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# NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA CHAPTER-ISCEBS

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*Quarterly e-Newsletter* ■ *January 2008*

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## DEPARTING MESSAGE FROM OUR 2007 PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

In recapping 2007, the Chapter had 150 members (including CEBS designees, RBAs, GBAs, and students), 10 educational meetings and two fundamentals programs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the members for attending our events and for the sponsors who supported us throughout this year by hosting programs or meetings or providing speakers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the departing Board of 2007 and the new Board of 2008.

There comes a point in time when we say good-bye to a board member because he's at the end of his nine-year stint. A great big thank you to our Past President, George Bueno of OPEIU Local 153 Pension Fund.

The Chapter has added a new Director, Phillip Wismar of AON Consulting. He will chair the Education Program. New additions, Jackie Green of Watson Wyatt and Janine Keenan of Bertelsmann will chair Membership and Newsletter, respectively.

Arthur Grutt, Director, chaired the Membership Committee last year and will chair the Program Committee in 2008. He is the Vice President of The Cambridge Organization.

With timeless effort, Director Joe Remeika of HRH chaired the Education Committee.

Director Randi Weingarten edited the Chapter Newsletter and previously held Board positions in Membership and Education. She changed jobs in 2007 and is currently the Benefits Manager for USI Insurance Services LLC, a middle-market benefits consulting firm.

Our last Director Stacy Isquith-Donck changed jobs and started working at Mercer Human Resource Services, had a baby, and still had time to chair the Program Committee. This year, she will serve as the Chapter Secretary.

Last year, Fred Farkash was the Chapter Secretary; this year, the Treasurer.

Last year's Treasurer will be this year's Vice President. Lou LiBrandi is the Director of Compensation & Benefits Advisory Practice at McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

I am proud to introduce NY Metro's 23rd Chapter President, Ed Buehner from Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

Thanks and best of luck to the Board of 2008.

Pamela C. Lee, CEBS  
2007 President, NY Metro Area Chapter - ISCEBS

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2008 PRESIDENT

Dear Chapter Members:

We present the first 2008 installment of our quarterly Newsletter. As per prior editions, we hope you find it informative with regard to our Chapter's ongoing activities and developments.

For 2008, the Board of Directors is committed to providing our membership with opportunities to participate in quality educational forums, build professional relationships while sharing insights on the latest trends in the benefits arena, provide a forum for new entrants in the field, and offer opportunities for leadership and development by volunteering.

Education Forums: The Chapter has a goal to host 10 continuing education events throughout the year on retirement, health and welfare developments. These events are free of charge to our membership. If there is a specific benefit topic you would like the Chapter to consider hosting, please notify Phillip Wismar, Committee Chair for Education.

Professional Relationships: We continually strive to provide our members with recent benefit topics as well as prolific speakers with an expertise in benefits. Please let us know if you have a

recommendation for a vendor or presenter on cutting edge retirement, health or welfare topics.

New Entrants: For new entrants to the field, the Chapter will offer a full-day seminar on Health and Welfare Plans in the Spring and a Pension and Retirement Savings Plan Fundamentals in the Fall. Our presenters are expert practitioners with many years of experience in their specialty. Look for the announcements of those seminars and pass the information along to people in your organization whom you feel would benefit by attending.

Volunteering: The success of our Chapter is contingent upon the volunteer efforts of the Board of Directors and members of the Chapter who have stepped forward to help out in one form or another. Serving the Chapter can be very rewarding. In addition to the networking and friendships, it can be a way to channel your energy and focus your career. So we invite you to join one of our committees or to help out at one of our functions. You can express your interest by notifying a Board member or send an e-mail our Silent Secretary at [silent@worldnet.att.net](mailto:silent@worldnet.att.net).

We look forward to serving your needs as an employee benefits professional through your membership in the New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of ISCEBS.

Sincerely,  
Edwin J. Buehner, CEBS  
2008 President, NY Metro Area Chapter - ISCEBS

### Chapter Notes . . .

**MEMBERSHIP / FELLOWSHIP:** Membership applications to all non-member grads, associate designees and current students, along with renewal notices have been mailed. Please join as soon as possible. Applications may also be obtained from the International Society's website ([www.iscebs.org](http://www.iscebs.org)) and joining online is always an option.

Fellowship status signifies the highest level of academic achievement for a CEBS graduate, as well as a commitment to continuous learning and professionalism. By broadening your knowledge, you'll not only provide more value to your organization, but you will also stand out as part of a select group of CEBS graduates.

**FIRST EDUCATIONAL MEETING OF 2008:** The first meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on January 24, 2008 at the New York Athletic Club. The topic of the meeting is *Affecting Positive Claims Experience Through Wellness Programs and Philosophies*. The speaker is Rick Maher, Vice President of Employee Benefits, USI Insurance Services LLC. Please RSVP to Chapter Services ([silent@worldnet.att.net](mailto:silent@worldnet.att.net)) by Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007 In Review...

## OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>

October 11, 2007 will be remembered by our Education Committee as a horrible night for commuting because of bad weather and another great presentation by Katherine Hesse. Despite the weather, Katherine's roadshow version of the presentation that she makes for the ISCEBS Symposium on Recent Legal Decisions in Employee Benefits, Labor and Employment Law was well attended. Fortunately for us, Katherine stayed focused on her presentation and didn't gloat about the success of the Red Sox, given her Boston roots.

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## NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>

The New York and Southern New England Chapters of ISCEBS co-hosted presentations with the National Business Coalition on Health, New York Business Group on Health, and Labor Health Alliance on eValues, a tool for applying Health Plan Standards for Improved Performance. The presentation was given in multiple locations with the New York Chapter hosting a November 1<sup>st</sup> presentation at the Altria World Headquarters. Our guests who attended the program required very little caffeine for this high-powered breakfast presentation. Dennis White, Senior Vice President, National Business Coalition on

Health and Laurel Pickering, Executive Director, New York Business Group on Health were the key speakers. Mary Bradley, Director of Healthcare Planning, Pitney Bowes and Beth Forrest, Manager, Health Plans, Altria acted as panelists giving constructive feedback on their experiences using eValues.

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## NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

AON co-hosted an educational program with the Chapter on November 13<sup>th</sup> at their new office location on 199 Water Street. The speakers, Lynn W. Dippold, SVP and Glen Nebel, VP from AON Consulting, Inc.'s National Tax & ERISA Practice gave an update on the New Proposed Code Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Regulations. Lynn and Glen provided an overview of Cafeteria Plans in general, planning opportunities in the areas of compliance and non-discrimination testing and they reviewed the proposed regulations. This was our last event of the year.

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## HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual Holiday Party was held at O'Casey's on the evening of November 29, 2007. Over 30 CEBS New York Chapter members attended the spirited occasion sharing their best human resources/benefits tales of the

past year. Conversations also included issues involving the completion of many work tasks before year-end, the additional compliance burdens and changes provided by the Pension Protection Act, and how quickly the year goes by!

The Holiday Party date was scheduled earlier than in past years attempting to avoid conflicts with member's office, family and client functions. Unfortunately, there were a few other events scheduled for that evening and a few members needed to juggle their busy schedules to attend all of them. The edibles included a wide array of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods rather than a sit-down style to allow individuals to mingle and visit with friends and colleagues. If you would like to provide feedback on your thoughts of the Holiday Party including the two items discussed above, please write to Louis F. LiBrandi at [lbrandi@mwe.com](mailto:lbrandi@mwe.com) with your comments which will be considered in scheduling next year's event.

The event culminated with a presentation to the Board Members thanking them for their time to coordinate the educational, fundamental, and social programs for the 2007 year, and to recognize the 2007 President Pam Lee who will become a trusted advisor to the Board in 2008.

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# Congratulations Are In Order...

<b>Recent Graduates</b>	<b>MICHAEL R. CRAWFORD, CEBS</b> Vice President Citibank, N.A.	<b>Members on the Move</b>	<b>JOHN P. SODERLUND, CEBS</b> Benefits Manager Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
	<b>AMIT B. MOHINDRA, CEBS</b> Associate Partner IBM Global Business Services		<b>JING J. WU, CEBS</b> LTC Account Specialist MetLife
	<b>FRANK R. MUCARIA, CEBS</b> Consultant Milliman Inc.		
	<b>DAVID E. SCHORR, CEBS</b> Broker Schorr Associates		

## New York Metro Area Chapter-ISCEBS 2008 Board of Directors...

<b>President:</b>	<b>EDWIN J. BUEHNER, CEBS</b> Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz (212) 403-1573 EJBuehner@wlrk.com	<b>Director:</b>	<b>RANDI A. WEINGARTEN, CEBS</b> USI Insurance Services LLC (914) 749-8569 randi.weingarten@usi.biz
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>LOUIS F. LIBRANDI, CEBS</b> McDermott Will & Emery LLP (212) 547-5755 llibrandi@mwe.com	<b>Director:</b>	<b>JOSEPH P. REMEIKA, CEBS</b> HRH (908) 931-3072 Joseph.Remeika@hrh.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>FRED A. FARKASH, CEBS</b> Buck Consultants LLC (212) 330-1227 Fred.Farkash@buckconsultants.com	<b>Director:</b>	<b>ARTHUR GRUTT, CEBS</b> The Cambridge Organization, Inc. (212) 695-7495, x. 14 Arthur@camlife.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>STACY J. ISQUITH-DONCK, CEBS</b> Mercer (212) 345-1999 Stacy.Isquith@mercer.com	<b>Director:</b>	<b>PHILLIP W. WISMAR, CEBS</b> AON Consulting (212) 441-2417 Phillip_wismar@aon.com
<b>Past President:</b>	<b>PAMELA C. LEE, CEBS</b> Astoria Federal Savings (516) 327-7623 plee@astoriafederal.com		