



**Your member resource for training, news, & announcements**

**Get Involved with the IIA FWC!**

**PROGRAMMING**

Plan CPE + networking events; assist with flyers, onsite support, food + beverage, speakers, and CPE reconciliation

**Works with: Programming Officer | Meets monthly, 30-60 min | Time: 1+ hr/month**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Help create/edit the bimonthly newsletter and support LinkedIn content, member interviews, posting, tagging, and engagement.

**Works with: Communications Officer | Meets bimonthly, 30-60 min | Time: 1+ hr/month**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Plan CPE + networking events; assist with flyers, onsite support, food + beverage, speakers, and CPE reconciliation

**Works with: Membership & Certifications Officer | Meets quarterly, 30-60 min | Time: 1+ hr/month**

**Email: [Chapter89@IIAChapterCommunications.org](mailto:Chapter89@IIAChapterCommunications.org)**

**Key Contents**

**Membership & Certifications**

Page 4

**FWC Chapter Events**

Page 5

**IIA HQ National Conferences**

Page 6

**Spotlights**

Pages 7 – 9

**SAVE THE DATE – JOIN US!**

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**ST. Pete Yacht Club**



**Location: 11 Central Ave, St. Pete**

**Date & Time: 10/17/26 6:00-10:00PM**

Be a part of an evening filled with comedy, good food, exciting prizes, and your local members + partners!

**FOLLOW**





# »»» IIA FWC – DID YOU KNOW?

## IIA QUALITY SERVICES

### Elevating Internal Audit Quality

#### Quality. Effectiveness. Confidence.

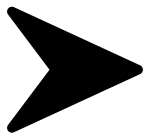
IIA Quality Services helps internal audit functions improve quality, effectiveness, performance, and stakeholder perception through experienced internal audit experts, benchmarking resources, and successful practices.

#### Assessment Options

Quality Services offers gap assessments, full-scope external quality assessments, and self-assessments with independent validation to help evaluate conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards.

#### Continuous Improvement

A strong Quality Assurance and Improvement Program, or QAIP, helps confirm that internal audit is meeting standards, achieving performance objectives, and continuing to improve.



Click here for more: [IIA Quality Services internal audit quality & effectiveness](#)

Gap Assessment | External Quality Assessment | Self-Assessment with Independent Validation

THANK  
you

to our sponsors who helped support our members with shared knowledge, expertise, and energy making this an outstanding year for us all!





# Membership & Certifications

## New Certifications



Feb - April 2026

Big congrats to each of our members recent outstanding achievements:

**Internal Audit Practitioner (IAP)**  
**Augustine Milanzi**

**Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)**  
**Amber Abel**  
**Mary Babinchak**  
**Eleanor Connell**  
**Aadesh Gandhre**  
**Michael Noriega**  
**Kierra Thomas**  
**Michael Walker**

## Welcome to our new IIA FWC Chapter Members:

Feb - Apr 2026

- Oris Bennett**
- Mike Bernhard**
- Laura Berry**
- Petra Blignaut**
- Marek Bochnik**
- Paloma Bolanos**
- Octavio Colon Rojas**
- Ashley Copeland**
- Peter Festante**
- Ismary Freitez de Cabrera**
- Connor George**
- Sara Heuer**
- Saemina Kwon**
- Franklin Likoudis**
- Taylor McMullen**
- Daniel Morris**
- Giovanni Moscato**
- Jessica Nguyen**
- Maggie Northcraft**
- Giselle Ortega-Broughton**
- Juan Ramirez**
- Eric Rann**
- Julio Rios**
- David Roever**
- Hillary Rogers**
- Don Rowe**
- Gabriel Sanchez**
- Bridgette Smith**
- Muskaan Udeshi**
- Samuel Washington**



## IIA Membership: Guidance, Growth, & Global Connections

IIA membership gives more than credentials. You get exclusive access to trusted guidance, global thought leadership, and cross-industry networking. Explore benefits to advance professional development keeping your skills and your career moving forward.

Dive into the full range of benefits!



[Explore Here](#)





Virtual

In-person

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

**REGISTER NOW**

### 5/21/26 – Chapter Smorgasburg: Ethics CPE, Annual Meeting, Internal Audit Month, & Member Appreciation

Location: **Virtual**

Time: **9:00 – 11:00 am**

Cost: **FREE for IIA FWC Members**

Register: **IIA FWC website** (deadline 5/20)



## STAY TUNED

Your IIA FWC chapter is gearing up for another engaging and productive year ahead. Your team is already hard at work planning for a fresh lineup of programming, new events, and learning opportunities designed to **inspire your ideas, connect you with others, and elevate your impact**. More details will be coming soon, so keep an eye out - (1) check your email, (2) follow on LinkedIn, and (3) check the IIA chapter website to stay as updated as possible!



**COMING SOON**

*New things are in the works - we can't wait to share them with you!*





## ➤➤➤ IIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



### May 14-15, 2026 | Guatemala City

This Latin America regional conference is designed to bring global perspective for senior audit professionals seeking business transformation and innovative assurance for regional organizations.



### Jun 22-24, 2026 | Singapore

Join the IIA in person **AND** virtually as they bring together experts from across the globe to address key and emerging issues impacting the profession.



### Jul 10, 2026 | Virtual, Only

The IIA's RISE Virtual Conference is the premier online event designed for internal audit leadership.



### Aug 17 - 19, 2026 | San Diego, California

Join us at GRC 2026 – in person **AND** virtually – to empower yourself to excel in today's fast-changing governance, risk, and control environment.

[Overviews](#)

## »»» IIA FWC Leader Spotlight

The **IIA FWC Leader Spotlight** segment shared details from our chapter leadership. The goal is to inform each of you about the people who volunteer to give back and to continuously improve your chapter experiences.

Get to know Deanna, one of your board governors, who wants to see our chapter engagement build and expand.



**DEANNA ARNOTT**

*IIA FWC Board of Governor*

### Q Tell us about who helped shape your approach?

**A** Several leaders have shaped my journey in meaningful ways, each leaving a distinct imprint on how I work and how I lead. Some taught me to ground my recommendations in practical, actionable insight. Others pushed me to communicate confidently with executives and to build and guide effective teams. I learned how to engage thoughtfully with the audit committee and how to navigate complex conversations with clarity and professionalism. And perhaps most importantly, a few reminded me that while the work matters, family comes first. Those lessons collectively shaped not only my career, but the kind of leader I strive to be.

### Q What inspired you to move to Internal Audit?

**A** I applied for an IA position at General Motors without prior audit experience and had to research the role just to understand what an auditor actually did. I was immediately drawn to it—the projects, discipline, collaboration, and exposure to the broader organization. It opened a new world. The role allowed me to understand the inner workings of numerous departments, build relationships I would not have otherwise formed, and deliver value that my partners appreciated.



The Institute of  
**Internal Auditors**  
Florida West Coast



See the FWC site for more  
Q&A spotlight details!



**Q What led to your involvement with the IIA?**

**A** I became involved with the IIA early in my career when I joined the IA department at General Motors. At the time, our CAE served on the IIA board, so participation was strongly encouraged—and I quickly realized how many valuable resources were available. I took full advantage of them, which ultimately motivated me to pursue the CIA. As my career has taken me to different cities, I've made it a priority to stay connected by getting involved with the local chapters wherever I've lived.

**Q Why did you seek a leader role?**

**A** When I moved to Florida, I wanted to find a meaningful way to get involved in the local IA community. Taking on a leadership role with the chapter felt like the perfect opportunity—not only to support and strengthen the chapter, but also to meet new people in my profession and build my network in a new city. Stepping into leadership allowed me to contribute, connect, and feel rooted in the community much more quickly.

**Q What has been your top priority?**

**A** My top priorities for the chapter this year center on strengthening our programming and ensuring we deliver meaningful value to our members. A key focus is supporting our programming goals by offering high-quality CPE events that provide practical, applicable insights internal audit professionals can use in their day-to-day work. I also want to continue building engagement within the chapter, creating opportunities for members to connect, learn from one another, and feel supported in their professional growth



**DEANNA ARNOTT**

IIA FWC Board of Governor



See the FWC site for more  
Q&A spotlights details!



See the FWC site for more  
Q&A spotlights details!

**Q** How has the FWC chapter impacted you?

**A** My involvement with the IIA FWC has given me opportunities to connect with other professionals in the field, share experiences, and learn from the diverse perspectives within our community. The chapter's programs and discussions have helped me apply practical learnings directly to my work, strengthening both my technical skills and leadership approach. Most importantly, being part of the IIA FWC has supported my commitment to continuous learning and staying engaged with the evolving needs of our profession.

**Q** What quote or motto impacts you?

**A** Listen to understand, not to repond.



**DEANNA ARNOTT**

IIA FWC Board of Governor

Get ready to mingle...

**OCT 17, 2026**

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

## »»» IIA FWC Member Spotlight

The chapter created the **IIA FWC Member Spotlight** series to share individual viewpoints and experiences. We want to highlight the PEOPLE part of why we join this professional network!

**THIS CAN BE YOU**



**YOUR NAME**

IIA FWC Member  
YOUR ROLE

**Q What is your current role & what do you enjoy most?**

**A** Share with us about what you do, where you do it, what you accomplish, and maybe even the group or team members who share your daily work.

Of all the things you do each day – what do you think is most interesting? Why?? What challenges do you love to tackle? What do you hope to learn?

Expand on your latest interests.

**Q How has the FWC chapter & IIA impacted you?**

**A** How did you find yourself involved with the IIA? Did someone guided you to the chapter? Who? How? Let your FWC community know! Are you interested in volunteering? Do you want to connect with the board? What ideas do you have? How can we help you in your professional development?

### 3 EASY STEPS:

1. **email us with your interests**
2. **we email you a form**
3. **you send your responses**



The Institute of  
**Internal Auditors**  
Florida West Coast



The Institute of  
**Internal Auditors**  
Florida West Coast

# **Connection**

## **‘Social Support’**

Each of us are in this group for many different reasons. Your IIA FWC chapter exists to create events and give you **support through connection.** We keep working hard to grow **your FWC LinkedIn page.**

Follow now and connect to:  
***events, jobs, members, leaders, mentors, partners, experts, internships, other IIA chapters, industry content...***

