

Letter from the FPA Philly Tri-State President, Vince Barbera, CFP®

We are excited about 2016 and the different events and programs that we are planning for our members this year. We have much on our plates this year as practitioners with the ongoing election cycle aka circus fun, continued volatility in the markets, growing of our businesses and the continued debate of a universal Fiduciary standard. We hope to deliver programming specific to these themes and offer more flexibility specifically meeting types and venues. Our chapter comprises a large geographical area and we want to be sensitive to that fact.

During our Annual Strategic Planning meeting in December of 2015, we discussed ways that we can engage our members and have challenged ourselves to add programming and content that raises the bar on that engagement level. Our chapter was part of a pilot program run by Advisor Audit in partnership with FPA National which gave us the opportunity to do a deeper dive of our membership. Our member demographic has changed over the last few years and we want to continue offering relevant content to our evolving membership. We will need your help with this initiative though. You can expect to receive a short survey over the next few months so we can incorporate your feedback in our programming. We are also working on a significant upgrade to our chapter's website which will continue to provide updates on our chapter meetings but offer user-friendly navigation and additional tools such as a Career Center and tighter integration with the National website.

It has been an exciting year so far for our chapter. We held our 2nd Annual Career Day earlier this year at St. Joseph's University. Thank you Dr. Benjamin Cummings for making that happen! We had 50 students and 15 companies in attendance. The students were not just from St. Joe's but from Temple, Rutgers, and Delaware State University to name a few. It was a fantastic showing and we only expect it grow next year. St. Joseph's continues to be a strong supporter of our chapter and we have established a relationship with Temple University, who has recently created an undergraduate degree program in Financial Planning, in providing mentorship to their students.

We have a couple of important meetings coming up this year. The first is Advocacy Day at our state's capital on June 7th. We are partnering up with the Pittsburgh and Central PA chapters in speaking with our state legislators. Our chapter is one of the 10 largest chapters (total of 93) in the country and with that comes some additional responsibilities and an ability to influence the voice of the national organization. We are taking that voice, along with some other chapters, to Washington D.C. on June 22nd to show our support of a universal fiduciary standard. The Financial Planning Association is the membership organization for Certified Financial Planners and as CFPs, we have an ethical responsibility to act as fiduciaries for our clients. In keeping with that theme, I'll share with you a recent article in Fortune Magazine by Joshua Brown.

<http://fortune.com/author/joshua-brown/>

I also share that with you because Josh Brown will be one of our keynote speakers at our Spring Symposium at St. Joseph's University on May 11th. Whether you agree with his sentiments or not, you will have an opportunity to ask him all about it on May 11th. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Symposium this year!

Thank you for your continued membership and much success to you in 2016!

Vincent R. Barbera, CFP®
FPA Phila Tri-State President