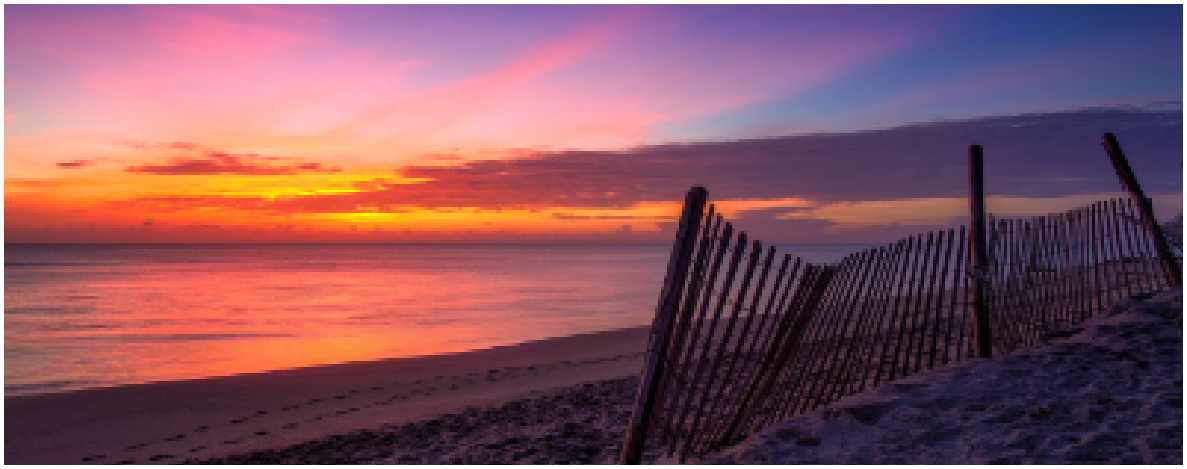
The Institute of Internal Auditors
Palm Beach County

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Dear Members and Colleagues,

As I conclude my term as President of the Palm Beach County Chapter, I have had the opportunity to reflect on a year centered on growth, collaboration, and building a stronger operational foundation for the chapter.

Over the past year, we worked to formalize processes, improve planning and communication practices, update governing documents, and create tools intended to better support future leadership and long-term continuity.

We also expanded professional development opportunities through additional CPE offerings, increased collaboration with other chapters and professional organizations, outreach to students and emerging professionals, and partnerships with organizations that support the advancement of our members.

This inaugural edition of the reimaniged chapter's newsletter is part of that broader effort - to improve communication, recognize member accomplishments, and keep our community connected and informed.

This year included many meaningful initiatives, including Audit Adventures 2.0, the CAE Roundtable, the FAU Career Fair, and other student outreach activities, and new chapter partnerships. These initiatives reflected a continued effort to strengthen the chapter's operations, programming, and member engagement.

I look forward to seeing the chapter continue to grow and thrive.

Elena Georgiev

In this newsletter you can expect:

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2026-2027 Chapter Leadership

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2026-2027 Chapter Leadership

The Palm Beach County Chapter is pleased to introduce its 2026–2027 leadership team. This group brings together a diverse range of experience across public and private sectors, with a shared commitment to advancing the internal audit profession and strengthening our local community. Focused on delivering meaningful programming, expanding professional development opportunities, and fostering stronger connections among members, the Board is dedicated to supporting the growth and impact of the chapter in the year ahead.

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Member Spotlight



Carol Yerian, CIA, MACC

Carol is a Business Performance Manager for CEMEX USA, bringing over a decade of accounting and auditing experience to an area of quickly evolving reporting and audit requirements. She is passionate about process improvement, teaching, and helping others grow in their careers.

Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in internal audit?
A: Like many auditors, I started my career in accounting, but I was always drawn to understanding how the numbers ended up arriving at me. I also pursued extracurricular courses in operations management and thrived in those courses — audit seemed like a natural path for both my skills and interests.

Q: How do you explain to friends and family what internal audit is?
A: It is challenging to avoid the stereotypical "business police." I prefer to explain (and work) in an advisory capacity—that internal audit provides an outsider's point of view to the business, with in-depth insight and context of the company's methods, goals, etc., that external auditors can rarely provide. Nothing against external auditors—they are incredible, juggling so many clients and industries!

Q: What is one skill that has helped you most in your career?
A: Persuasion. The most important component of persuasion is listening. If you can work to bring comfort to your stakeholder, be open to new knowledge, and truly take in what they share with you, then you have the best baseline to persuade them toward your recommended action. If our stakeholders never apply any part of our recommendations, then what was the point of the audit?

Q: What has been one of your most rewarding professional experiences?
A: I was once directed to inspect a portion of the business and become an expert, as none of my team members at the time had extensive knowledge of it. I was given the opportunity to dive in, connect, and collaborate with so many wonderful colleagues in my company at all levels—from janitorial staff to senior executives. Several months later, not only had I learned a major component of the company, but I was also able to build professional trust with many colleagues that, even six years later, I can still reach out to with questions or requests.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a member of the The Institute of Internal Auditors?
A: I appreciate the opportunity to teach others about the endless opportunities in internal audit. Like many accounting graduates, you end up believing there are only three paths—tax, external audit, or business

Member Spotlight (continues)

accounting. Had I understood the possibilities of internal audit earlier in my career, I'd likely have more years of it under my belt. I also enjoy organizing events and exercising professional muscles that rarely get to flex in a corporate auditing environment. Furthermore, you gain professional friendships.

Q: What is one goal you are currently working toward (professional or personal)?
A: Currently, I am in a period of my career where I am focusing on learning and expanding my knowledge and skills. I'm choosing to push through extra challenges that will ultimately expand my capabilities.

Personally, I have a long-term goal of sharing my skills to support educational programs focused on the arts. I was a double major in accounting and theatre in undergrad, with a goal of becoming a producer—I'd like to satisfy that dream while also helping build the dreams and skills of the next generation of artists and performers.

Q: Outside of work, what is something you enjoy doing?
A: Typically, I've been spending time with my toddler in recent years. In my limited free time, I enjoy playing tabletop games, brewery-hopping, going to restaurants, cooking, camping, hiking, and traveling. I routinely volunteer at the American German Club of the Palm Beaches, so you will find me there often serving drinks, keeping score at competitions (the perfect job for an auditor), and supporting their events in various roles. I am also quite crafty (painting, sewing, etc.) and enjoy any opportunity to be creative.

Q: What advice would you give to someone new to the profession?
A: Do scary things. When I was offered my first audit role, I was terrified when I accepted. It wasn't the first, nor the last time I would feel uncomfortable in my professional endeavors—but every time, I have come out the other side with new knowledge and confidence you can't get from a textbook. Just remember, when you are presented with something you think you may fail at, failure has incredible value. If failure is the worst-case scenario, then it is still worth pursuing rather than staying comfortable.



Certifications Corner

The Palm Beach County Chapter proudly congratulates our members who have recently earned professional certifications. Earning CIA and CRMA through the Institute of Internal Auditors shows our commitment to excellence, continuous learning, and advancing our profession. These accomplishments not only represent significant personal milestones but also strengthen the impact and credibility of the internal audit community as a whole. We celebrate your dedication and are proud to have you as part of our chapter.

Certified Internal Auditor (CIA):
Kewal Arjoon
Daniel Smith

Certification in Risk Management Assurance:

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The Palm Beach County Chapter is pleased to partner with Becker Professional Education to support members and students pursuing the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation and continuing professional education. As a reminder, Chapter members have access to discounted CIA exam review materials aligned with The Institute of Internal Auditors certification framework, designed to support effective preparation and successful completion of the program. Members can also take advantage of discounted CPE opportunities through Becker's flexible learning options, including on-demand courses, CPE-eligible podcasts, and live webcasts offered throughout the week.

www.becker.com/IIAPalmBeach

For those who prefer a local, in-person learning experience, the Chapter would like to remind members that CIA preparation courses are also offered by Florida Atlantic University. The University's CIA® program follows the The Institute of Internal Auditors recommended curriculum and is based on the CIA Learning System, providing a structured and comprehensive approach to exam preparation for those pursuing certification.

https://business.fau.edu/executive-education/professional-development/course-offerings/accounting-and-auditing/certified-internal-auditor-cia/index.php

As a reminder, eligible Chapter members may receive a $200 award upon successful completion of certification, subject to program requirements and availability of funds. Members must submit proof of certification and the required information for review and approval in accordance with the Chapter's established process.

Those interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact the Chapter at **Chapter217@iiacommunications.org** for additional information.



PBC Chapter News and Events

Coming soon...

This quarterly newsletter highlights current and planned activities; however, new events and opportunities may arise after publication. Be sure to follow our LinkedIn page and visit our chapter website to stay informed on the latest updates.



IIA HQ News and Events

2026 International Conference
June 22-24, 2026
Singapore & Virtual
Up to 39 CPEs

The IIA's 2026 International Conference brings together internal auditors, leaders, and influencers from more than 100 countries for a truly global learning and networking experience. Attendees will engage in immersive education, practical solutions, and forward-looking insights designed to address emerging risks and evolving expectations across industries and regions. It is a powerful convergence of visionaries, thought leaders, and practitioners—carefully crafted to drive innovation, elevate leadership, and shape the future of the internal audit profession worldwide.

2026 RISE Virtual Conference
July 10, 2026
Virtual
Up to 7.2 CPEs

The IIA's RISE Virtual Conference is the premier online event designed for internal audit leadership. Whether you head an internal audit function, manage a team, or are preparing for a senior role, you'll gain advanced strategies in Resilience, Innovation, Strategy, and Ethics to strengthen operational resilience and navigate emerging risks like cybersecurity.

Governance, Risk & Controls Conference
August 17-19, 2026
San Diego, CA & Virtual
Up to 28 CPEs

For the 13th year, The IIA and ISACA will bring together leading minds in governance, risk management and control (GRC) to deliver world-class content, innovative ideas, and practical guidance for today's risk environment. From emerging risks to evolving regulations, GRC 2026 equips professionals with actionable insights they can apply immediately.

Empower yourself to excel in today's dynamic GRC environment. Join us for the GRC 2026 Conference, 17-19 August in San Diego, California or virtually.

Quality Assurance

A Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) enables an evaluation of the internal audit activity's conformance with the Definition of Internal Auditing and the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards) and an evaluation of whether internal auditors apply the Code of Ethics. The program also assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal audit activity and identifies opportunities for improvement.

If you have questions about your Quality Assurance and Improvement Program or would like IIA Quality Services, LLC to conduct an external assessment, please contact IIA Quality Services at quality@theiia.org.

The Institute of Internal Auditors
Palm Beach County

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