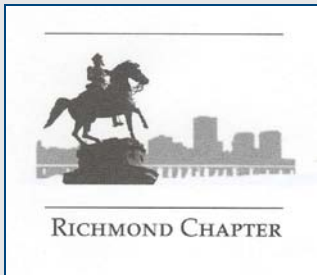




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SPECIALISTS

February 2012

ISCEBS RICHMOND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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rick.owens@suntrust.com
(804) 782-7553

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dzapf@mcguirewoods.com
(804) 775-7333

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tstevens@vmlins.org
(804)237-7311

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jnphan@cvt.com
(804)418-6668

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aimee.mcafee@mercer.com
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jhuntzinger@scottins.com
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Sarah.Phillips@capitalone.com
(804)658-8006

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claire.holbrook@wellsfargo.com
(804) 267-3190

President's Message

I want to wish each of our chapter members, as well as all others who receive our newsletter, a very happy and successful new year on behalf of the Board of the Richmond ISCEBS chapter! I was recently talking with a friend of mine who was glad to see 2011 in the rear view mirror. As I reflect on 2011, I agree that 2011 had challenges that I would be very happy to not have repeated. But at the same time, the challenges I faced in 2011 hopefully made me a better person and better benefit professional. It made me think of lyrics from a Billy Joel song - "The good ole days weren't always good and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems."

Being the optimist I hope I am, tomorrow presents many opportunities. Of course, being prepared for these opportunities will help me get the most from them. In my professional life, the ISCEBS and the Richmond Chapter will provide me with numerous learning opportunities. In addition to the classes I may take, the Richmond Chapter offers many educational sessions. In February, we are having an update session to the 401(k) fee disclosure requirements. Our April and June sessions will be focused on health and welfare. June will be a full day session and offering continuing education credits. In September, we will shift to retirement with our half day session. This will also provide continuing education credits. Our program schedule is posted on our website, <http://iscebs-richmond.org>. Take this time to mark your calendars.

I joined the Richmond Chapter in 2006. In that time, two aspects of the chapter stand out. Our program schedule has been outstanding. We have had experts from local companies sharing their knowledge and best practices. As impressive as our sessions have been, they cannot be successful without the people we have as members. Our chapter has grown over the past several years – which is phenomenal given the economy. We need to ensure that we continue to grow that strength. This is where I need your help. If you have not already done so, please consider membership in the Richmond Chapter for 2012. Next, don't be selfish. Who do you know that would benefit from the education sessions and networking opportunities within the Chapter? Invite them to a session. Encourage them to take an exam.

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Visit our web site anytime for up-to-date chapter information: <http://iscebs-richmond.org>

President's Message, Continued from page 1

I am looking forward to 2012 and the opportunities it will lay in front of me. I am extremely fortunate to be working with our current board of Denise, Tina, John, Aimee, Sarah and James. Claire, as our past president, continues to provide me leadership making my transition very easy.

I look forward to seeing you at our sessions! Best of luck in 2012.

In case you are wondering, the Billy Joel song was "Keeping the Faith".

Rick Owens, CEBS
President, Richmond Chapter ISCEBS

Please Join Us for the February Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, February 9, 2012
11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Lunch will be served

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Kate Marriott 401(k) Fee Disclosure Update
Partner
Williams Mullen

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Location: Westwood Racquet Club
6200 West Club Lane
(804) 288-6028

Cost: Members – \$15 Non-members - \$25

Questions Please RSVP by February 7th
/
Aimee McAfee
RSVP: Aimee.McAfee@mercer.com
804-344-3763

**Register
and Pay
Online**

<http://iscebs-richmond.org/index.cfm?display=pages&pageid=7511&sub=1>

OR

Make checks payable and mail to: Richmond Chapter-ISCEBS
P.O. Box 6513, Richmond, VA 23230
Or you may pay at the door, if you have RSVP'd.

Join us on LinkedIn:

http://www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory?itemaction=mclk&anetid=1701417&impid=&pgkey=anet_search_results&actpref=anetsrch_name&trk=anetsrch_name&go back=%2Egdr_1302279957208_2

Membership Report

This year's membership drive is in full effect and runs through March of 2012. In 2011, we had 69 members in our Richmond Chapter which makes us one of the largest local ISCEBS chapters. We are very proud of our membership and want our membership to grow as membership supports our many activities and educational events throughout the year. We have many great events planned for 2012, and you won't want to miss out!

Renewing is easy to do online at <https://www.iscebs.org/About/Pages/isapp.aspx>. You can also fax your application to 262-786-8650 or send a hard copy to ISCEBS, P.O. Box 209, Brookfield, WI 53008-0209.

If you know of someone who may be interested in joining or learning more about the ISCEBS program, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support of ISCEBS and your local Richmond Chapter. Hope to see at one of our events soon!

Sarah Phillips, CEBS
Membership Chair

Member Spotlight

Sarah Phillips

**Current Employer**

Capital One

Background

I'm originally from Fairfax County and went to school at Lynchburg College where I majored in math. After college, I didn't want to return to NoVa and all the traffic, so I moved to Richmond and never looked back. I currently live in Carytown and am looking forward to my upcoming wedding to my amazing fiancé, Kelly.

Favorite Richmond restaurants

Carytown Sushi, Amour Wine Bistro, Ginger Thai. But honestly, there's no restaurant I enjoy more than making a nice meal at home and having a few friends over to enjoy.

Activities/Interests

I like biking on the Capital Trail and can't wait until it's fully completed! I actually enjoy yard work, but also spend my spare time working out, visiting historical sites around Richmond, visiting wineries, and spending time on the river with friends.

What got you into the benefits field?

I started off as a high school math teacher in Chesterfield County. After a few years, I decided to venture into the corporate world and subsequently got a job at Mercer. Thus began my journey into the benefits field.

How has the CEBS designation helped you?

The CEBS designation has helped develop me as well-rounded benefits professional. Although I have focused on retirement throughout my career, the knowledge gained from the CEBS courses has given me the ability to add value and recommendations to our overall benefits strategy, rather than just my area of specialty.

Join us on LinkedIn:

http://www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory?itemaction=mclk&anetid=1701417&impid=&pgkey=anet_search_results&actpref=anetsrch_name&trk=anetsrch_name&go back=%2Egdr_1302279957208_2