Message from the President…

Health Care Reform – What it Means for You

On March 23, 2010, The Affordable Care Act was signed into law. There are many implications for individuals, families and small business owners.

No discrimination for pre-existing conditions, no lifetime limits on coverage and not having to worrying about being dropped from your policy if you get sick - these are issues that affect all of us.

Hot topics also include health insurance exchanges and who is eligible for subsidies. Small businesses will be able to receive tax credits to offset employee insurance premiums, but how does that apply to your business or employer? How will mandates extend to individuals and employers? How will money be raised to pay for reforms and what taxes will increase?

While health care laws may be in flux, many components of the Health Care Reform Act are in effect for 2011.

Richard Greene will be our lunch speaker. He recently attended a seminar on health care and has current information to present. So join us for “Lunch and Learn” with Richard Greene.

Brenda Craig
President

Want to Make a Difference?

Over the years we have partnered with an agency in the greater Catawba Valley area that helps families. For the past two years, we have provided presents at Christmas.

A new need has arisen due to the still-depressed local economy. Many families are facing the threat of foreclosure. Local money is available to help them, but they need assistance in preparing the financial information and paperwork. One member has committed to help, but we need a team. The volume continues at several families per week right now.

Check it out with no obligation. The agency will present an information session to help us understand all the details. If you want to help families avoid losing their homes, call Ron Nicholson at 828-438-1019 to begin checking out how you can help.
IMA community service continued for the 2010-2011 year by helping 2 families at Christmas again this year! One family was close to foreclosure on their home, so the IMA paid the house payment for the month of January to keep them from losing their home.

The other family was a single mother with eight children. The mother is out of work and home-schooling the children. The IMA bought Christmas gifts and for all of the children, including a wonderful outdoor swing set. The mother was in tears when presented with the gifts and completely overjoyed. She stated it was the best Christmas her children had ever had. She also sent the following thank you letter to show her appreciation:

**Thank you for our miracle!!**

At a time in our lives when things could truly have been their darkest…Light broke through with such radiance, that our lives are forever changed. My children are seeing hope when things seemed hopeless, sadness turn to joy, uncertainty turn to stability, and fear turn to peace. God is doing a great work in our lives and we want to thank you for your part in it!

As you may know, we have just had to make the very difficult decision of separating ourselves from my husband and their father until he gets the help that he needs. He is a wonderful person, who we pray will one day overcome the things holding him in bondage. He will have to find his own way in that journey.

I have been a stay at home mom for 16 years and this was a great step of faith for us with no resources and seven children! Since October, God has provided a place for us to live and MANY wonderful people pouring out their resources of time, money, and possessions to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus to our family! God promised me that He would be my husband if I followed Him in faith…and He is Faithful!

It was no small miracle that we had the biggest Christmas of the children’s lives! We were in the middle of moving eight people into a new house and a new life when everyone in our family got the stomach flu. There is NO WAY I could have made a nice Christmas happen this year! But miracle of miracles, all of the money was donated and all of the shopping done for us…Christmas came to us! You have no idea the tears of joy and relief and praise that flowed from my mother’s heart. I wish you could have see my children on Christmas morning, in their new safe home, squealing with delight as they opened gifts they never dreamed of receiving. Each of them is so very thankful for what has been given them. I know this is something they will carry with them for life.

And then it snowed!! That snow represented for us the cleansing, the purity, and the fresh start that we are being given. Our Christmas was filled with miracles and we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you did to make it happen!

To God be the Glory!
Gleim has offered a series of successful study tips to ensure that IMA Chapter members pass the CMA exam on their first attempts. While these tips are useful, it is equally important to know what study habits to avoid. Once a habit forms, it is difficult to break. Recognize bad habits so you learn to avoid them.

Cramming:
While many people rely on the cramming method, it can be harmful to your physical and mental health due to the increase in stress and lack of relaxation that may result.
Fix: Gleim's most successful candidates study for 6-8 weeks in advance!
We guarantee that you will retain more knowledge with less stress if you study 10-15 hours a week for 6-8 weeks rather than 40 hours per week in 2-3 weeks. You will benefit greatly by adhering to a schedule in a manageable fashion.

Environmental Concerns:
An uncomfortable study environment can prevent you from focusing, thereby minimizing your comprehension and retention. Distractions such as a creaky chair, a broken desk, or a cold room distract you even in the most serene study spots. In short, you will waste valuable time adjusting to the environment rather than studying in the environment.
Fix: Try different sites until you find the best place for you. Remove any distractions before initiating your study session. For example, if the best place for you to study is the coldest room in the house or a cold library, dress in layers or bring a sweater so you can adjust. This is also good preparation for the actual exam, since you cannot control the testing center's temperature. Also, be sure you have an alternate location in case your primary study site becomes unavailable.

Bed Time:
While beds may keep you cozy and care-free, they can make even the most disciplined of candidates drift off to dreamland.
Fix: Avoid studying on or near a bed or sofa. Make sure your study spot is comfortable but not going to cause you to become sleepy, lose your focus, and cut your studies short.

Music's In the Air:
Loud noises and music can interfere with the brain's ability to absorb information. It can also distract you from focusing on the material at hand.
Fix: If you prefer listening to music while you prepare for the exam, make sure it remains in the background rather than the foreground of your studying environment. Find a specific type of music, and stick to that style and volume throughout your study sessions. It is better for concentration if the music you choose is void of lyrics.

Gleim is committed to helping you accomplish your goal of passing the exam and becoming a CMA. Your Catawba Valley IMA Chapter has partnered with Gleim to ensure your success on the CMA exam! Working together, we will provide you the necessary tools to prepare for this difficult exam.

As a Catawba Valley Chapter member, you receive significant discounts on the Gleim CMA Review materials and Gleim CPE. Contact Melissa Leonard at 800.874.5346 ext. 131 or melissa.leonard@gleim.com to take advantage of the offer or if you have any questions.

Do you have feedback on what you have read or suggestions on future topics? Maybe you are studying for the exam or have recently passed and want to share tactics you used. Email Gleim at imachapters@gleim.com with your comments.

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Melissa Leonard
Chapter Coordinator
melissa.leonard@gleim.com

Gleim Publications, Inc.  Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm
4201 NW 95TH Blvd.  Please visit our home page:
Gainesville, FL 32606  http://www.gleim.com
800.874.5346 Ext. 131
Fax 352.375.6940

Our Chapter has a rich history of almost two decades of providing support to members in earning the CMA. Many are enjoying the benefits of being a CMA because of this intensive support. Large discounts are currently available on Gleim review materials. Click here to find contact information for CMA Review. Take advantage of our experience and tell us your needs!

GLEIM DISCOUNT
All members of the Catawba Valley Chapter IMA may now purchase all CMA materials and online CPE at a discount of 20-30%. This includes pre-discounted sets. Standard shipping and handling will apply.
Calendar of Events

March 18, 2011
Richard Greene
(Luncheon meeting)
Topic: Healthcare Law

April 21, 2011
Bill Baker
Topic: What Do You Do With All That Data

May 19, 2011
TBA

About the Speaker

Richard Greene has had 40 years in teaching at high school, community college, and university level. He retired as chief financial officer for county public school system with 19 years experience. He has 11 years of experience as a consultant to North Carolina Public Schools.

He is a Professor and Accounting Program Coordinator at Lenoir Rhyne University School of Business. He teaching undergraduate courses in intermediate; advanced; individual income tax; auditing; CPA review; Law I and Law II. He also teaches undergraduate/graduate courses in advanced business entity taxation; international, governmental and nonprofit accounting; and accounting and financial issues in healthcare. He teaches graduate courses in auditing application; accounting theory; and MBA managerial accounting.

Richard is the chairman of the North Carolina state task force committee for computer systems in state, county, city, and town government and board of education serving a 5 year term. Also is and has served on the North Carolina Capital Management Trust Board and Government investment pool managed by Fidelity Capital Management for two 4 year terms.
RSVPs Leigh-Ann at (704) 585-6592 or E-mailing jlperk19@bellsouth.net.
By Tuesday, March 15th.
Please try to make our Friday, March 18th meeting.
Hope to see you there!!!

To self register click here: Register for meeting

There have been some inquiries about how to access the imanet.org member section. Your username is your IMA member ID number and your password is your last name. This will also work for access to the chapter portal for email addresses, mailing addresses, and member rosters. If you have had an email or physical address change, please try to log in to update your profile for our records. Thanks!

[ima]
www.imanet.org
www.imacarolinascouncil.org
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Look/Go here:
* Employment opportunities
* Make your reservation for the monthly meeting
* Give us feedback

IMA Catawba Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 2132
Hickory, NC 28603

2010 – 2011 Catawba Valley IMA Officers
- Brenda Craig – President
- Lisa Coffey – President-Elect
- Karen Wilson – Treasurer
- Joe Ryan – Secretary/Asst Treasurer
- Beth Prewitt – Newsletter
- Ron Nicholson – Web Master
- Dee Strickland & Robyn Greenlee – Community Leaders
- Education (Opening)

Famous Quotes:
- Who we are today is the result of choices made yesterday. Tomorrow we will become what we choose today.
  John Maxwell
- Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.
  Oscar Wilde
- The two most beautiful words in the English language are ‘check enclosed’.
  Dorothy Parker
- A smile will gain you ten more years of life.
  Chinese Proverb
- Enjoy yourself. It’s later than you think.
  Chinese Proverb
- Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you’re right.
  Henry Ford
- Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And Today? Today is a gift. That’s why we call it the present.
  Babatunde Olatunji

*** FREE GIFT***
We will be giving out a door prize at each monthly meeting to one lucky winner who attended.

Mission Statement
To provide personal and professional development opportunities in management accounting, financial management and information management through education and association with business professionals and certification in management accounting and financial management to members in the Catawba Valley area. Welcome to the 2010 - 2011 Chapter Year