



Volume 56

Issue 3

HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 5, 2002

Great Lakes Brewery & Restaurant

2516 Market Street, Cleveland, Ohio

6:00 P.M.

Order from the Menu

Limited parking is available on Market Street. Additional parking is available in the lot at the west end of Market Street.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings! I hope this finds everyone eagerly preparing for the holidays, including baking. The challenges can be unusually rewarding. As scheduled, the Cleveland chapter board met for lunch on November 13. Joining us for discussions was Susan Tripepi, one of our Regional Directors and current President of the Akron/Canton Chapter. We appreciate Susan's attendance, considering her challenging schedule. As expected, we covered and reviewed a lot of ground. With Susan's input, we concur that we should continue to network and support each other (people and organizations.) Therefore, we are planning to have a joint meeting with the Akron/Canton chapter for 2002-2003 fiscal year.

On the subject of membership, I'd like to mention several important observations that were made at the board meeting. The Cleveland chapter has a substantial number of retired members. The Akron/Canton chapter has only two. It has been my observation with several other organizations to which I belong, this is a common and local phenomenon. A review was also made of the chapter dues amounts. We compared our dues structure with other Ohio chapters. At \$31 for Regular, \$31 for Affiliate, \$13 for Associate/Student, and \$18 for Retired, the amounts appear reasonable for the Cleveland metro area. The chapter's dues have not changed for at least six years, while National's dues have increased several times during the same period. Currently, the national dues are \$88 for Regular, \$88 for Affiliate, and \$28 for Associate/Student. Some firms support some of our members by paying for their annual dues.

According to the Membership Survey conducted by our membership chair, Maria Selos, most of the respondents have different preferences with regard to meeting places, days and times. However, a common desired topic was Time Management and Tax or Accounting Updates. We feel that the scheduled meetings of the Akron/Canton chapter and the Cleveland chapter of Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) provide an adequate range of meeting opportunities and topics to meet some of our members' needs. Although we have located a number of excellent speaker resources, we feel that there should be increased membership participation and availability of officers/directors to adequately plan and support regular meetings.

The day after the meeting, we received word from national headquarters that the suggested deadline for chapters to award scholarships to students was moved up to January 13th. This is the earliest deadline that we have seen to date. However, Iona Daw-Krizman, our scholarship chair, believes that by using the advantages of E-mail, we can award a small scholarship and in the process, highlight the chapter. We are also continuing to build relationships with area colleges in preparation for networking, accessibility to students and membership opportunities. We are also planning to award a scholarship for winter 2002-2003, with adequate time for applications and review. If membership supports the idea, we'd like to invite the scholarship finalists to a chapter meeting next autumn to get to know them better.

I'd like to please remind our members and friends of the Season's Greeting card benefiting the scholarship fund. It is not too late! Don't forget, the bylaws state that no expenses can be deducted from the scholarship fund. Please continue to submit your contributions and signatures to me. I will accept them through the evening of the holiday party. December 5th is the deadline, with mailing of the card scheduled later in the month. If we are to continue awarding scholarships, we must ensure that there is adequate income. (Some of us do not even reimburse ourselves for expenditures made in the chapter's interest!)

To improve our records and to facilitate communications, we'd like to take a step forward to the futuristic, but practical and present reality. We request that members please forward to Denise Brock's attention their E-mail addresses and other pertinent updates for inclusion in the next roster. In addition to the feedback that we received at the board meeting, similar membership surveys for other organizations reveals that there is positive support in the usage of the electronic format for the ease and decreased cost of communicating with each other.

