

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



# Building a Strong Board

Organizations can thrive if their staff leaders and board of directors truly work together for the good of everyone. The IMA® Global Board of Directors is a prime example of how that relationship succeeds.

**I**MA is fortunate to be led by a very strong, engaged Global Board of Directors, but have you ever considered how this came about? Governance is at the heart of any organization, and the process of selecting members to sit on our Board is among the most critical functions of our association. In an ever-changing environment of globalization and consolidation, the quality and diversity of these members are more important than ever as we seek to build a forward-looking Board to lead us into the future.

Early last month, our Nominating Committee met to select the next IMA Chair-Elect and an additional 23 Board members, each of whom will serve a two-year term from July 2015 through June 2017. Putting together a passionate team of strategic thinkers is no easy job. A great Board requires members with a variety of skills, and IMA has a long list of highly qualified people to choose from—individuals who truly want to

make a difference. In trying to create a diverse Board, we use multiple criteria, including professional experience, gender, geographic location, type of industry and company size, academics, certifications, etc. We also seek out those who are passionate about IMA and management accounting. By utilizing these criteria, we help ensure that every decision we make as a Board answers one question: What's best for our members, the profession, and IMA?

The process of selecting Board members begins each fall when IMA staff circulates a request for nominations and applications to the Global Board. Prior to IMA's Nominating Committee meeting, a member of that Committee contacts and interviews each applicant to supplement the written material all Committee members have reviewed. Nominating Committee members then attend the two-day, in-person meeting in January to confidentially review each applicant. This rigorous process takes a great deal of time and effort, but, again, it's a critical part of our governance. After this meeting, all candidates are again contacted by the same Committee member who originally interviewed them, and if they weren't chosen to serve on

the Global Board, the Committee member provides feedback on how they can continue to grow within the association. IMA's volunteer leaders and staff are focused on continuing to enhance the nominating and selection processes and have made a number of improvements over the last several years.

The fact that the strength of the Board correlates to the improvement in IMA over the last decade isn't an accident. We require capable, informed, strategic thinkers who can help take us to the next level and keep us competitive. Effective boards need to make informed, sometimes difficult decisions, and, like any other team, after our discussions we vote and then support and stand behind the Board decision. As such, we need a committed Board that's prepared for spirited discussions around our strategic objectives. Board members need to be familiar with IMA's vision and mission, bylaws, policies, and core values. They also must be aware of what's happening in the management accounting profession. It's a good idea for all members to understand how our organization functions under our governance practices, including

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## Perspectives

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our bylaws and Board policies. You can find them on [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org). Under the “About IMA” tab, select “Governance.”

IMA is a member-driven organization, and our primary goal is to advance the management accounting profession. Continually enhancing our nominating process to build an effective and strategic Board with a growing pipeline of quality candidates will help pave the way for continued success in a challenging market. I sincerely thank this year’s Nominating Committee members for their significant contributions, and I thank all of those who nominated candidates for global service.

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