

❖ Consultants in Minnesota ❖

January 2002

President's Message

By Randy Hayman

Greetings All!

Thank you to the organizers of the December Christmas gathering - Joan Barnes, for the logistics work, securing the meeting place, and for her traditional Swedish holiday cheer; thank you to Bill McTeer for organizing the 'Who am I' socialization activity; thank you to Larry Bremer for acting as treasurer at the gathering; and thanks to everyone for making this holiday gathering successful and enjoyable.

Congratulations to <the who am I winner>, and to David Skarjune for "ferreting" out your personna in the animal kingdom, time and again!

This gathering celebrated our local chapters' 20th anniversary, making us one of the longest running ICCA local chapters. In the coming year one of the topics we would like to explore as a group is the feasibility of our local chapter providing its own health insurance group plan to our members. We will be asking for your input on the plans you have and the options you would prefer. I'm not even sure we can legally do this, but that's one of the items we'll research. In the mean time, you may wish to use www.ehealthinsurance.com to get information on what plans are available to you and what plans are available for your business based on your zip code. I spent about twenty minutes at that site and found 13 plans available for myself and my family, plus about ten plans available

for my business.

Our January meeting is our Vendor's/ Broker's Fair. This meeting is where companies that look for Independent Consultants to put to work, present their company and the work they do. Afterwards, resumes and business cards are exchanged. If you are looking to expand your network and increase your opportunities for contracts, this is another meeting you can not afford to miss.

Thank you all for participating in the success of our chapter!

Wishing you a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Chapter Approves Bylaw Amendments

By Bill Buending

Thank you for promptly returning your ballots. We will make it official at the January meeting, but for now, you overwhelmingly approved all bylaw changes. 37 ballots were sent out, and at the time this is written 19 were returned, so we reached our 50% of member organizations voting with a mail ballot. All of the 23 amendments were approved 100%, except one which only received a 94.7% approval. (These numbers might change slightly, if additional ballots are received before the January meeting.) Thanks again for your help with this necessary Chapter business.

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Newsletter of the

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INDEPENDENT
COMPUTER
CONSULTANTS
ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Chapter



(More Than You Ever Wanted to Know About)

ICCA Minnesota

By Ben Moyle (08/28/1998)

[Reprinted with permission from the Sep/Oct98 issue of The Independent. Editor]

The ICCA Minnesota Chapter was formed in May 1981, when Steve Epner, founder of ICCA started telling people to call me to find out where the first meeting was being held. It was news to me, I thought we'd only discussed finding out if there were enough national members in the area to make it worth considering.

I think there were 10 people at the first meeting, but it grew fairly quickly to 25 or so. It seems like the chapter has almost always had around 40 members, except for the very beginning and for a few years after Section 1706 (of the Tax Reform Act of 1986) came out, when, like ICCA nationally, the chapter nearly doubled in size due to the interest in fighting that law, and perhaps to some extent the publicity it afforded us all. But it dwindled back down after a few years.

The chapter has always met monthly, continuously since 1981, and the meetings are almost always dinner meetings, rotating between Tuesday and Thursday of a particular week of the month, a concept I picked up from other associations. The location also floats, alternating between two sites in different quadrants of the Twin Cities for most years. Although the chapter considers all of Minnesota its territory, and has had members from Wisconsin and

Iowa also, nearly all of the members have been in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, but that is still a large area, a non-trivial drive from one extreme to the other. The meeting format is social hour, dinner hour, presentation and/or business meeting hour.

Chapter dues are currently \$75 per year.

The chapter newsletter has always been mostly a next meeting announcement, plus recap of what happened at last meeting, and/or description of what chapter president or newsletter editor did on their summer vacation; literally a letter.

ICCA Minnesota has hosted one regional conference, and one National Conference (1997). We've probably had more than our share of National Board sentences, terms. Yours truly was on what's sometimes called the 'pre-Board Board', a group that Steve Epner more or less appointed until the first election transpired, then I served on the first elected Board, and later again via the Chapter President's Council (CPC) chair position. Dan Whealdon was National President, and Bill Buending and Bill Smale have also served on the National Board.

The chapter produces its own member directory every year, and also operates a referral service. The latter simply involves someone looking for a contractor, whether a broker, an end user, or a member with an opportunity he can't fill or needs help with, calling

the member managing the service, describing the position very briefly, which is then mailed to the members. Those meeting skill and schedule requirements call the service manager and are given the source's contact numbers. The referral service is described in a local computer newspaper 'calendar' section. This service used to be quite active, but in the last year for no known reason has had very few opportunity calls.

The chapter usually participates in one, some years two, local computer trade shows each year, members taking turns manning the ICCA booth for a couple of hours.

Perhaps what is most 'interesting' about the Minnesota Chapter is that it has never been very interesting. It's never been very big, but has never threatened to die from lack of members either. It has always had a core group which attends most of the meetings. Getting people to step up for officer positions each year has sometimes been worrisome, especially with such a small group to draw from. But there have never been any internal squabbles that I know of, the chapter checks don't bounce, and we've not been in trouble with National for getting creative with membership rules, advertising, etc. For 17 years and counting.

ICCA “Broker fair” and Annual Business Meeting

By Larry Bremer

ICCA Minnesota’s January 2002 meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15th, 2002, at the Lido Restaurant in Roseville, located about ½ mile north of Highway 36 at 2801 Snelling Avenue. The January meeting will consist of two parts, as it has for many years: the annual broker fair and the annual business meeting.

The popular broker fair invites companies in the business of placing computer consultants on contracts with others to network with us during the pre-dinner social hour and to give a 2 to 5 minute presentation on their company after dinner. (If you know a broker who might be interested, contact Larry Bremer ASAP at 763-553-1994 or via email at larry@cpcinonline.com).

The format of the evening is simple and relatively low-key. It will begin with a social hour at 5:30 PM, which is the best period of time for the brokers and consultants to get together for networking. There will also be a table provided for the brokers to leave brochures (about their services and products) and optionally a trinket or two as a take away for the consultants. The dinner (\$28.00 for the brokers) will begin at 6:30 PM and features the Lido Italian Buffet. Following dinner, the brokers will give their mini presentations. The brokers will be invited to leave prior to the annual meeting.

Broker reservations should be made with Larry Bremer 763-553-1994 and ICCA members and guests should make reservations with Joan Barnes at 651-257-2570.

Let’s get together and make the best of this great networking opportunity and meet some new contacts. See you on the 15th of January at the Lido in Roseville.



Meeting Reservations: Members may phone your reservation to Joan Barnes at 651-257-2570, **by 3:00 PM, Friday, January 11, 2002.** Non-members should mail this form to: ICCA Minnesota, c/o Norm Nelson, 2200 E 22nd St. Minneapolis, MN 55404-3165

Name: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Phone: () _____

Menu Selection: Lido Italian Buffet

Members \$25 Non-members \$28 x _____ = _____
 Late Charge \$2 x _____ = _____
 Enclosed is a check for: _____



Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 15, 2002

Broker Fair Italian Market Deli by Lido

2801 North Snelling Ave
(north of Rosedale)
651-636-9721

Social Hour at 5:30PM
Dinner at 6:30PM

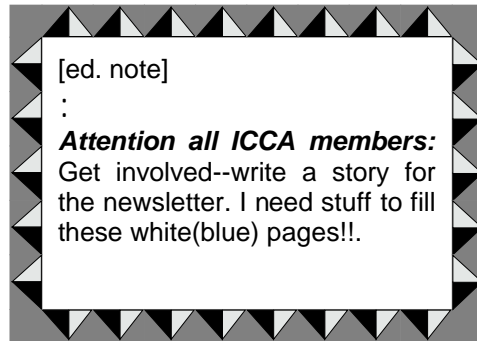
For reservations call
Joan Barnes @ 651-257-2570

FUTURE MEETINGS

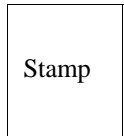
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