

IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

Fourth Quarter Newsletter

October 25, 2010



Member Support of IIBA and IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

Heather Mylan-Mains

President, IIBA Central Iowa Chapter



Am I the only business analyst out there with children that are not sure what it is I do at my job except go to a lot of meetings, conference calls, and document stuff? I am looking forward to the day when I can proudly exclaim to the world that I am a Business Analyst and have the person look at me with a nod of understanding, their face filled with admiration and awe for what I do. Will this ever be possible? How will this be accomplished? How can the message of business analysis greatness be shared world-wide? One of the easiest ways I know of is to get involved with the IIBA, both internationally and locally. As business analyst professionals we are fortunate to have a dedicated organization that tirelessly proclaims this message to the world for us. We join in this message when we provide support with our money, our time, our words, and our participation in IIBA events.

Each year more people find their way to a career in business analysis. There are many paths a person can take to pursue and become part of a business analysis career. You could have been a developer, a business SME that was good at solving problems, a project manager that wanted to get into the challenging details, or you just had good critical thinking skills and found a project to work on. Because there are so many paths, one of the challenges is to provide a definition and structure to what business analysis is and what it isn't. Creating the BABOK® and CBAP® certification provides a structure and validation to the career.

Thanks to the work of the IIBA we know what a business analyst should do! Did this BABOK® happen overnight? Was it created because of a benevolent financial benefactor that loved business analysis? Did the contributors quit their day jobs and focus only on creating this document?

Become a Member

of IIBA



of the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter



Once you've joined IIBA you can also become a member of the **Central Iowa Chapter** and enjoy the benefits the local chapter has to offer!

Get the details by going to the **Membership** tab under the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter website at:

www.centraliowailba.org

No, it took the investment of passionate BAs dedicating their time and talent to a cause bigger than themselves. It was funded through memberships in the international organization, \$95 at a time. I would argue that the cost benefit analysis on the investment in IIBA membership produces a positive Return of Investment (ROI) immediately. You have access to the BABOK®, training opportunities, and networking with other IIBA members, all immediately. You also belong to something that defines your career; you are a member of the IIBA. But wait, the opportunities do not end there! In addition to the international organization, there are local chapters to become involved in.

I appreciate the effort of the international organization and believe they are working on my behalf to fulfill my desire for everyone to understand what a business analyst is, however it is far-removed from my daily environment. We can create opportunities locally by joining a local IIBA chapter. As president of the Central Iowa IIBA Chapter, I have been able to create change in our local community. Together with my board members, we have reached out to many different companies and shared the IIBA story. People that had no idea that the work they did had a name, and have become involved and excited to have a group to belong to! We are working on 'BA-mining' efforts to reach out to more people. We have held BA Development Days (I-BADD), started a formal mentoring group, launched a BABOK® study group, and continue to offer local BA community networking opportunities. Some companies are learning about the BABOK® and what a business analyst should do, all because of the collective work of our BA community. If there isn't a chapter where you are, start one!

What other opportunities could the IIBA offer its members? I think that with the appropriate funding and time investment there is not a limit to what could be accomplished. If you are interested in companies placing a higher value on the business analysis skill set through higher compensation, aligning the BA title with BA work, getting a BA involved in all the projects, or simply having people know what it means to be a business analyst, invest in yourself by joining IIBA. Join in the effort to create recognition for the Business Analysis career!

Are YOU Interested in...

- Being a Mentor?
- Being Mentored?
- Being Both a Mentor and a Mentee?

Go to the **Mentoring** tab on our website at <http://www.theiiba.org> to learn more about the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter mentoring program.

Read the testimonials from mentors and mentees!

***"Thanks to the work of the IIBA,
we know what a business analyst
should do!"***

Heather Mylan-Mains
President
IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

Upcoming IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Monthly Meeting

October 28, 2010

***Strategically Speaking: Why Are We
Doing This Again?***

Presented by
Kent J. McDonald

Location:
EMC Insurance Companies

Address:
700 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50310

Time:
Lunch is served at 11:00 AM
Program starts promptly at 11:30 AM

Cost:
Free to members in good standing,
\$10 for non-members.

We will have a drawing for prizes!

A Look Back at I-BADD 2010

Eden Picht

Director of Membership Services, IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

I-BADD 2010, the third annual event given by the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter, was held in May in Ankeny, IA, and was a huge success thanks to the I-BADD planning committee, event volunteers, sponsors and speakers, and all who attended!

The IIBA Central Iowa Chapter appreciated everyone's effort in making this year's event one to remember and we look forward to the next I-BADD on **May 13, 2011**, at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines, Iowa. Be sure to save the date. If you're interested in volunteering for I-BADD 2011 we'd like to hear from you by contacting us at Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org. Help us plan our largest annual event and be a part of the excitement!

My Experience as a First-Timer at WI BADD™

Eden Picht

Director of Membership Services, IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

The day before WI BADD™ 2010, I was sitting at work anxiously awaiting for my half-day to end, not because I don't enjoy my job as a BA or the place where I work, but because I was eager to get on the road to head to Madison, Wisconsin, with my fellow IIBA Central Iowa Chapter BAs, Heather Mylan-Mains and Paula Bell, both whom presented at the event. We met in West Des Moines after a quick lunch, packed up the vehicle, and headed on the road for our five-hour excursion from Des Moines to Madison. Once we got there and were settled into our hotel, we headed out for a bite to eat at a local pub, where over good food, we looked at the schedule of events for the day of WI BADD™ and chatted excitedly about who would attend each session to make the most of our learning experience.

During the day of WI BADD™ we enjoyed networking with our Northern neighbors associated with the Greater Madison Chapter, Northeast Wisconsin Chapter, and the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter; all of whom coordinated to hold this event. We also had an opportunity to talk with vendors and other BA attendees to listen, learn, and share knowledge, and had a wonderful time this year!

Based on my observation as an attendee at Heather and Paula's presentation, they each did an outstanding job of engaging their audience in the topic of *Working Successfully With an Increasingly Diverse Workforce* where they both shared their personal experiences as BAs with learners and drew on the experience of the participants as well for small and large group discussions.

From the road trip with Heather and Paula, to seeing old friends and fellow IIBAs, meeting new folks, and learning a lot...it was an incredible experience.

Mark Your Calendar!

I-BADD 2011

May 13, 2011

Sheraton Hotel
West Des Moines, IA



<http://www.wibadd.org>

The IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Study Group's Mid-Term Report

IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Board

It's straight Bs and As (BAs) for the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter members who have been hard at work devoting their time and knowledge to this self-organized study group, led by Jason Palmer, Director at Large, for the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter. While Jason is leading the overall effort, fellow BAs assist each other by attending the study group each week, doing homework along the lines of weekly reading assignments, and the group takes turns each week assigning a new group leader to lead in the assigned week's chapter discussion, from the Business Analyst Body of Knowledge® (BABOK®), with an overall round-table discussion atmosphere. The benefits of this study group are endless from networking with other BAs in the local chapter both novice and experienced, reading the BABOK® from cover-to-cover to talk about it with others, or apply learned knowledge to the Certification of Competency in Business Analysis™ (CCBA™) or the Certified Business Analyst Professional (CBAP®) certifications. The perfect thing about this study group is that each BA brings his or her own knowledge, skills, and abilities to share, as well as has a chance to be both a learner and a teacher no matter the end goal that each person has in mind to move forward in his or her career.

A special thank you to those of you who've committed your time and knowledge to this group and best wishes to you all as you conquer your learning goals!

Career Development can Begin With a Certification— CCBA™ and CBAP® Information

IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Board

IIBA will be offering a junior-level business analyst certification in addition to the existing senior-level business analyst certification (CBAP®).

To find out more about each certification, click on the link below or contact an IIBA Central Iowa Chapter board member at Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org.

Senior-level Business Analyst Certification is known as the Certified Business Analyst Professional (CBAP®)

<http://www.batimes.com/articles/top-ten-tips-for-tackling-the-cbap-exam.html>.

Junior-level Business Analyst Certification is known as the Certification of Competency in Business Analysis™ (CCBA™)

<http://www.theiiba.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Certification/CCBA/default.htm>.

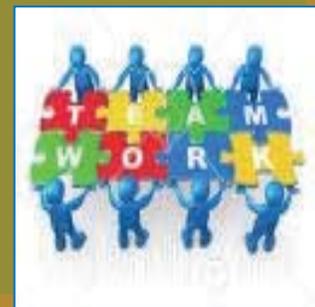
BA Bookworm with the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter's Study Group

The current session is full but there could be more in the future if you're interested?

To learn more about the current study group if you're interested in future opportunities, contact

Jason Palmer, Director at Large
IIBA Central Iowa Chapter at:

Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org



**New IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Board Member
Beverly “Bev” Sells—Director of Programs**
IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Board



The IIBA Central Iowa Chapter has a long-standing commitment to bringing quality program content to our members as well as interested non-members. Speakers and topics are chosen for their merit to provide thought-provoking insights. We use a post-meeting questionnaire to determine the effectiveness of meeting presentations and to guide decisions on choice of topics and speakers. Because of our dedication to our chapter meeting events, the Director of Programs is extremely important to the success of our chapter. Beverly “Bev” Sells is our new Director of Programs and assumes her position after a period of time when the Central Iowa Chapter was without a Director of Programs. Drawing on over 30 years of Pension experience, Bev has proven skills, knowledge and experience in eliciting, organizing, analyzing, documenting, communicating and verifying requirements through SDLC and Use Cases. With proven people and negotiation skills, Bev has held past positions as team leader, project manager for operational teams within IT and in the Retirement business to deliver mission-critical solutions on time and on budget. Her most recent past position included working with Marketing Communications to build and maintain Point-of-Sale materials applications. Her current assignment is working with the Operational Excellence team to find and obtain efficiencies within the organization. Bev also has several certifications and specialties including:

Certifications

- Project Management Professional
- Accredited Pension Administrator
- Business Analyst Associate
- Fellow, Life Management Institute

Specialties

- Business Systems Analysis
- Business Analysis
- Leadership/Technical Project Management
- Training/Management
- Quality Assurance
- Pension Industry

Please help us welcome Bev into her new position on the board.

**Upcoming IIBA Central Iowa Chapter
Monthly Meeting**

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*Strategically Speaking: Why Are We
Doing This Again?*

Presented by

Kent J. McDonald

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EMC Insurance Companies

Address:

700 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50310

Time:

Lunch is served at 11:00 AM
Program starts promptly at 11:30 AM

Cost:

Free to members in good standing
\$10 for non-members

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Get Involved.

Make a difference.

Be a Volunteer.

Volunteering opportunities with the IIBA Central Iowa Chapter are listed on our website.

The following committees need someone like you:

- **Communications**
- **I-BADD 2011**
- **IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Website**
- **Membership**
- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Treasurer**

We're waiting to hear from YOU! Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org

BA Resources

IIBA: <http://www.theiiba.org>

IIBA CIC: <http://www.centraliowaiiba.org>

Contact IIBA CIC: contact@centraliowaiiba.org

Modern Analyst: <http://www.modernanalyst.com>

Business Analyst Times: <http://www.batimes.com>

Contact Us

Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org

Trend With US

Facebook—IIBA Central Iowa Chapter

LinkedIn-central Iowa IIBA

twitter-<http://twitter.com/CentrallowaIIBA>

IIBA Central Iowa Chapter Board Members

<i>President</i>	Heather Mylan-Mains
<i>Director of Membership Services</i>	Eden Picht
<i>Director of Treasury & Finance</i>	Colleen Pilat
<i>Director of Communications</i>	Paula Bell
<i>Director of Programs</i>	Beverly Sells
<i>Director of Website & Technology</i>	Barbara Allen
<i>Director at Large</i>	Jason Palmer