



Dear NEW Chapter FEI Members,

Let's see, the chapter just finished its first month of the 20-21 season with 2 professional development (PD) sessions and 1 keynote session. The chapter also hosted its quarterly Peer Group meeting in August. Another month in the books! Same old, same old?
Yeah – right!

This isn't 'any other year' – this is the year of COVID and this little virus continues to affect our families, our jobs and yes, our chapter. Despite this virus, the chapter successfully hosted:

- 2 PD sessions – remotely (9/16 & 9/17)
- 1 keynote – attended by 20 people live and 85 remotely (9/22)
- August Peer Group Meeting – remotely (8/27)

These events were not the same as prior years – far from it. The sessions presented new logistical issues such as live-streaming and Zoom (who even heard of this word 12 months ago?), issues FEI NEW has never had to deal with in prior years.

These new issues were addressed – with – you guessed it – the help of our Strategic Partners. The Weidert Group, along with support from Innova Technologies, prepared us for the challenges ahead. The Weidert Group provided many hours of time helping Michelle Weiss deliver the keynote session timely and virtually. They provided complex and powerful videography equipment and technical expertise in order to ensure high quality presentations. Jeremiah School and his team at Innova were always available to assist and provided valuable counsel to the many technical questions we encountered over the past several months.

A special thanks to our Strategic Partners, Aon and Grant Thornton for developing and delivering two valuable and insightful PD sessions. Both presentations were well received and provided information that is helpful in our roles as finance leaders.

The 9/22 keynote session featuring Mary Goggans and Myriah Farrell of Encapsys was highly relevant and for me, inspiring. These two leaders delivered a message that was a mix of bootstrap 'get-er-done' action steps combined with a 'people first' backbone. They shared what worked and why. Their humility when acknowledging the items needing work was very refreshing. Thanks to Diane Roundy of Baker Tilly Search and Staffing for landing these two elite presenters.

Thanks again to Denise Kitzerow for her consistent support in organizing and moderating the Peer Group meetings that have become invaluable to many of our members.

As in prior years, our chapter has a full slate of PD, keynote and other chapter events to offer our members and their guests in the coming months. Our chapter has tremendous strategic partners, and, most importantly, our chapter has you as members.

Another month in the books! Same old, same old? Yeah – right!

If any of you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out directly to me or any of the leadership team.

Kind regards,

John E. Gustavson
2020-2021 President, FEI-NEW Chapter