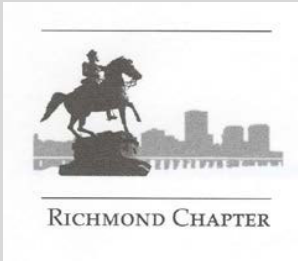




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SPECIALISTS

February 2015

ISCEBS RICHMOND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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deborah.foster1@wellsfargo.com
(804) 267-3174

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mriley@ksphllc.com
(804) 200-6891

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rfelts@varetire.org
(804) 771-7398

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robinsonj@hunton.com
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hkeeton@bbandt.com
(804) 678-5067

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Aimee.mcafee@mercer.com
(804) 200-6891

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sjahn@mcvh-vcu.edu
(804)827-1689

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Tina Stevens, CEBS
tstevens@fmlins.org
(804) 237-7311

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of the Richmond ISCEBS chapter, I want to wish each of our chapter members and all of those who receive our newsletter, a very happy, healthy, and successful new year! It is scary to realize how quickly time passes, but I for one am glad that 2014 is behind us. As I reflect on it, I find it hard to remember a year in my working career that was more challenging from a professional standpoint or that I would be happier not to repeat. That being said, the many challenges faced by most of us in the benefits world with regard to the Affordable Care Act and balancing everything else, may have prepared us well to meet new challenges ahead.

The 2015 Board has been busy planning our educational sessions for this year. In fact, we met in December 2014 and again at our regular monthly meeting in January to work on the topics and speakers for those meetings. My thanks go out to Mary Riley, Jean Robinson, Rebecca Felts, Aimee McAfee, Sharon Jahn, Hillary Keeton, and Tina Stevens for the work you have already done and the work you will do in the year ahead. We have a fine Board this year, and the steady support and leadership of our past President, Tina Stevens. I also want to thank Craig Rupert for serving as our webmaster—what a great asset he is to our organization.

In February we are planning a session on Crisis Communication in the Workplace. Our April session is also shaping up to focus on the topic of communications. The June full-day Health & Welfare program will include a presentation of Mercer's annual survey results as well as an update on healthcare reform in addition to several other interesting sessions (yet to be finalized). September will bring our half-day retirement program with topics related to retirement readiness. Remember that you will receive CE and HRCI credits for the June full-day and the September half-day sessions. All of the chapter's educational sessions are eligible for CPE credit. Our program schedule is posted on our website, <http://iscebs-richmond.org>. Take this time to mark your calendars, and to invite your co-workers and others to these important learning opportunities.

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President's Message, Continued from page 1

Have you been putting off your ISCEBS renewal? Many of you probably wait until the first of the year and a new budget cycle to ask your employer to pay for your ISCEBS and Richmond chapter renewal, but now is the time to stop procrastinating and act on your renewal. If you are not already a member of the Richmond chapter and you are a graduate of the CEBS program or you hold the GBA, RPA or CMS designation, or you are an active CEBS student with at least one exam completed, I urge you to take advantage of the services available to members through ISCEBS by joining the Society and the Richmond Chapter. Special rates apply for new graduates, retirees and unemployed members. [Renew/Join Now](#)

In closing my first message as President of the Richmond ISCEBS chapter, I want you all to know that I am looking forward to the challenges, the learning and the fun that we will have together in 2015.

Deborah C. Foster, CEBS
President, Richmond Chapter ISCEBS

Please Join Us for the February Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, February 12
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Lunch provided

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Hollie Cammarasana, Director of Communications, VMLIP
Thomas Bullock, Law Enforcement Specialist, VMLIP
Crisis Communication

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

Questions/RSVP: Please RSVP by
February 9 to
Hillary Keeton,
hkeeton@bbandt.com
(804) 678-5067

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 responded.

Join us on LinkedIn:

http://www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory?itemaction=melk&ametic=1701417&impid=&pgkey=anet_search_results^actpref=anetsrch_name&trk=anetsrch_name&goback=%2Egdr_1302279957208_2

Membership Report

I want to take a moment to thank everyone reading this for your continued interest and support in the International Society for Certified Employee Benefits Specialists and the local Richmond Chapter. We are a team of volunteers who keep this chapter running, and we couldn't be successful without YOU! If you have already renewed for 2015 or have become a member of the ISCEBS and the Richmond Chapter for the first time in 2015, we thank you.

In 2015 the Richmond Chapter will be participating in a Membership Challenge with the National ISCEBS office. In 2014, our membership was 67 members. Our challenge for 2015 is to increase our membership by 5% or 10%. We are excited to try to bring our membership to 74 members, but we cannot do this without your assistance. Currently, we only have 42 members that have paid their 2015 dues. If you were a member in 2014 and have not had a chance to renew your membership, please take a few minutes and do that today. If you have never joined before or you are a student or recent graduate, please join today. With this membership, you receive invaluable educational events (see Education article in this newsletter) as well as networking opportunities with Richmond's finest and most experienced Benefits professionals throughout the year.

To join, you can save a step and enter your Richmond membership at the same time you join or renew your National membership. Choose Richmond as your local chapter and your membership will reach us. Please visit our website at <http://iscebs-richmond.org> to get started. Membership is \$40 per year. Membership is for those who have earned, or are students for, the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS), Group Benefits Associate (GBA), Retirement Plans Associate (RPA) and Compensation Management Specialist (CMS) designations.

We look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Sharon Jahn, CEBS, CMA
Membership Chair

Join us on LinkedIn:

http://www.linkedin.com/groupsDirectory?itemaction=mclk&ametic=1701417&impid=&pgkey=anet_search_results^actpref=anetsrch_name&trk=anetsrch_name&goback=%2Egdr_1302279957208_2

Member Spotlight
Claire Holbrook,
CEBS



Current Employer:

Wells Fargo Insurance

Background

I was born and raised in Hanover County and have spent the majority of my life there. After graduating from the College of William and Mary I returned home to work. After a couple of entry-level positions with local firms, I was hired by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Virginia (now Anthem, of course) as an underwriter. I left Anthem to work as the Employee Benefits Manager at Signet Bank. When Signet was acquired by Wachovia, I went to work for United Healthcare. I moved to consulting in 2001 when I was hired by Palmer & Cay (now Wells Fargo Insurance). I am currently a Senior Vice President and the local Employee Benefits Practice leader for Wells Fargo. I have a grown son, two step-children, and four grandchildren. I recently became engaged and while I don't have specific plans, I hope to get this done in 2015!

Favorite Richmond Restaurants

I love to eat out, and as many of my friends know, I do so frequently! My current favorite restaurants include Bonefish (try them for Sunday Brunch!), Glory Days, Mekong, and Sushi-O.

Activities, Interests

I enjoy working out, visiting with friends, reading, and watching football and college basketball. I would love to travel more but that just doesn't seem to fit into my schedule these days.

What got you into the benefits field?

It was not by design. I needed to change jobs because I was marrying a man who worked at the same firm. I was hired as an underwriter at what was then Blue Cross Blue Shield of Virginia. It turned out to be a very good fit and grew from there.

How has the CEBS designation helped you

The CEBS designation provides an instant credibility in our field. Obtaining the designation was a great way to expand my knowledge of benefits from my initial background of health insurance to the many other components of employee benefits.