

The Value of FAR Education

By Joe Stangl, CPA – FAR Board Member and CPE Committee Chair

There are many benefits of attending FAR educational sessions. As professionals, we are expected to be subject matter experts in many areas and to have a working knowledge of even more areas. We all know how difficult it is to remain current, especially when we wear multiple hats. Attendees consistently rate the quality, subject matter, and usefulness of the education that FAR provides very highly. This is by design, as the FAR Board and its Committees feel that top quality education is one of the most important parts of its core mission.

One aspect of the value of the education that FAR provides that is not always talked about is the continuing professional education (CPE) hours for Certified Public Accountants (CPA's). Many members of FAR have active CPA licenses that require 80 hours of CPE every two years. As many of us have experienced first hand, many employers have reduced the benefit packages they offer to employees in recent years. This can be particularly true for smaller associations. As a result registration fees for CPE classes are often either not covered by employers or coverage is very limited. In addition, some organizations have reduced the number of days that employees can be out of the office to attend professional development events. By attending FAR luncheons throughout the year, CPA's can earn a full day of CPE credits. A full day! This is only one of many ways that membership in FAR can pay for itself. The CPE Committee wants to remind members and potential members that this part of the value equation alone is well worth the price of admission to FAR.