INTRODUCTION

The 30th Anniversary of our Austin Audit Club Charter is March 8, 2009 and the 30th Anniversary of our being formally recognized as the IIA – Austin Chapter is September 5, 2009. Our Chapter President Ms. Jan Engler suggested to Mr. Dave MacCabe (Dave) and I that this may be the right time to write an article or articles on our Chapter’s History. Dave has been working with me in developing and updating our Chapter’s History and we agreed that we could probably put articles together for the newsletter. We also decided to seek recollections from some of the Chapter’s other long-time members. This article includes recollections of the years 1978-79 by former Chapter President Gerald Weller (1980-81 Chapter President). Other recollections will be included in future newsletters.

In addition to the articles included in the newsletters we have also revised and updated our Chapter History “at a Glance” that covers all thirty years of our Chapter and the period of time before we became a Chapter. Our website includes more comprehensive information regarding our Chapter’s History than will be included in our newsletters.

RECOLLECTIONS

Gerald Weller - Recollections for the Chapter Period 1978-79

When I joined the IIA back in the dark ages of 1978, Austin was just a club attached to the San Antonio Chapter because we had far too few members. We would meet in a small room behind the Sizzler Steak House. Most of the members at that time were from the private sector. I was then a hospital internal auditor. In order to gain enough members we began trying to recruit auditors at state agencies, the city, and county. We knew there was a great deal of potential in getting government auditors to join. I held the membership chair when we managed to breach the magic number to qualify as a Chapter, 25 members. That was a very happy moment for all our members. From a group of auditors numbering somewhat less than 20, we usually had about 8-10 show up at our meetings back then. I am still amazed when I attend a regular meeting now and see more than a hundred members of the many hundreds of members show up. Our initial growth strategy of going after government auditors to increase our membership certainly did succeed. With our very long range goal of 100 members back then, a kind of a wild pie in the sky goal at that, it makes me feel a bit like the executive from IBM who said there would only be a need for five or six computers in the whole country.

CONCLUSION

In reviewing our Chapter’s History as we reflect on our last thirty years of existence, we are able to see the struggles, dedication, effort, and triumphs that have helped lead us to where we are today. The historical information included in our newsletters and on our website fall far short in capturing the selfless dedication of our Chapter Leadership of the past who helped set the tone and example for today’s Chapter Leaders. Current Chapter Leadership not only includes the five officers and eleven governors but we have 23 Committee Chairs, an innumerable number of Committee Members, and 14 members serving on international committees and many of these at the highest levels. We also have well over 700 chapter members with average attendance at our Chapter meetings at over 120 each month.

We take this opportunity as we are coming to the Thirtieth Anniversary of our Chapter’s formal beginning to appreciate and commend our current leadership and remember and honor our leadership of the past.