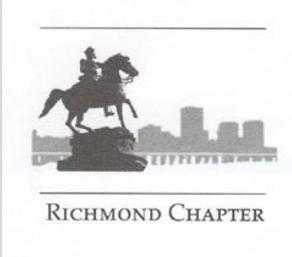




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SPECIALISTS

October 2014

ISCEBS RICHMOND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

The old saying "time flies when you are having fun" certainly applies to my year as the President of the Richmond Chapter, ISCEBS. Any role we take on requires a commitment of time and energy. When that role is a volunteer role, you really hope to get a return on what you have put into the effort. I can honestly say that my year as president was very rewarding. I greatly appreciate the support I have received from the other board members and encourage any chapter member to consider getting more involved.

It is now time for our annual chapter meeting which will be held on November 13; this is a breakfast meeting. We will elect new officers for the 2015 Board, recognize membership anniversaries and conduct other chapter business. We have a very special speaker for this session - Sean Pumphrey, Founder and Brewer at Lickinghole Creek Craft Brewery. www.lickingholecreek.com. Too bad it's a breakfast meeting; otherwise we could ask for samples!

Looking back, the 2014 Board accomplished a lot and leaves a legacy of enhancements to the website. We added the minutes from all the board meetings since 2012 as well as creating and posting job descriptions for each board position. If you have not visited it recently, please check out our very comprehensive [website](#). We also implemented a "green initiative" of recycling the binders from our full day and half day sessions if attendees did not need to keep them.

All of our educational sessions this year were very well attended. Early in the year, the entire board contributed to developing our educational calendar and session outlines. As Education Chair, Mary Riley did an outstanding job of making all the arrangements for each session from selecting meals to putting together the materials and binders. Mary also completed her CEBS this year! Aimee McAfee is our reigning queen of sponsorship. She is responsible for soliciting an all-time high record donation from our wonderfully generous sponsors. Mike Finnegan did a marvelous job as our money man, keeping track of the chapter's finances, balancing our checkbook monthly, paying our bills timely and presiding over the registration table at each meeting as well as creating the name tags for each session. Jean Robinson served as our dedicated secretary this year, taking notes for the minutes at our board meetings, creating our newsletters and sending out the invitations to all our chapter events. Jean also attended the Symposium Leadership session and brought back a wealth of information for the current and future boards to utilize.

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President's Message, Continued from page 1

Brian Marks kept our membership numbers high with renewing members and made sure that members and prospective members know the benefits of membership in the chapter. As Vice President, Debbie Foster was my indispensable right hand this year. She hosted our October session and took care of all the arrangements and details for the Chapter Social. Debbie also attended the Leadership Conference in Brookfield, Wisconsin, meeting with other chapter leaders from across the country. I want to thank Denise Zapf, our immediate Past President, for all her years of service to the board and for mentoring me and guiding our board this year. Also, the detailed information she passed along when I became president made my job so much easier. Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank Craig Rupert for his never ending support of the chapter. Craig serves as our webmaster and chief proof reader for all the board communications. I also want to thank each member of the Richmond Chapter ISCEBS. Your membership allows us to keep putting on regular educational sessions to benefit us all in our day to day work. If you have not already, please be sure to renew your membership for next year and encourage other benefit professionals you may know to attend a meeting and learn more about our thriving chapter.

The board is already planning for next year. If there are specific topics that you would like us to address, please let us know—this is your chapter! Thank you for the opportunity to lead this organization. It has truly been a pleasure.

Sincerely,

Tina Stevens, CEBS, SPHR
President, Richmond Chapter ISCEBS

Please Join Us for the November Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, November 13
7:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast provided

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Speaker: Sean Pumphrey, Founder and Brewer
Lickinghole Creek Craft Brewery**

Other Business:

- **Election of new officers to the Board for 2015**
- **Recognition of individuals who attained a designation**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

Questions/RSVP: Please RSVP by
November 7 to Mary Riley,
mriley@ksphilc.com
(804) 200-6891

Register and Pay Online: Members and Chapter
Sponsors – No Charge

All others \$20

<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

There are many benefits to membership in ISCEBS and our local Richmond chapter. Here are the top four:

Networking: Local chapter events, ISCEBSLink list serve, and face-to-face interaction, and the Symposium provide a wide variety of networking opportunities.

Current Information: Information Center, Benefits Quarterly, e-learning and webcasts have the information you need to stay current with industry trends and changes.

Professional Difference: A variety of continuing education avenues are available for earning ISCEBS fellow status.

Strength in Numbers: There are more than 14,000 CEBS graduates plus another 15,000 GBA, RPA or CMS designation holders. You are part of an elite group of benefits professionals, and the Society is your association.

Join ISCEBS and the Richmond chapter—or renew your member—so that you can receive these benefits.

Regards,

Brian Marks, CEBS
Membership Chair

Member Spotlight Mary Riley, CEBS



Current Employer:

KSPH, A Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company

Background:

I grew up in Chester, Virginia. My 92 year old mom still lives in our family home. After graduating from William and Mary with a degree in Business, I moved to Richmond, where I met my husband, Lyle, when he almost ran me over in the church parking lot. We lived in the city for several years before buying our dream home on several acres in western Powhatan. Good bye city life!

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Join us on LinkedIn:

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Member Spotlight (continued from page 3)

Mary Riley, CEBS

Favorite Richmond Restaurants:

I work in Innsbrook and really enjoy **Taziki's Mediterranean Café**. Since I live in Powhatan, I must invite everyone out to **The County Seat**. On Saturday mornings, I love to order their breakfast bar – which includes favorites like baked apples, biscuits with sausage gravy and grits! Powhatan is still pretty quaint, and I enjoy talking with neighbors and friends who have also gathered there for a big breakfast. You don't have to eat again until supper! If you sit by the window, you may actually see a resident riding a horse down the street.

Activities, Interests:

I live on a hobby farm (another name for a farm that produces no income!) Lyle and I are the proud parents of two horses, four dogs, 30 chickens, a rabbit, a cat and a miniature donkey (Humphrey) who has his own pony (Bogart). Everyone needs a good buddy! I am always to work on time thanks to my alarm clock – McNugget, my rooster. In the past, we have also raised turkeys, guineas, ducks, geese, peacocks and goats. My favorite spot in the whole world is my front yard. I love to watch the sun set as my horses graze in the pasture. For me, this is heaven on earth! I grow many varieties of flowers and love to cut them and make bouquets for friends and family. I hope to have a cut flower farm one day. I also try to take garden classes whenever possible. When I am not doing my farm chores, Lyle and I enjoy attending antique auctions, especially those held on farms. I also cherish the times I can get together with my girlfriends for tea.

What got you into the benefits field?

I began my career in mortgage banking (I can remember mortgage rates in the high teens!) but landed in Human Resources after receiving guidance from a career counselor. I was working in a large human resources department that had an opening for a benefits specialist. I knew little about benefits, but ended up liking the work and especially enjoyed helping employees understand and “make the most of their benefits”. Also, in the benefits world, there is always something new to learn!

How has the CEBS designation helped you?

I just recently obtained my CEBS designation at the end of September and I can't tell you how happy (and relieved) I am to finally have this designation! When I began as a benefits specialist many years ago, obtaining the CEBS was something I wanted to do, but life just got in the way. And the thought of having to take 10 exams (now reduced to 8) was a little intimidating. I appreciate how the ISCEBS has set up the courses now so you can obtain mini-designations (GBA, CMS, RPA) along the way as you work towards your CEBS. This was a big encouragement to me and really helped keep the momentum going! I do not have a background in compensation management or retirement and the course material I studied has given me a better understanding of these practices. But most of all, starting my CEBS studies introduced me to a great bunch of folks in the Richmond Chapter ISCEBS. The personal connections and friendships I have made over the last few years are priceless! If you haven't started to work on your CEBS designation, I hope you will consider doing so soon!

Join us on LinkedIn:

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