President’s Message

Hello Fellow Chapter Members,

I hope this message finds you well in the new year! One of the areas of focus for our Chapter this year is membership. When I think of the membership, I think of the benefits we all receive by being a member of the IIA. For example, did you know ...

- Our Chapter offers inexpensive seminars and networking opportunities throughout the year (https://chapters.theiia.org/Red-River-Valley - click on Upcoming Events link)
- The IIA website offers Standards and Guidance as well as other valuable resources, many for free or a reduced rate (https://na.theiia.org/standards-guidance/Pages/Standards-and-Guidance-IPPF.aspx )
- The IIA website offers Training of all types and levels, many for free or a reduced rate (https://na.theiia.org/training/Pages/Training-and-Events.aspx )
- IIA Certifications can boost your career and are recognized globally (https://na.theiia.org/certification/Pages/Certification.aspx )
- The IIA offers discounts on publications offered by their Bookstore (https://na.theiia.org/periodicals/Pages/Periodicals.aspx )
- Most employers allow IIA volunteer work to be performed as part of your work day - just ask; volunteering for The IIA (https://na.theiia.org/periodicals/Pages/Get-Involved.aspx ) or the RRV Chapter (Chapter510@iiachapters.org ) also allows you to build leadership skills which can enhance your career and your overall success!

I encourage you to set a goal for this year to explore one or more of the links provided above and share what you learned. Send your thoughts to our Chapter email at (Chapter510@iiachapters.org ). We would love to hear from you.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

Sincerely,

Patty Olson, Chapter President
IIA Red River Valley Chapter
701.282.1404
Reminders

The next monthly IIA members-only webinars are as follows:

- February 18, 2020 – 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT, “IT Change Management”
- March 17, 2020 – 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT, “A Plan for Regulatory Change”

These are free for IIA members and have one hour of CPE available! They are excellent opportunities to learn from experts in the field of internal audit on a wide variety of topics each month. Register online at the IIA website.

Upcoming Events

February 5, 2020 – 8:00 am – 3:30 pm: Emotional Intelligence for Interviews & Investigations

- Join us for an exceptional training opportunity to learn how emotional intelligence is critical to interviews and investigations plus learn skills to more effectively and efficiently engage team members, stakeholders, and customers.
- Designed for: Auditors, analysts, financial, governance and compliance professionals, and those working in the banking industry, Information Security, Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal, and medical professions.
- Register at: https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=514120&

Watch for our emails, newsletters and check back frequently on our website for information on upcoming training sessions.

STAY CONNECTED https://chapters.theiia.org/Red-River-Valley
Programming Committee Update

The Red River Valley Chapter has hosted the following events so far this year.

- **October 9**: Fraud & Ethics training
- **November 4**: Critical Thinking training
- **December 4**: Lunch & Learn - Security Training: Internal & External Threats

Future events planned include:

- **February 5**: Full day event – Emotional Intelligence for Interviews & Investigations. Location: BCBS Dakota Room (4510 13th Ave. S., Fargo)
- **March event**: Annual Meeting and Social. Election of officers and presentation of awards. Watch for an email soon with more information.
- **April 8**: Lunch & Learn - Data Analytics. Location: BCBS Dakota Room (4510 13th Ave. S., Fargo)
- **May event**: IA Celebration – afternoon event/evening social.
- **September event**: IIA RRV chapter kickoff for the Fall. Look for an email in the spring with more information

Certifications

Congratulations to our new CIA certification holders!

Melani Abel  
Elaine Meyer  
Seth Maas

Good luck to everyone working towards a certification!  
We look forward to celebrating your success.

Interested in becoming a RRV IIA Chapter Officer or joining a Committee? Contact Chapter510@iiachapters.org for more information.
The Membership Committee of the RRV Chapter of the IIA met on December 11, 2019. The agenda included a number of topics. One that we’d like to focus on today is something all chapter members can assist with: signing up new members for the IIA and the RRV Chapter. One of our Chapter goals this year is to increase our existing membership by 10%. Every current member can lend their support to this goal. We all know of someone in our respective companies who currently isn’t an IIA member but would benefit greatly from membership. The benefits are boundless.

There are a wide number of opportunities for certified professional education (CPE) and staff development for non-certified members with IIA membership. Our local RRV Chapter offers a number of programming events throughout the chapter year where CPE is offered. Attending CPE with colleagues in your profession allows for a rewarding educational experience. In addition, the national IIA organization offers monthly one-hour Members-Only webinars throughout the year that are NASBA certified and are free to members. Topics are wide and varied, including ethics-related sessions. Members also enjoy online seminars on the national IIA website. The list of subjects available include audit report writing, enterprise risk management, and CIA exam preparation, to name only a few. There are also On Demand training opportunities on the IIA website on topics like audit fundamentals, audit management, fraud, soft skills, and technology. Your co-workers can benefit greatly from all the training opportunities of IIA membership.

Another benefit is the ability to network with peers in the internal audit profession. This benefit can’t be overemphasized. At RRV Chapter meetings and programming events, members can ask questions of the instructor and their peers and solicit thoughts and ideas of their colleagues in other companies. It’s always good to obtain different ideas of what is working in other companies that your company is currently struggling with associated with topics like staff retention, staff development, new and innovative ways to audit various subject matter, SOC I audits, internal controls over financial reporting, and experience with software packages.

A third advantage of membership is the national IIA website allowing members to access a wide variety of resources to assist them with their jobs and their careers. Examples of resources include the IPPF Standards & Guidance, position papers, Sarbanes-Oxley, supplemental guidance, and an award-winning *Internal Auditor* magazine. Resources to members are seemingly unlimited on the IIA website.

With all these advantages of IIA membership and more, visit with a co-worker in your company or a colleague in another company today who you know aren’t IIA members and ask if they would like to join the IIA. The benefits are endless! Don’t delay, sign-up a co-worker or colleague today!
The IIA established the Chapter Achievement Program (CAP) to ensure chapters serve their members and the internal audit profession. The IIA sets standards for its chapters through the CAP. The CAP provides guidance to chapters on goals and objectives set by the IIA, which local chapters work to achieve. Categories by which local chapters measure themselves include service to members, professionalism, and chapter health. Points are earned based on the activities of the chapter.

The biggest way as members to earn points for our chapter is attendance at chapter events. Check out the great events planned for our chapter in the “Programming Committee Update” section. We hope to see you at a future event!

New Members

We would like to welcome our newest member to the Red River Valley IIA Chapter!

Winnie Markert, Internal Auditor, RDO Equipment

College Outreach – Volunteer Opportunity!

We are looking for volunteers to present to UND students at their accounting club meeting in April. Our chapter’s student advocacy goal is to share with students the opportunities in Internal Audit careers. The typical presentation includes each presenter giving a brief introduction on their background, followed by an informal Q&A session, about 45 minutes in total.

Event details:
- UND – April 2nd (5:30pm) – 2-3 Volunteers needed

If you are interested in volunteering for the UND event or have any questions, please contact Karmin Thompson at karmin.thompson@alerus.com.

We are also hoping to present at one of the colleges in the Fargo/Moorhead area. More details and a call for volunteers will be sent out once a date and time have been finalized.
Karmin Thompson,
CIA, CRMA, CRVPM II
Wealth Management Compliance Officer
Alerus Financial, N.A.

Birthplace: Garrison, ND

Alma Mater / Degree: University of North Dakota, BBA Business Economics

Current Job Responsibilities: I started my career with Alerus over 22 years ago and most of that time was spent in an Internal Auditor position. About 10 years ago I moved to Compliance. My primary role is to lead and maintain the compliance program for the wealth management and retirement areas of Alerus. In my “free time” I also wear the hat of vendor coordinator with respect to our company’s Vendor Management program. I get involved in supporting and consulting with those areas within the wealth management and retirement areas and participate as needed in research requests to those areas under my review. I also participate in company-wide projects on behalf of risk management and compliance as needed.

Hobbies and Pastimes: My husband is a partner in a local brewery right in West Fargo, as well as an avid home brewer, so we love craft beer and the craft beer industry for many reasons. One of the highlights of any trip we take is checking out the local brewery (or two!) while in the area. We love to hike when the weather allows and will build trips around those opportunities. I enjoy the occasional good book and love to bake, cakes mostly. I am a fan of any show that has “baking” in the title.

The Best Advice You Ever Received: I can’t say this was advice in that form as much as how I was raised but it’s a good one. Strive to always have a teachable mentality by being willing to learn from those around you and remaining open to constructive criticism. A positive attitude and an open mind go a long way both personally and professionally. I guess the other piece of advice I strive to live by is if you wouldn’t say it to your grandmother, your pastor or your child, then don’t say it and certainly don’t put it in an email!

Dream Vacation: I just got back from my dream vacation. My husband and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary touring Scotland, England and Ireland. It truly was a wonderful time. Not certain where we may want to go for our 35th but am sure it will be a dream trip as well.