

IMA Denver Centennial

Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter 4, 2017

President's Message

Mike Westcott, 2017-2018 President

As winter descends upon us, we look forward to the holiday season! Winter travel can be challenging in our Colorado weather. To help ensure your safety, we encourage everyone to note a few tips for winter auto travel:

1. Check antifreeze regularly
2. Check and replace older batteries
3. Keep the gas tank near full to avoid freezing water in the fuel line
4. Check tires and spare tire for proper inflation

Stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season!



Upcoming Chapter Events



November 8, 2017:

CPE, Dinner & Networking meeting at the Holiday Inn at Cherry Creek. Register by emailing imaeventcc@gmail.com

January 2018:

Annual social event. Look for further details to follow!

February 23, 2018:

Annual Student Night. Graduate and undergraduate students may obtain the scholarship application in the Spring of 2018.

Spotlight – Local CMA and Denver-Centennial Board Member

Ian Stuut, CPA, CMA

Fifteen years ago, I started my accounting career. I embarked on the usual path and worked in public accounting, earned my CPA, and then moved into industry eventually working for Vail Resorts, Intrawest, and now as a Senior Director of Accounting at Level 3 Communications (soon to be CenturyLink).

Two years ago, and beginning to entertain new opportunities, I decided to pursue the CMA to refresh my resume and show continued development beyond the typical CPE requirements of maintaining the CPA designation. With a family and career underway, I did not have the flexibility of pursuing a graduate degree, and the CMA presented an excellent opportunity to demonstrate professional growth and dedication to continuing to develop my accounting and finance expertise. I earned my CMA designation in August of 2016, one year after starting the program.

The CMA program was

attractive to me because of the focus on finance and management accounting as I have experienced many opportunities to add value to the businesses I have worked for by being able to translate financial data and report on accounting information beyond the format and constraints of US generally accepted accounting

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principles. Clearly, GAAP is incredibly important for comparability and consistency among companies in the context of external reporting;

however, when managing a business, we are required to dissect and identify the proper cost drivers and factors that need to be considered when helping management make decisions.

While I am a member of the AICPA and there are competing program offerings, my choice to pursue the CMA through the IMA was a thoughtful choice. The IMA offers many benefits including CPE specific to finance and management accounting and the monthly publication *Strategic Finance*, which offers many in-depth articles and insight into how finance and accounting professionals can bring value to their organizations. Belonging to both organizations is an ideal combination providing a wealth of resources with valuable perspectives.

I am proud to be a member of the IMA and to carry the CMA designation with me, and I encourage you in your professional efforts to pursue the same.

Thank you for your membership to the IMA!

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