

IMA Denver Centennial

Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter 1, 2018

President's Message

Mike Westcott, 2017-2018 President

The Institute of Management Accountants is a wonderful organization to be involved with, especially on a local basis. I initially got involved with the IMA 20 years ago. Since then, I have gained many friends and business acquaintances from our local chapter.

I want to share a few of the many benefits that the IMA can bring to the members:

- Get CMA certified - either via the In-Class Review, Group Study, or Independent Study

- Attend dinner events to interact with peers and gain CPE credit.
- The IMA is a great resource for hiring staff - network at the dinner meetings and email communication for job postings
- Utilize the IMA for your own job search
- Attend an IMA social event to interact and network with peers
- Get CPE hours via the Global IMA On Line CPE offerings

We hope to see you at upcoming events! Check them out at our website: <http://www.denverima.org>

March 21, 2018 – 2 Credit CPE Night

You're invited! Register before March 18 for early bird pricing at <http://www.denverima.org/events.html>

- 4:15 PM - 4:30 PM - Registration
- 4:30 PM - 5:20 PM - Session 1: M&A Market Update
- 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM - Registration and Networking
- 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - Dinner
- 7:00 PM - 7:50 PM - Session 2: The "Experience Economy"

This Year's Sponsors and Presenters

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The IMA thanks the presenters and sponsors who have participate in this year's dinner meetings:

Presenters include:

Brody Geist, Regional Vice President of Securian Retirement presented on 401(k) plans in September

Karen Van Cleve, President of Live Well Coaching presented on tools to overcome overwhelm

Phillip Horning, Founder of Dragon Security presented on Cyber Security

Courtney Cowgill, Executive Financial Consultant; Past Board President of the CO State Board of Accountancy

Sponsors include:

The Addison Group
CFS Staffing
Kforce
Robert Half

Spotlight – David Gnuse

Local Member Who Recently Passed the CMA Exam! His Story...

9 Years.

The road to achieving my CMA certification was long. I originally signed up for the CMA program in 2008.

That's right, I started working towards the CMA in 2008, but I encountered distractions that derailed my initial plans. I kept busy with my career in accounting but when looking for a job in 2015, I found I had to take a lower level job because I did not have a certification. While I worked to show my talents to my new employer, I knew from the start I had to get a certification.

The CMA came back into my life with an announcement at an IMA dinner about a CMA review class that Jim Murphy teaches. I talked with my wife and we agreed that it was important for me to pursue this plan and manage the inevitable distractions along the way. The review class, which started in August 2016, was intense for four hours every Saturday morning for 10 weeks but Jim made

learning fun. Breakfast burritos before every class helped. I eventually established a routine including studying at the library 2-3 hours Saturday through Thursday (taking Friday off). This allowed me to have a bit of fun and recharge my batteries. The IMA suggests 170 studying hours for each part of the exam so I setup a spreadsheet to track my hours and progress.

I took Part 1 of the exam in October of 2016. It took six weeks to receive my results and unfortunately, I did not pass on the first try. I started in January and after seven more weeks of studying, I took Part 1 again at the end of February. After another six weeks of waiting, I found out I passed! In the interim I had already been attending the class for Part 2 and at the end of May, I sat for the exam. Again I did not pass on my first try but after retaking it following more studying I found out I passed.

In spite of it all I kept my focus on studying and my eye on the prize. I listened to the audios from Gleim, I took continuous practice tests, I asked Jim questions and sought advice from the counselor at Gleim. I also came up with a study plan that worked for me.

I could not have done it without the patience of my employer, the materials and structured curriculum from Gleim, Jim Murphy's guidance and sense of humor, and my very understanding wife.

The work was hard but I will never forget the e-mail I got which told me I had passed the final exam.



David and Jim Murphy, CMA review instructor

Thank you for your membership to the IMA!

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Look for upcoming newsletters and dinner meeting announcements!