

CIPFA North West Society

Presidents Blog – January



Happy New Year 2017!

You know that green faced emoji, the one that looks like it's going to be sick.....I have to say I did really enjoy new years eve. I was ill last year so I had a lot of making up to do. But here we are, back with increased vigour and excitement about what 2017 will bring.

January Council Meeting

Mixed feelings for me at the Council meeting this month as it was my last one as President. I love all the things I do for CIPFA, especially when I get great feedback from people saying how much they appreciate our support and the events we hold for them. But my two years are almost up and it's time to make way for Mike Thomas to take over the reins. Following our decision to review the Constitution, my word it sparked a lively debate at Council. It shows though how we want to make sure we've got it right and that we are operating under the correct governance processes.

We welcomed new Council Member Richard (Ric) Lee onto the Society this month. Ric works at KMPG who have been keen supporters of CIPFA in the past so we're glad to have him on board to give a different perspective on things

We also agreed upon a new communications strategy for the region. Council member Simon Rafaelli has become our comms champion and will ensure we have some interesting and informative content in our monthly newsletters and have something on the North West in Spreadsheet magazine each edition also. We are good at ensuring we do get content out every month and do have a presence in Spreadsheet each time but it's a bit ad hoc and last minute sometimes so now we have Simon on board, we will be much more organised!

Annual General Meeting

The date of our AGM has been set at Friday 31 March in Liverpool. We are currently waiting for venues to come back to us with availability and we will let you know as soon as we have confirmed the venue. We will have a full packed agenda though with several interesting speakers on current topics and updates from public sector finances. Mike Thomas will be formally taking over as President for the next two years and highlighting his vision and objectives for his presidential term.

At the AGM we will be confirming the appointments of officers for election as we have some new vacancies for 2017 – 2019. These are:

- President (not automatically taking up position)
- Vice-President
- Junior Vice-President
- Treasurer
- 5 Corporate Members (voting members) of the Society Council

Nomination forms will be sent out next month for these positions and in the event there are more nominations for requisite number of places, there will be a ballot. So keep an eye out and if you fancy joining us on the Society Council, make sure someone nominates you and you never know!

North West CIPFA Student Network success

The NWCSN are going from strength to strength. Not only do they have a great programme of events for 2017, including an Advanced Excel Skills course in February at iCount in Manchester. It's unfortunate that some employers do not provide this type of training in the workplace anymore so students, sometimes struggle to learn the sometimes complicated advanced options on Excel, and very often these have been set up on work spreadsheets some time ago by an Excel whizz who has left the organisation.

I was really over the moon to hear that the NWCSN have been shortlisted for an award at the PQ awards in London next month. They are really so deserving of this as all the students have busy family lives, full time jobs, a life outside of CIPFA and their studies and exams to cope with as well as managing the Student Network and holding events for students. I am keeping everything crossed for them in the hope that they win. Former Student President and winner of the William Joliffe Volunteer of the Year Award last year, Carol McDonnell and current Student President Jen Pope will be going to London on behalf of the Students Society in the hope of collecting the award on the night. Good luck guys!

And finally.....this month I have been mainly piloting the Concorde and the Nimrod. Seriously, I am a total plane geek, this was one of the best days I've very had!



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