



# Capital Chapter of ISCEBS

## 2009 Annual Meeting

### January 7, 2010

## President's Message

The Capital Chapter is now into its 3<sup>rd</sup> decade (21 years) of providing educational programs and networking opportunities for members of the local benefits community. It is a prominent local professional organization with an enormous potential for the future.

Frankly, 2009 was a very challenging year for a variety of reasons. The difficult economic times faced by our country as well as some other unforeseen issues were major factors that contributed to a year full of trials and tribulations. Nonetheless, we still managed to have a solid year with terrific educational sessions, networking opportunities and enthusiastic participation in the Chapter.

Here a few highlights from the past year:

- ◆ This year's annual all-day educational session was very successful, following last year's dual track approach, a retirement track and a healthcare track. We also had two excellent plenary sessions. Average rating from participants was 3.6 out of 4.0.
- ◆ For the all-day session we made our first move toward going "green". Instead of providing paper handouts we provided thumb drives with electronic copies of the presentations for all attendees.
- ◆ During our May meeting, we had the opportunity to meet and discuss Chapter issues and challenges with the leadership team from national ISCEBS.
- ◆ For the first time, we conducted an internal educational session on social media. This led us to venture into social networking for the Chapter by setting up sites on Facebook and Twitter. While we have not leveraged these tools to the extent possible we feel they will be an important vehicle for us to communicate with our members and other benefits professionals.
- ◆ We met our Membership Challenge goals (10% + 1) for the year
- ◆ Two of our Board members attended the national leadership training in Brookfield, WI. The rest of the Board was briefed so that we could use what was learned to our advantage going forward.
- ◆ Three of our Board members attended the annual Symposium in Las Vegas.
- ◆ We had three Board members that were not able to fully meet their respective duties due to other commitments. On the positive side, this allowed for Allison Dilling to step up from being an at-large Board Member to the position of Secretary.



## Educational Sessions:

The educational sessions we held included the following topics and speakers:

- ◆ Family and Medical Leave Act: What employers need to know?
  - Suzanne Quintero, Independent Benefit Services
- ◆ Social Media – What it is and Why You Need to Know About it (Internal Board Session)
  - Dawn Goldberg, Write Well University
- ◆ Annual All Day Program with tracks for Health & Welfare and Retirement
  - Plenary Sessions
    - Michael Rudnick, Watson Wyatt – Use of Social Media in Human Resources and Benefits
    - Kim Monk, Capital Alpha Partners, LLC – Health Care Reform: What’s at Stake for Employers?
  - Retirement Sessions
    - Tom Muldoon, AIF, Independent Benefit Services – Saving for Retirement in the Current Economy
    - Tom Muldoon, AIF, Independent Benefit Services – Communicating Retirement in Today’s Economy
    - Tom Muldoon, AIF, Independent Benefit Services – How to Select a Prudent QDIA
  - Health & Welfare Sessions
    - Lida Andrews, CVS Caremark – Specialty Pharmacy
    - Rick Jones, Esq., HFS Benefits – COBRA under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009
    - James Andretich, American Specialty Health – Health Coaching
- ◆ Legislative and Regulatory Overview and Legal Update
  - Randolph Hardock, Partner, Davis & Harman, LLP – Retirement Update
  - Kent A. Mason, Partner, Davis & Harman, LLP – Retirement Update
  - Vanda B. McMurtry, Partner, Davis & Harman, LLP – Health Reform
  - Seth Perretta, Partner, Davis & Harman, LLP – Health & Welfare Update

This year’s slate was smaller than usual and small than planned. Two other sessions were planned but cancelled. The April session, Retirement Benefit Issues in the Current Economy was cancelled due to low enrollment related to a technical issue with getting the announcement out to all of our members and prospective members. The September session, Retirement Communications Program was cancelled due to scheduling issues with the intended speakers.

## Financial Report:

The Capital Chapter had a very challenging year financially. The current cash balance is \$1,623.81 with no outstanding checks or transactions. We also have two Certificates of Deposit. One is worth \$3,853.05 and the other is worth \$3,782.51. Total assets for the



Chapter equal \$9,259.37. While total assets are at an acceptable level, liquidity is an issue. Therefore, the Chapter will be looking for ways to increase the cash balance in 2010. Issues that resulted in a cash drain included:

- ◆ Less educational sessions in 2009 than in previous years
- ◆ Lack of sponsorship for educational sessions
- ◆ Provision of thumb drives to participants of the All-Day session
- ◆ Symposium expenses
- ◆ Higher than anticipated catering costs at the legislative update session

I would like to personally thank Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield for sponsoring our All-Day session and the following companies for providing us with conference room facilities during the year:

- ◆ Davis & Harman, LLP
- ◆ FDIC
- ◆ Watson Wyatt

We hope these companies, as well as others, will partner with us in 2010 and beyond.

### Membership:

As a sign of the times that benefits professionals are busy, highly overscheduled types, local membership in the Capital Chapter continues to be relatively flat over the past several years. As mentioned previously, the Chapter did meet its' Chapter Challenge goals and the number of individuals in the DC metro area that attained designations was noticeably higher than in 2008, which should provide us more opportunity for membership growth.

### Recognition and Awards:

We would like to congratulate the following nine local students for attaining their CEBS (and other designations) announced in 2009:

CEBS	Alexander Faulds
CEBS	Marjorie M. Kress
CEBS	Mary F. Meeker, GBA
CEBS, CMS	Adam J. Taylor,
CEBS, GBA	Stefanie K. Haigh
CEBS, GBA	Kimberly A. Sutherland
CEBS, GBA	Kimberly A. West
CEBS, PFP	Sarah M. Baines
CEBS, PFP	William P. Schaefer



We would also like to congratulate the following twenty nineteen students who have completed one of the intermediate designations on their way to the CEBS designation.

CMS	Felicia W. Brogsdale
CMS	Stefanie K. Haigh
CMS	Marsha A. Piacente
CMS	Linda B. Silverman
GBA	Faith A. Blair
GBA	Alison M. Chwalek,
GBA	Alexander Faulds
GBA	Madeline A. Fleckenstein,
GBA	Marella Martine A. Genil
GBA	Douglas A. Mertes
GBA	Mollie L. Sledd
GBA	Kathryn E. Stuard
GBA	Zhiqin Wang
GBA	Christine S. Westcott
GBA	Shalom M. Wilburn
PFP	Laura K. Donovan
PFP	Laura L. Viehmyer
RPA	James T. Clagett
RPA	Erin M. Vardy
RPA	Shalom M. Wilburn

Congratulations to all for a stellar achievement!

We would also like to recognize our Virtual Assistant, Antonette Artiz, for her contributions throughout the year. She was instrumental in helping us getting session announcements distributed, coordinating the internal social networking session and setting up and organizing the rest of our educational sessions throughout the year.

I personally would like to commend my fellow board members for all of their hard work this. Generally, the Board was short staffed and faced quite a few unanticipated challenges. Being on the Capital Chapter Board isn't very lucrative so I greatly appreciate those who hung in there and gave an extraordinary effort.

It has been a pleasure meeting and working with all of you. The future of the Chapter is very bright and I look forward to making contributions as part of its continuing success.