



RICHMOND CHAPTER

# International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists

December 2008

RICHMOND CHAPTER

## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

*Sharon Jahn, CEBS*

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*Gary Powers, CEBS*

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*Susan Landside, CEBS*

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### BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE EDUCATION & PUBLICITY CHAIR

*Craig Rupert, CEBS*

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### BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE and MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

*Rick Owens, CEBS*

(804) 782-7553

### PAST PRESIDENT

*Mike Huennekens, CEBS*

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## President's Message

It's hard to believe that another year is quickly coming to an end. Another year of Open Enrollments, new ways to calculate wellness ROI's, retirement plan fees, updates on consumer driven health care, Form 5500's, a National Symposium and to top it off, we threw a Presidential election in there this year. Whereas each year brings us many new thrills and obstacles, the next few years could bring our industry some interesting changes. The recent economic crisis is reflected daily in the "bail outs", union negotiations, and pension and retiree plans that are being reduced and eliminated. Richmond, specifically, has seen its share of industries affected by this crisis. As these issues impact Richmond, we, as the employers, consultants, auditors, insurers and brokers need to be prepared to discuss the tough issues and their long term financial and personnel implications with top management.

The vast experience and knowledge that we, as benefits professionals, possess in our community is well founded. As members of Richmond Chapter's ISCEBS, we have had access to some fascinating educational topics this past year. Specifically, I would like to thank Lt. Governor Bill Bolling for coming to our annual meeting and giving us a lot to think about in the economic future for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have had opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our members through their completion of CEBS, GBA and RPA designations, as well as Fellowship exam completion. Over the past year, we have provided professional education to over 100 members and guests while providing opportunities to network and socialize.

As I complete this year as President of this chapter, I can only look back with a smile and feel pride in what our chapter has contributed to the education and professional development of those new to our profession and those of us more mature benefits professionals here in Richmond. I would like to thank all the members of the current board, Gary Powers, Claire Holbrook, Susan Landside, Cathy Rusch, Rick Owens and Craig Rupert for all their time, expertise, and sense of humor that led to such a successful year. I welcome and challenge the new board and committee chairmen to raise the bar and have another successful year. As the year ends and I must pass the hourglass to Gary, I can only quote a famous American, "thanks for the memories!" and may each of you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and the happiest of New Year's.



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## Membership Chairman's Message

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Membership Committee Chair for the Richmond Chapter this year. It offered me the opportunity to meet and get to know some new friends! I will be turning this role over to David Talbert come the first of the year.

Being a member of the local chapter entitles you to many great opportunities. There are reduced rates for educational programs and some programs meet the state requirement for credits towards Continuing Education (CE) credits for insurance agents, consultants, accountants, attorneys and other professionals. You also have the opportunity to network with other benefit professionals in the area to share your experience and to learn from others.

Recently you received your membership form for the 2009 year. If you have already completed it and mailed it in - thank you!! If not, please take the time to send in your membership. Whether you are a first time or a long time member – this is one way where you can take charge of your career and learning. You have worked hard towards obtaining your designation – let it continue to work for you.

In 2008, we had 65 members. This allowed us to have some great education programs and speakers. We can make 2009 even better. It is now easier than ever to become a member – anyone who has passed an exam can join the international society and the local chapter.

We would like to see our membership grow in 2009 – and you can help. Who do you know that has taken one of the exams, but has not become a member? Encourage them to join for 2009. The forms for membership can be found at: <http://www.iscebs.org/aboutISCEBS/join.asp>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Please have a safe and happy Holiday season and best wishes for 2009!!

Sincerely,

Rick Owens, CEBS  
Membership Chair  
804-782-7553  
Rick.owens@suntrust.com

### *Elected Officers for 2009*

President: Gary Powers, CEBS

Vice President: Craig Rupert, CEBS

Secretary: Claire Holbrook, CEBS

Treasurer: Rick Owens, CEBS

Board Member at Large: Cathy Rusch, CEBS (Sponsorship Chair)

Board Member at Large: Dave Werner, CEBS (Publicity Chair)

Board Member at Large: Dave Talbert (Membership Chair)

Past President: Sharon Jahn, CEBS

Amy Burgoyne, CEBS (Education Chair)

Have you visited the ISCEBS web site ([www.iscebs.org](http://www.iscebs.org)) lately?

You will be interested to know you have access to a wealth of information about:

- ISCEBS
- Local Chapter
- Job/Resume services
- Survey findings
- News Briefs and Benefits Quarterly
- Live Telewebs and recorded options
- ISCEBS news and Resources
- Library/information center

If you have not been to the site lately, we encourage you to do so. To access the members-only site, enter your member number under the username and enter your last name (all lower case) as your password.