



RICHMOND CHAPTER

International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists

October 2008

RICHMOND CHAPTER

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President's Message

In these now troubling economic times, we, as benefits professionals are now becoming tools and resources for employees, executives, and plan administrators. We can provide help to each of those groups through education and communication tools. It is more important than ever to step up and use our knowledge of economics, and health care to curb any excess "enthusiasm" that our clients and employees may begin to feel. As an employer, I have already begun to experience employees that are requesting to reduce the tax deferred savings. Are these employees reacting to market situations or are they reacting to household finances that may require more income to prevent foreclosures? How will the outcome of the upcoming elections impact both of these major issues? It's all about putting ourselves, as benefits professionals, into the situation and then becoming part of the solution.

Since you are lucky enough to be associated with the Richmond Chapter, ISCEBS, you can share in some upcoming educational sessions that will enable you to learn more about the elections. Please mark your calendars for October 9 at 11:45 am and join us for Dr. Robert Holsworth, Professor of Political Science, Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University while he presents "**The 2008 Election: What Will Happen, and Why**". We had a great turnout at the social last week which gave us a great opportunity to recognize a few of our local members that have had CEBS accomplishments over the last year.

I recently attended the ISCEBS National Symposium, and would like to thank the chapter for graciously providing me with this opportunity. For any of you that have never attended this symposium, I highly encourage you to consider it next year. It is two and a half days of speakers, focusing on education. This year, there was a great selection of national speakers on the economic times, the health care situation, important legal decisions from the past year and case studies of employers/plans that have implemented exciting new plans. This year, the symposium also offered a local speaker from the Richmond Chapter. On Tuesday, Kevin Barger, CEBS (Anthem) presented on "**A Different Look at Defining Value Health Care**." His presentation went very well and was well received. Check out the guy at the podium in the picture on page 3. It was also a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with fellow Richmond Chapter members. On the last evening of the symposium, we gathered for a dinner on the Boardwalk at Disney with myself, Rick Owens, Anne Strine, Kevin Barger, and Michael Moore. This is a chapter tradition that was started a few years ago and we work hard to keep it going every year.

As we get ready for the new year, we are providing the slate of officers for next year. We are still interested in filling committee chairman positions for Education and Publicity. These are great opportunities to do more for the local chapter. Elections will be held at our annual meeting on November 13th. We will welcome Lt Governor Bill Bolling to give us his perspective on "**The Challenges and Opportunities Facing Virginia**." We look forward to seeing you there.

Proposed Slate of 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
Board Member at Large: Dave Werner, CEBS
Board Member at Large: Susan Landsidle, CEBS
Past President: Sharon Jahn, CEBS

Please Join Us for the October 9, 2008 luncheon meeting!

Presentation: "The 2008 Election: What Will Happen, and Why"

Program:

Luncheon

Speaker: Dr. Robert Holsworth
Professor of Political Science
Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
Virginia Commonwealth University

Date and Time: Thursday, October 9, 2008
11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Lunch served

Location: Westwood Racquet Club, 6200 West Club Lane

(804) 288-6028

Cost: \$25 (\$15 for members of the Richmond Chapter of ISCEBS)

Please RSVP: By October 6, 2008 to Craig Rupert (crupert@rcmd.com or 804-237-5910) or Claire Holbrook at claire.holbrook@wachovia.com or (804) 267-3190).

Questions: Contact Craig Rupert, CEBS, at 804-237-5910, or e-mail crupert@rcmd.com.

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

Note: Meeting fees are non-refundable unless cancellation is received before September 5, 2008. **Unpaid no-shows will be billed.**

Mark Your Calendar For The Following Upcoming Chapter Events in 2008!

November 13, 2008
Annual Meeting (Breakfast) 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Westwood Club

Speaker:

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling
“Challenges and Opportunities facing Virginia”

Membership Chairman’s Message

Last week, I was at the ISCEBS Annual Symposium in Orlando FL. It was a great conference and I would encourage you to attend next year. While there were many things I took away from the event, one item was clear – be prepared for change. Given the volatility in the financial markets and the upcoming election one thing is true – the rules are changing. So, as benefit professionals, we have two choices: adapt with the changes or get left behind!!

The ISCEBS is also making some changes – and one is with the Society membership. Effective January 1, 2009, anyone who has passed at least one CEBS exam and is still “active”, can become a member of the Society and take advantage of all its benefits.

When you receive your renewal information in a few weeks, please make a copy and share it with a colleague. As a member, you are already in a great position to take advantage of the learning opportunities and you will be prepared to “go with the flow” as the changes occur in 2009 and beyond. Why not bring someone along for the ride!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

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



Richmond chapter member Kevin Barger speaks at the 2008 ISCEBS Symposium in Orlando.

Have you visited the ISCEBS web site (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.



Richmond chapter members and guests enjoy dinner together at the Symposium. From left: Anne Strine, SunTrust; Sharon Jahn, CEBS, VCU Health System (Chapter President); Rick Owens, CEBS, SunTrust (Membership Chair); Michael Moore, CEBS, Genworth Financial; Kevin Barger, CEBS (Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield).