



Chapter Newsletter

February 2005



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MESSAGE FROM GORDON

In the January 2005 Chapter Newsletter, <http://www.canaudit.com/Newsletters/01-2005.pdf>, I detailed some very good programs that will benefit your chapter. In this current newsletter, I would like to discuss other professional development services Canaudit can provide to your chapter. But first, I would like to comment on a trend I've noticed over the last few years. It is getting harder and harder to keep the smaller chapters going. Just this year, the ISACA Leigh Valley chapter, which I've been working with for 20 years, folded. This is just one of several chapters that have ceased operations over the last year. I believe that these chapter failures are due to member apathy and the inability to recruit members to serve on the board.

I strongly believe that local IIA, ISACA and ISSA chapters offer a valuable service to the membership. In my opinion, the most important function of the chapter is to provide a forum to meet with peers to discuss common issues. Accounting fraud and irregularities are not restricted to just one or two organizations. Identity theft is not limited to customers of a single credit reporting service. These issues and concerns span all organizations. Auditors and security staff need a forum to discuss current threats, as well as new techniques to investigate and contain these threats. One of the best forums for this information exchange is the monthly chapter meeting. Informally discussing issues with peers enables the members to share certain situations, possible solutions, and, more importantly, some of the pitfalls that they have encountered along the way.

I am a firm believer in a quarterly meeting dedicated solely to moderator-led member focus groups. Not every member can attend a monthly meeting, but they can attend a quarterly focus group that is directed at their specific needs. To be effective, these focus groups should not simply rehash what is already known. New solutions to current business problems need to be generated through discussion and the examples of forum contributors. In order to expand member participation, the program must provide significant value to the member. If a member acquires solid information that they can take back to their organization, then their organization will likely sponsor their continued participation in the forums and other chapter events.



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