

NCEA 2010 Finance & Accounting Workshop ~ Event Survey

September 20 & 21, 2010 ~ Thumper Pond, Ottertail, MN

Rate the workshop -- i.e. Did we deliver to expectations?		
Excellent	11	38%
Good	18	62%
Average	0	0%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: All functions round table was a good addition to the Monday afternoon session.....Good selection of technical and soft topics. Dave Metzen is a bit past prime. His information was good, however, as a timeless reminder.....I thought the workshop was very well organized. The group discussions were very helpful and beneficial. I thought the speakers did an excellent job and were very helpful in their areas of expertise.....The over all work shop was good. I think the round table discussion ends up being way too long.....On a cost/benefit approach it is an excellent bargain. The interactions at round tables were excellent. Unfortunately, for meals people tend to stick together by company. There are some wonderful people out there that we should meet! The big group discussion led by Jeff - it was great to try but let's shelf that into the future. It is hard to have a group discussion with 60 people.....Liked the variety of topics. Speakers were knowledgeable and very interesting. At times, it was hard to hear either the speaker or the other participants in the group. Microphone would have helped in this instances.....Very organized, timely and good information. Appreciated ample time to meeting peers from other companies and share professional knowledge.....I thought that the workshop was very informative. I think it is a great time to network and discuss with other utilities, any issues that might be affecting our industry.....Great Facilities - the hotel was clean, comfortable and quiet, the meeting rooms were well set up and very functional. The topics were timely. The presentors were knowledgeable and made good use of their time and there was a valuable exchange of information.

Rate the "FASB Update" session:		
Excellent	11	39%
Good	16	57%
Average	1	4%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: I was sitting in the middle of the room and could hear, but a microphone would have been nice.....It was excellent for me. But for individuals who do not work with this and are not committed to learning, it would be boring.....The session can get long and dry - would have been very helpful if Amanda would have had specific examples relating to electric utilities instead of general information.....Deloitte presenters did a great job. Very knowledgeable and responsive

Rate the "SEC Reporting Update" session:		
Excellent	8	30%
Good	18	67%
Average	1	4%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: It was surprising not to see the environmental impact disclosures not mentioned.....I was sitting in the middle of the room and could hear, but a microphone would have been nice.....Very short- appears not to be much going on in this area.

Rate the "Greenhouse Gas Legislation" session:

Excellent	6	21%
Good	16	57%
Average	5	18%
Below Average	1	4%

Comments: Semed rushed. Could have added more personal insight?.....It would've been nice to have handouts from the presentation.....He had some passion and humor. It was a very good presentation with a good message

Rate the "Member Profile of ATC" session:

Excellent	4	14%
Good	16	57%
Average	7	25%
Below Average	1	4%

Comments: Entire presentation was new information to me. Great info.....I was sitting in the middle of the room and could hear, but a microphone would have been nice.....It is hard to feature after lunch. Lots of facts but did not explain the organizational setup that well. Is it a publicly trade company? a partnership, etc.....Missed part of the presentation because of a scheduled conference call.

Rate the "Topical Roundtable ~ 3 Topics" session:

Excellent	4	14%
Good	17	61%
Average	8	29%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: Nice addition to the agenda.....Participation was slim.....Nice to try but it is hard to have a roundtable with 60 participants.....It was hard to hear the other participants in the room talk. A microphone would have helped to hear the speakers.....I like the idea but it would have been nice to know the selected topics ahead of time. I only followed up on the topics in the roundtable that I attended.....Heard issues and information from other areas of acctg.

Rate the "Functional Roundtable ~ with IFRS Focus" session:

Excellent	12	44%
Good	11	41%
Average	4	15%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: Always great to get feedback from our peers.....Although it wasn't an IFRS focus.....Deloitte never made it to our roundtable. Not sure why there was such a focus on IFRS when no one has put any emphasis on it.....Great exchnage of information- all companies contributed and shared information.....Very informative. Great discussions with other companies.

Rate the Reception instead of group dinner:

Excellent	11	41%
Good	13	48%
Average	1	4%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: Nice change of pace.....NA- did not attend.....This worked well for me. There was enough food there so that dinner was not required, length of time was reception was good in that it allowed time for networking in a relaxed atmosphere.....N/A.

Rate the "Effectively Managing Generation Divides" session:

Excellent	16	57%
Good	10	36%
Average	1	4%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: I thought the information was very interesting and thought-provoking.....I was a little skeptical about this one mainly because I really didn't know what the presenter would talk about. He did a great job and kept it interesting.....I like his presentation style- loved him interweaving his old family pictures and examples of his nephews.....Very interesting facts about changes in the workforce in the immediate future.....The speaker did well but I had heard most of the subject matter before.....N/A.

Rate the "Positive Change or Die" session:

Excellent	15	52%
Good	9	31%
Average	4	14%
Below Average	0	0%

Comments: Needed more hockey stories!....Great timeless reminders.....I felt that Dr. Metzen really connected with the audience and gave us a lot of food for thought.....Interaction with the audience is always a plus.....It was entertaining but in comparisons to other motivational speakers it was lacking. Not much of a message - I know he was a hockey player but he swears too much.....Excellent speaker!.....Likeable guy, not new information, average presenter.....N/A.

Did you like the location and conference facility?

Yes	23	82%
No	4	14%

Comments: Good, central location with excellent facilities.....If in a remote location there should be something to do or see/Water park closed most of the time/Half the golf course closed.....A little hard to get to - kind out of the way.....Thumper Pond was a great place to have the conference! Beautiful surroundings, good food, comfortable beds and no bedbugs!.....It was a very long drive!.....The facility wasn't bad, but there wasn't anything to do after the reception. With the waterpark and spa closed and the remote area it didn't leave many options.....If it is going to be a remote location there should probably be some evening activity planned. Of course not everyone will participate but at least give them the option instead of not having anything. I know the hotel accommodated by opening the hot tub area.....The tables by the kitchen door made it hard to hear.....Otter Tail is not an easy location to get to beyond that the facility was fine.....Very nice facility - Very pretty location.....See general comment above.....The facility was nice; however, the location was a bit further off the "beaten path" than I would prefer.

Select a Twin Cities location for the 2011 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop:

Mall of America, Mpls. Hotel	17	59%
Downtown Mpls. Hotel	11	38%
Suburban Conference Center, Mpls.	1	3%

Comments: Near a mall or event (Twins game if in town).....Hard to keep the group together for the networking if we are located downtown.....Any are fine. Go with least cost.....All are desirable and I appreciate the convenience of having it right in or very near the City.

List specific topics for the 2011 NCEA Finance/Accounting Workshop?

Suggestions: SOMething on Social Networking and app's.....A.)Review of the upcoming tax bill that should be done in early 2011. B.) Update on how smart grid stuff is progressing.....Show cost of capital calculation, using specific company's FERC Form No. 1 data as an example.....Show rate base calculation using specific company's FERC Form No. 1 data as an example.....It would be nice to have a speaker geared towards tax issues, but I realize if there isn't a lot of tax people attending that is tough.....Procedures to identify cap to repair projects that qualify as expense for income taxes.....I would add an additional general session and get rid of part of the round table discussion.....I would like to see the Internal Audit roundtable brought back. Let me know if you need help organizing it.....I would like to see some information regarding general rate case processes as each state might do something slightly different. I would also like to continue getting updates on IFRS.....Ifrs, Appraisal training.....Government regulations, Rate Cases.....More on IFRS I like the software idea I like the idea of having at least one nontraditional accounting speaker.....Service Companies.....FASB / SEC Updates EPA / Legislation / Climate Change Updates Excel Tips (only 30 - 45 min session).....Technology/software/spreadsheets.....Currently I don't have specific topics in mind; however, I appreciate the split between technical accounting and finance topics and "softer" topics.

How can we increase the value of this event?

Comments: Use the same format.....How about a tour of Xcel's Monticello nuclear plant for the evening activity next year?.....Add "technology" gadgets segment?.....Rather than having a day and a half make it a full 2 days to make it more worth the trip.....No comment.....This was an excellent value.....Great value now!.....Keep the roundtable discussions. I found this session to be very beneficial.....I think the value of this event is directly tied to what a participant puts into the event.....Long time for a large group roundtable discussion. Breaking up some of the Human Resources speeches. Also since there is typically a lot of information in the FASB & SEC updates if we could break those up a little more.....If possible, it would be nice to get some input from NCEA members not in attendance. For example, if topics are known prior to the actual workshop, requesting feedback regarding best practices, benchmarking, etc. from the broader membership prior to the conference. These could be accumulated / summarized, even in an anonymous format, to be provided to conference participants. In doing so, it may provide a larger spectrum of responses beyond those who are able to physically attend. If only a few companies are represented at the event itself, variety and exchange of ideas becomes more limited.

Provide any comments for the NCEA staff and leadership:

Comments: Great work, as always!.....Good topics and good speakers. Roundtables are most informative because you can ask questions specific to your job.....Great work by Dale to organize this event.....I thought the conference was very well set-up.....No comment.....Thanks for bringing in Dr. Dave Metzen! He has a great message and is inspiring to listen to!.....If you are going to send us with a cold meat sandwich in our box lunch please don't feed us a cold meat sandwich for lunch the day before.....Great staff and leadership easy to work with.....Great conference overall - Jeff and Dale both did a super job - well organized from all aspects.....Great Job, Keepitup.

Will you attend the 2011 NCEA Finance & Accounting Workshop?

Yes	21	91%
No	2	9%

Comments: If give the opportunity again I will attend again.....Maybe. It will be up to others to decide who to send.....It is well worth it!.....Not sure.....Probably.....Budgets allowing, yes!.....If time allows and topics pertain to my duties.....At this point I expect to attend; however, that will depend on a variety of factors of course.