



Chicago Chapter Newsletter – October 2025

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Chicago Chapter Updates



Chicago IIA Chapter Names Kristen Kelly as New Chapter President

Stepping into the President role, I want to acknowledge the past presidents who have come before me, especially Eric Simaga, whose vision and leadership has served the chapter so well! It is very humbling to be following you and playing a small part in maintaining the more than 80-year legacy of the Chicago chapter.

I also want to say a huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers. You are all much appreciated, and the chapter would not be what it is without your enthusiasm and drive to bring so many meaningful events to life. I have seen many of you at our Annual Seminar, CAE round tables, Golf Outing, career advisory panel, and other educational and social events over the past year. Hopefully, these events have provided you with practical ideas to help propel your functions and careers forward.

As we begin another chapter year, our goal is to continue to provide value to you through quality and relevant CPE and of course the opportunity to reconnect with old contacts and meet new ones through networking!

We hope to see you at upcoming chapter events – the golf outing, boat cruise, hacking conference, and the 2026 Annual Seminar on April 27th. There is something for you whether you are new to the profession or have been a CAE for many years.

We are also committed to working closely with the organizations who have chosen to sponsor our chapter and will continue working to further engage the Chief Audit Executives in our chapter to continue understanding how we can better serve you all.

Thank you and looking forward to working with all of you to make this a great chapter year!

Chapter Events & Trainings

Unlock your potential and gain practical skills that make an immediate impact—join Chicago Chapter trainings and networking events to take the next step toward growth and success.

OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025
● 10/9 (Thurs) - NextGen Speed Network (0 CPE) ● 10/16 (Thurs) - Unbreakable Alliances (4 CPE) ● 10/22 (Wed) - Risk in Focus 2026 (1 CPE) ● 10/23 (Thurs) - Advancing the Profession: How the Internal Audit Foundation Shapes the Future (1 CPE) ● 10/30 (Thurs) - CAE Roundtable: Risk Assessment (3 CPE)	● 11/10 (Mon) - Staff Auditor Bootcamp (4 CPE) ● 11/19 (Wed) - Mindset Shift: Towards Innovation (1 CPE)
DECEMBER 2025	2026 EVENTS
● 12/4 (Thurs) - Internal Audit's Ethical Responsibility In Advancing Diversity and Inclusion (2 CPE)	January 2026 - IIA Chicago Annual Holiday Party ● 1/28 (Wed) Liar, Liar Pans on Fire (4 CPE) ● 2/26 (Thurs) - Ethics for Auditors (4 CPE) ● 3/5 (Thurs) - IIA Chicago International Women's Day ● 4/27 (Mon) - IIA Chicago 65th Annual Seminar (8 CPE) ● May 2026 - Board of Directors and Annual Recognition Meeting ● August - 2026 Golf Outing

- IIA Chicago Networking Events
- CPE Trainings (Paid)
- CPE Trainings (Free for Members)

Member Spotlight

We would like to congratulate our members who achieved their Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) certification during Q2!

This is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects hard work, expertise, and dedication to excellence in the profession. Wishing you continued success as you apply your skills and knowledge to make an even greater impact.

Name and Company

Robyn Martin - CAN Insurance
Andrew Leatherman - PNC Bank
Eric Simaga - Western Alliance Bank
Grace Anati - Komatsu
Andrea Karner - Schneider
Taylor Rose Provenzano-Kurtz - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Jaclyn Marie Bruce - GoHealth
Sydney Hogan - Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Tyler Williams - Wintrust Financial Corporation
Yeldes Amanbayev - Exelon
Sidney Brinson - Fanatics
Nirav Jashbhai Patel - NJP Strategic Insights
Amelita Mansueto

Chapter Committee Spotlight

Women's Initiative Forum

The Women's Initiative Forum is dedicated to empowering women in the internal audit profession by fostering collaboration, transparency, and leadership. It provides targeted resources, training, and networking opportunities to support career advancement and cultivate a community of professionals committed to driving impactful governance and inclusion.

Committee Members

Loretta Moore-Nixon (Co-Chair)
Farrah Haque (Co-Chair)
Kaitlyn Kipley
Emily Wiegand
Kerry Dever
Aindrila Gupta

Recent & Upcoming Committee Events

March 5, 2026 WIF Event, 2026 International Women's Day

The Women's Initiative Forum is seeking 1-2 additional committee members. Committee responsibilities include attending committee planning meetings (typically, monthly, but weekly if preparing for an event), participate in the planning and execution of committee events and collaborate with other IIA Chicago chapter committees to drive key chapter initiatives.

If interested, please contact the Co-Chairs (loretta_moore-nixon@bcbsil.com and farrah.haque@protiviti.com).

Past Events

What an amazing summer for the Chicago IIA Chapter!

- ✦ We started with our **Board of Directors meeting**, where outstanding members were recognized for their achievements and contributions.
- 🏈 And our **NextGen group** kept the energy high with a **Kickball Game**, bringing together professionals for some friendly teamwork and laughs.
- 🏌️ Next up was our always-popular **Golf Outing**, a day filled with great swings, friendly competition, and plenty of networking.
- 🚤 Then came the **Boat Cruise**, where members enjoyed stunning views of the city skyline, good food, and even better company.
- ☀️ Finally, a recent **WIF Event, Power Moves & Pay Talks: Women Owning the Conversation**

From professional recognition to community-building fun, these events highlighted the strength and spirit of our Chicago IIA community. We can't wait to see what's next!

