

ELICITOR

Central Iowa Chapter IIBA®

Message from Our President



President
Heather Mylan-Mains
Central Iowa Chapter IIBA®

What a pleasure it is to be part of the Central Iowa Chapter IIBA®! We have an outstanding community of business analysts that I am proud to be a part of. We are uniquely positioned to create change in our organizations.

Congratulations to everyone that was involved with I-BADD 2012!!! It was a fantastic event with record attendance and great energy! The venue, food, sponsors, and of course the keynotes and breakout sessions were top-notch. We set the bar high for any other business analysis development days! Thank you to all the volunteers for the months of strategizing, planning and organizing that allowed us to execute the event. Thank you to the attendees who invested in their futures and created personal development opportunities as well as

Insight from Bev Sells, CIC IIBA® President-Elect

I was thinking about how Business Analysis and Change Management comes into focus as we are asked to bring Business Process Management, Rules and Requirements, etc. to our organizations; Always entrenched in the how it's always been done, how do I take the next step and help shape the organization I am part of. Each day we as business analysts are being

asked to work smarter. Is there a foolproof way to get the business rules down and avoid the sand traps? Have you found it? How do you as a Business Analyst help model, shape and document the business? Are you an IT shop and it drives the business? Or is the business driving IT, or are you working together to produce the best possible solution? There are so many questions

networking with fellow business analysts. Thank you to the sponsors for investing in our business analysis community. It takes all of us as stakeholders to create the perfect I-BADD and we did it!

The three tracks were a huge success, focusing on sessions for tips and techniques, practitioners, and leadership. As leaders we learned how BAs move from tactical to strategic from Kathleen Barret, how to grow BAs from Barb Carkenord, how BAs will be CEOs from Angela Wick and how to influence with or without authority from Sinikka Waugh. This was a new track and proved very engaging and enlightening for all who attended. Space was overflowing and we will make adjustments in our logistics to improve this track for next year.

As practitioners we learned about the risky business analyst from Todd Little, Jennifer Brownson helped us learn about how user stories and use cases are helpful tools, Brandon Carlson enlightened us about specification by example and Debra Lovell presented how to connect business strategies to create killer products. These areas provided attendees with new ways to approach business analysis than you may have been exposed to before.
(continued on page 2)

and so many varying answers. But what works? We as BA's are in the best possible position to drive change management. Building a solution is done one baby step at a time. I heard comments from some who attended I-BADD that the sessions were really good (and they were) but contained nothing that they could take back to work into their *(continued on page 2)*

2nd Quarter 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

2011 IIBA Growth Chapter Award Winner



Sign up for BABOK®
Study Group....Page 3

Call for Nominating
Committee Volunteers
.....Page 2

Seeking I-BADD 2013
Committee Volunteers
.....Page 3

Message from Our President *(continued from page 1)*

Attendees took away valuable ideas to help them approach problem solving and solutions.

The tips and techniques track provided smaller, more specific slices of the business analysis pie for attendees. A deeper dive into stakeholder analysis was facilitated by Sinikka Waugh. Ellen Gottesdiner shared approaching requirements by collaboration to define needs for our project problems. Replacing 'the system shall' with a visual modeling approach was eloquently described by Joy Beatty. Joy also presented modeling approaches for data. She is crowned the I-BADD model queen!

Our workshops were sandwiched between rock star keynotes from Ellen Gottesdiner on Agile Requirements: Not an Oxymoron and Kathleen Barret's The Future of Business Analysis, the Avengers of Business! We are empowered to change. We were inspired and challenged to see our role differently. Participants left I-BADD better equipped to make a difference in their companies and in our community. Believe it or not, we have started working on I-BADD 2013 and have such a tough act to follow in order to meet and hopefully exceed I-BADD 2012. Thank you for your feedback and suggestions for improvement. We will be making changes to make I-BADD 2013 our new best I-BADD ever! We are forming planning committees right now. Please contact us through our website if you are interested in a fun growth opportunity!

As I reflect on I-BADD I think of a trend that is worth mentioning. Last year represented a shift in our

community for me. I had been able to know everyone in our chapter. I am sad and happy to announce that has not been possible the last two years! This represents a surge in involvement and participation from our members. I would like to know everyone in our community and will keep trying to accomplish that, but thank you for making that a challenge!

Look for more great programming during the rest of 2012. Our June monthly meeting had record-setting attendance and I expect that trend to continue as well. Keep participating and networking. As we work together we will strengthen the presence and understanding of business analysis in Central Iowa. We are awesome and let's let everyone know what a difference our skills can make in our organizations. We are not note takers, process box and line drawers, or servants that take orders. We are problem-solving critical thinkers creating change in our organizations!! Keep being great!

Heather Mylar-Mains

President,
Central Iowa Chapter IIBA

Insight from Bev Sells CIC IIBA® President-Elect *(Continued)*

(continued from page 1)

organization's culture. This is where I personally question if this is a true statement. Your organization sent you to the event to learn more about the world of Business Analysis or you sent yourself as an investment in your future. Use it to your advantage. Take what you have learned and introduce one piece or thought in the next project or enhancement you do or share the "ah ha moment" with your Center of Excellence, Center of Practice, or with

your team.

The world has not developed overnight nor will the art of business analysis. As Neil Armstrong put it so eloquently 43 years ago "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind". I challenge you to take something from the event and introduce it to your organization.

Sometimes you just have to try something and allow the time for change. Perhaps it doesn't work, but

remember you don't know what you don't know. It is okay to try and fail, than never to try at all.

I would love to get your feedback. You can respond to this article or other topics by contacting me at PresidentElect@centralioawiiba.org

Bev Sells

President-Elect
Central Iowa Chapter IIBA

Fall BABOK® Study Group

- The next Study Group session will be unique in that we will have experienced BA leaders from our community volunteering to facilitate each chapter of the BABOK.
- The group will meet Wednesday nights beginning September 19th.
- Sessions are from 5:30 to 7:30pm weekly for 8 weeks.
- There will be a short informational conference call on Wednesday September 12th at 5:30.
- Details will be e-mailed to all members in August.
- E-mail Jason at jason@jpalmerprojects.com if you have questions.

Members of the CIC IIBA newsletter committee are:

Caron Osberg
cosberg@qci.com

Teresa Celsi
celsi.teresa@principal.com

We are interested in suggestions for upcoming newsletter articles; please send suggestions to any of the committee members. Thanks for your participation!

Steve Ferrick
steveferrick@gmail.com

Greg Booton Board Member
- Communications
baoftheyear@gmail.com

Call for Volunteers - Nominating Committee

Board of Directors nominations are just around the corner! If you are interested in helping with the nomination process we are looking for two to four IIBA® members in good standing to help with the process.

Time commitment:

- 1 Hour per month during July, August, September
 - 2 Hours per month during October, November
 - 3 Hours per month during December, January and February
 - 3 Hours during March (election is in March)
- 19 hours over the next 8 months**

Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate containing nominees for each Board position and shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to stand for election. Candidates for Board positions may also be nominated by petition process established by the Nominating Committee or the Board. Elections shall be conducted: (a) during the annual meeting of the membership; or (b) by mail ballot to all voting members in good standing. The candidate who receives a majority of votes cast for each office shall be elected. Ballots shall be counted by the Nominating Committee or by tellers designated by the Board.

No current member of the Nominating Committee shall be included in the slate of nominees prepared by the Committee.

If you would like to be part of this exciting and critical committee, please contact Bev Sells at

PresidentElect@centralioawiiba.org

Seeking 2013 I-BADD Committee Volunteers

2011 IIBA Growth Chapter Award Winner



- Have fun planning next year's I-BADD event with us!
- We've already started forming the 2013 committees and will begin meeting in September.
 - Feel free to commit as much time as fits your schedule.

Committee opportunities include:

Marketing
Publications
Logistics

Partnerships
Technology
Speakers

- Gain experience, have fun and make friends while learning how the magic happens!

Contact Heather Mylan-Mains at mylanmains@msn.com if you are interested in getting involved.

BABOK® Study Group Sponsorship Opportunity

As mentioned in the BABOK announcement, we are offering the added visibility for sponsor of the BABOK® Study Group. This "Sponsorship" includes providing the venue for up to 15 study participants for the 8 weeks of study every Wednesday evening from 5:30-7:30 from September 19 through November 7.

Interested parties please contact Jason Palmer at jason@jpalmerprojects.com

Call for Volunteers - Monthly CIC IIBA® Meeting Registration

We have another call for volunteers. Volunteers are needed for our monthly registration sign-in. We'd like to form a team of people to share the duties.

If you are interested please contact Andrew Walling, Director of Programs, at programs@centraliowaiiba.org

Add the next CIC IIBA® Meeting to your calendar now!

DATE: Thursday, July 26, 2012
LOCATION: Pioneer Hi-Bred International
7200 Northwest 62nd Ave.
Johnston, IA 50131
TITLE: **Scope Clairvoyance:** Determining what's needed. Deciding what's important.
Simple steps for Successful Business Analysts to Scope Projects for Excellence
PRESENTER: Christian Milaster

Welcome to "The Central Iowa ELICITOR"

Many thanks to our members who submitted suggestions for our "Name the Newsletter" contest. The name that we landed on, "The Central Iowa ELICITOR" was a group effort by several members of the Board of Directors. They won't be awarded a prize, but those who submitted an entry will.

We hope The Central Iowa ELICITOR is a name that resonates with our readers!