

The New York Metropolitan Area Chapter-ISCEBS



e-Newsletter May 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Members:

Welcome to the first quarter 2009 Newsletter!

This portion of the newsletter will provide you with some information about me and inform you of the goals and early accomplishments of the New York Metro Chapter ("Chapter") in 2009.

When I began taking CEBS courses (in prior times this was accomplished by actually attending classes at a University or other institution) I never figured I would serve on a volunteer committee, or be considered for a leadership role. But as you are all aware, the passage of time and many other aspects of life have changed. If you enjoy meeting and working with people who work in a similar industry, I recommend you consider becoming involved in our Chapter and networking opportunities. I have enjoyed the experience.

At last year's symposium I attended the Local Chapter Leadership Conference hosted by the ISCEBS Officers. This forum provides a lively exchange of ideas among the local chapters and leadership, and the prior year's results regarding many of the operations of ISCEBS are reviewed. Leadership provides suggestions for enhancing the CEBS brand recognition and goals for the upcoming year. It is incumbent on the local

chapter to develop and implement a plan to meet the priorities for the upcoming year.

I learned many things by attending this meeting, and realized the commitment needed to maintain and enhance a chapter. From that meeting I concluded the Chapter priorities for 2009 should include:

1. Increase the membership of the Chapter;
2. Modernize the electronic capabilities of the Chapter by establishing a web site and facility for payment (e.g., educational presentations); and
3. Provide timely and interesting topics by industry professionals at the Fundamental (Welfare and Pension) and many Educational Programs.

With great pleasure and feeling of accomplishment I am happy to inform you of the results for each of the goals have been significantly exceeded. In brief, the Chapter has added 20 new members through the first quarter, our web site is the final "testing" phases and it is anticipated it will be introduced in the summer, PayPal has been implemented as a facility for payment, and the Educational Programs have been extremely high level and informative. All the Board Members and Committee Volunteers should be commended for their efforts and time they have allocated toward these accomplishments. Details of some of these accomplishments are contained in this Newsletter.

One area in which you may be able to help the Chapter significantly is if your employer, or one of your service provider's can provide a facility for one of the Chapter's educational presentations. The providing of a facility would greatly reduce Chapter expenses which impacts our budget and operations, and assists with maintaining our reasonable annual dues.

If you would like to contact me directly regarding any of the information discussed in this Newsletter or explore the possibility of hosting an educational presentation, please contact me at lbrandi@mwe.com.

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FIRST QUARTER 2009 RECAPS:

How Much Stimulus Package is Enough?

On **January 15, 2009**, The American Federation of Musicians and Employer's Pension Fund hosted the 2009 kick off education program which asked the question, "How Much Stimulus Package is Enough?" P. Brett Hammond was the presenter for this event. Brett provided a timely update on the economic challenges being faced at the time and the issues driving our elected officials. **P. Brett Hammond is the Chief Investment Strategist for TIAA-CREF.**

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Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Regulations

On **February 18, 2009**, Cigna hosted our meeting regarding the new Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) regulations that took effect January 16, 2009.

Topics covered at the forum included: the addition of military family leave entitlements, the creation of new forms, and shifts in the way leaves are defined and designated. The forum focused on the impact of the new regulations on employer administration, and the associated compliance and legal implications. The presenter for this forum was **Charlene Libby of UNUM.**

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2008 National Health Plan Survey Results

On **March 25, 2009**, Mercer hosted our monthly education meeting summarizing the findings of their 2008 National Health Plan Survey Results. The survey participants included approximately 3,000 private and public employers with 10 or more employees. The presentation provided highlights of the survey.

- Across all employers, per capita health care costs rose an average of 6.3% in 2008, and are predicted to rise an average of 6.4% in 2009. These rates are both well above the general rate of inflation.
- Approximately 38% of employers experienced double digit increases in 2008.
- Employee cost sharing continues to rise dramatically as employers look for ways to reduce expenses. Average "in-network" PPO deductibles are now close to \$1,000 across all employers and close to \$500 for employers more than 5,000 employees.
- Employers are also turning to other cost management strategies such as: consumer-directed health plans, disease management, high performance networks, evidence-based design, and online health records and information.

The presenter for this session was **Bob Mindel, a Principal at Mercer.**

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UPCOMING:

Health & Welfare Fundamentals Seminar May 14, 2009

Location: American Management Association
1601 Broadway (between 48th & 49th Sts.)
New York, New York

Presenters:

Anthony P. Rienzi, Principal
Buck Consultants

Leonard B. Comberiate, CEBS
Sr. Director of Benefits & Collectively
Bargained Plans
The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company

William B. Duff, Partner
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Brent N. Botts, Executive Sales Consultant AND
Eric Hamilton, Director of Product Development
Guardian

This is a full-day program ideally suited for those professionals responsible for non-retirement benefits.

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2008 Form 5500 Presentation June 4, 2009

Location: McDermott Will & Emery LLP
340 Madison Avenue – 2nd Floor
New York, New York

Speaker:

Louis F. LiBrandi, Fellow—ISCEBS, ChFC, QPA &
Enrolled Agent
Director, Compensation & Benefits
Advisory Practice
McDermott Will & Emery LLP

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ISCEBS Annual Symposium August 9 - 12, 2009

Location: Mandalay Bay - Las Vegas, Nevada

Additional information is available at:
<http://www.iscebs.org/symposium>

Congratulations Are In Order...

CEBS ♦ CEBS ♦ CEBS ♦ CEBS ♦ CEBS ♦ CEBS ♦ CEBS

Jacqueline Azoulay, CEBS
Budget Representative
Diversified Investment Advisors

Alice C. Baird, CEBS
Director, Compensation and Benefits
Vivendi

David P. Caulfield, CEBS
SVP, Director HR & Facilities
Allied Irish Bank

William A. McDonough, CEBS
Senior Benefits Manager

Elizabeth Tosen, CEBS, CMS

GBA ♦ GBA

Malcolm J. Curtis, GBA
Associate Director
Frank Crystal & Co. Inc.

Clinton S. Gaskin, GBA
Sr. Functional Analyst
Affiliated Computer Services

Steven M. Jacobs, GBA
Honeywell

Kevin W. Kopp, GBA
Assistant Vice President
Mercer

Abby K. Lindsay, GBA
Senior Manager, Human Resources
Skidmore Owings & Merrill, LLP

Arian Mahrer, GBA
Human Resource Associate

Lawrence C. Pienciak, GBA
Lead Specialist, Underwriting

Amy E. Whelton, GBA
Account Service Representative

RPA ♦ RPA

Erica Bonet, RPA
Compliance Testing Associate
Diversified Investment Advisors

Karen DeRocher, RPA
Compliance Manager
The Minister & Missionaries Ben. Board

John F. Jennings, RPA
Executive VP
Willis HRH

Alison F. Lange, RPA
Associate
Buck Consultants

Thomas L. Quinn, RPA
Third Party Administrator

Eric J. Haun, RPA
Analyst

David Q. To, RPA
Pension Benefit Analyst

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Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

GREAT NEWS!

The New York Metro Area Chapter now accepts credit card and debit card payments for educational meeting fees via PayPal. Here are a few frequently asked questions about paying electronically.

Q. What types of ISCEBS New York Metro Chapter expenses may I pay via PayPal?

A. Non-members can pay their monthly educational meeting fees, and anyone registering for our annual day-long fundamentals seminars—Health and Welfare or Pension—can pay via PayPal.

As was previously the case, you can still pay to join the New York Metro Area Chapter or renew your membership by paying your ISCEBS/NY Metro Chapter dues via credit card – either on-line or by faxing your information to the ISCEBS office in Wisconsin. To do so, go to <http://www.iscebs.org/aboutISCEBS/join.asp>.

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Q: How do I pay for a meeting via Pay Pal?

A: When you receive the invitation, open the email and click on the link for www.iscebs.org/nymetro. This will take you to the appropriate web page on the ISCEBS website, where you will find a “pdf” version of the meeting notice, and the “Buy Now” button for the meeting. Clicking on “Buy Now” will take you to the secure Pay Pal website for payment.

Please note that after you pay using Pay Pal, you must still fill out the registration form and send it in to the Silent Secretary. You can either email it to silent@att.net, or fax it to 973-448-0022. This is currently necessary so that we can add your name to the guest list for the meeting.

* * *

Q: Do I need a Pay Pal account to pay for an education meeting via Pay Pal?

A: No. If you have a Pay Pal account you can use it, but even if you don't, you can still pay using a debit or credit card – such as MasterCard, VISA, American Express or Discover.

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Coming soon to a computer near you...the New York Metro Area Chapter of ISCEBS is creating an online presence. We are in the process of developing a chapter website.

We are very excited that we are moving ahead with the Chapter's website and hope to be up and running by our next newsletter. Stay tuned for more information!