

## An Interview with the 2015 | 2016 President

*Casey Johnson, Euler Hermes*



**Question: What are your goals for our chapter this upcoming year?**

Answer: "I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to be in the position I am in. The past presidents have done a great job of keeping the momentum going for the chapter. When I set my goals for the upcoming term, I looked at what would be most beneficial to the chapter. Gaining new sponsors is one of the top priorities. The sponsors bring a lot of value to the RMA by offering programming ideas, committee opportunities, and ideas on how to better serve our members. The second goal for the year was to bring more of a focus on the programming and what will make our events successful. We are introducing new venues, new events, and a more diverse offering for networking and education. The programming for us is the channel to get our name out there and show people what we are all about."

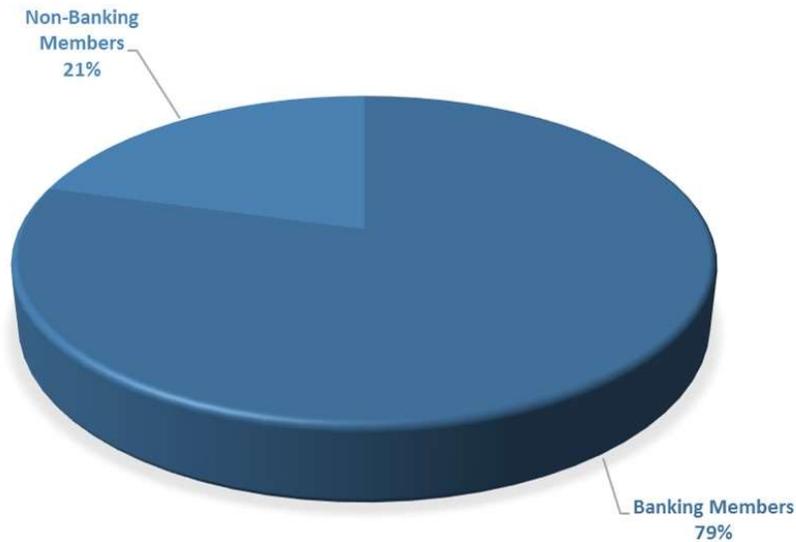
**Question: Why are you a member of RMA? Why did you want to be President?**

Answer: "I identified the RMA as a great organization to join because of the aspects of the financial sector that it impacts. It goes well beyond banking. For a non-banker it was a great opportunity to network with lenders, non-lenders, and understand the banking world better. The involvement has helped me grow professionally and allows me to bring more value as a Risk Consultant. When I had first been introduced to RMA, the value it offers to the market was immediately visible. As I continued to get more involved, I felt I could directly impact the continued growth in the capacity of president. Because of strong past leadership, I could focus on make some more specific targets that would offer big impacts to the chapter. Although I have been in the role for a short period of time we have 7 new events and venues targeted for the next fiscal. This amount of change could not have been done without the strong committees and chairs that are the core of the organization. My hat is off to the hard work that they do as volunteers."

**Question: Why should other members get involved with our chapter? What's the best way to get involved?**

Answer: "We coined the phrase at our first board meeting of the year, "not just a bunch of bankers." When I sat in the room and I looked around, half of the board, including myself, were not lenders. I have heard some say that RMA is "just a bunch of bankers," but I have to disagree with that (see chart below). Having a diverse leadership and member involvement offers impactful networking, diverse programming, and a more inclusive organization. That is why I joined after I was introduced to the RMA. The best way to see this for yourself would be to come to an event or reach out to someone on our board and go to lunch. You will likely talk to lenders, CPAs, legal counsel, consultants, and several other sectors that serve the banking sector. That excites me and makes the RMA such a great organization."

## RMA EAST MICHIGAN MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN



**Question: When not in the office what can people find you doing?**

Answer: "When I am not in the office people can find me at home with my wife and two kids. I have a boy name Caleb, who is 11, and a girl named Avery, who is 4. We are also planning to welcome our third in March, so very exciting times are ahead. When I am not at home with the family you can find me on the golf course. I originally went to school with a major of Pro Golf Management (PGM) at Ferris State. I love the game of golf - both playing and watching. Come April you can find me getting ready to watch the Masters, my favorite tournament of the year. I follow most of the PGA action throughout the year."