Washington Redskins quarterback, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker; John Sileo, expert

on preventing identity theft; and a fascinating panel discussion with CFOs, as well as many other educational opportunities. Every one of these sessions and others received rave reviews.

This summer and fall there are many additional excellent education offerings from local IMA chapters and regional councils. I've always believed that our chapters and councils are unique assets, and they continue to prove this by presenting timely, high-quality educational meetings and conferences year after year.

Last year at this time, I attended the Tulsa Chapter's annual conference in Tulsa, Okla., that attracted about 300 attendees, including IMA members who traveled from the Wichita, Kan., area as well as from southeastern Missouri. In the fall, I attended the 12th Annual IMA Michigan Council Fall Conference held at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. These are just two examples of the great traditions of educational excellence that we offer around the globe.

Many other chapters and councils offer similar educational opportunities, such as the NorthEast Council (my home council), which puts on a great fall confer-

ence, and the Ohio Regional Council, which for the past four decades has sponsored the Norman Meonske Ohio Regional Conference. These conferences are becoming more successful each year as the word gets out. And most of our chapters offer one-hour educational meetings each month between September and June. These regional conferences and chapter meetings are a great supplement to our Annual Conference and are ideal for members who couldn't make it to Minneapolis. Make sure you take advantage of them when they are offered in your area.

For other educational opportunities, IMA offers webinars and our award-winning peer-reviewed magazine, *Strategic Finance*, and peer-reviewed journal, *Management Accounting Quarterly*, to help keep you current. Two monthly webinars provide continuing professional education (CPE) credit and are included with your membership. Located under the Learning Center tab on the IMA website ([www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org)), *Inside Talk* webinars include timely topics that enhance your knowledge and performance on the job, and Leadership Academy webinars help

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## Perspectives

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members develop leadership skills. In addition, Internal Control presentations discuss the revised Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) *Internal Controls—Integrated Framework*.

Finally, for a small fee, you can sign up for CPEDGE, which adapts content from our magazines and can earn you NASBA-approved CPE credit when you complete a few questions and pass an assessment. There also are more than 300 NASBA-approved courses and packages on a variety of subjects that are available for purchase on IMA's website.

As you can see, you have many opportunities through IMA to enhance your personal and professional development. It's up to you to take the initiative to continue to grow and further your ability to contribute to the management accounting profession. I encourage you to take advantage of IMA's continuing education offerings to help improve your own career as well as the success of our respective organizations.

I welcome your comments at [jvincent@imanet.org](mailto:jvincent@imanet.org). **SF**