



# The Buffalo Chaptergram

Volume 9, Issue 1. January 2017

## Welcome to 2017!

*A letter from the President*

Happy 2017 fellow CPCUs. I trust everyone had a Happy and Safe New Year. It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of January.

events planned for the year. Look for the details in this Chaptergram. We will be forwarding more details by email, but our professional photo shoot in February is on

***Don't forget to pay your dues! Visit [CPCUSociety.org](http://CPCUSociety.org) and log in to your account to pay online.***

The Buffalo Chapter had a fantastic 2016 with 38 New Designees receiving their Conferment. 2017 is off to a good start with 2 New Designees and hopefully many more will be off to Orlando in the fall.

We have many exciting

tap to be spectacular. We can all use a professional headshot for our linked in accounts, business cards, etc. Make sure you mark this on your February Calendar.

If you know anyone in your office or in the

## Important Links



Follow the link below to pay your 2017 dues!



[CPCU Society Buffalo Chapter Website](#)

Login on the CPCU Society website to update your membership information and your professional profile!

[CPCU National Website](#)

[Continuing Education for CPCU's](#)

Visit us on LinkedIn:

Like us on Facebook:



insurance industry interested in obtaining their CPCU, we will once again be offering a class. Spread the word.

March is our Ethics month and we will be having a month of Ethic questions. Watch your emails for the details.

Bowling is on the Agenda for April. If you want a fun family event to break up your winter, then you want to make sure you join us for an afternoon of bowling, pizza, and just plain fun!

The annual Charity Golf Tournament is in August. This year we are partnering with [Read To Succeed](#). This is in the planning stages and we invite all who are interested in taking part on this committee to get in touch with Sam Webster or any one of the Board Members.

It's going to be an awesome year and I thank all of you for allowing me to be your President this year. As always, we welcome you

all to the Board meetings. Bring your ideas if there are other events you would like to see.

Thanks again everyone, stay warm. We will see you soon!

-Brenda Sokolowski,  
CPCU, CIP, ASCR  
2017 Buffalo Chapter  
President



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It's that time of year again. Please remember to support ongoing education and ethics training by paying your dues. Many employers will reimburse these expenses. For those who don't, ask us about our financial assistance opportunities!

Aside from the great members events we hold locally: check out the benefits of membership offered by national CPCU organization: <https://www.cpcusociety.org/membership/benefits>

Just a few of the benefits of membership:

- Access to the CPCU Knowledge Center
- 14 specialized interest groups
- Over 50 complimentary webinars
- Jobs database
- Discounts on Institutes study materials
- The Institutes Community

## CE for CPCU's!

If you haven't heard yet, the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program is changing for 2017 and being replaced by The Institutes' **Continuing Education (CE) for CPCUs** program. This new program will provide an easier, more streamlined user experience for CPCUs who seek continual professional development.

Click here to get more information about CE for CPCU's: <https://www.theinstitutes.org/ceforcpcus>

### Upcoming Annual Meetings

	<b>2017</b> <b>Orlando, Florida</b> September 16–19, 2017  Call for proposals now open!
	<b>2018</b> <b>San Diego, California</b> October 13–16, 2018
	<b>2019</b> <b>New Orleans, Louisiana</b> Date TBD
	<b>2020</b> Location details to come soon!

**Current Candidates: we hope to see you soon at a future Conferment!**

# Congratulations 2016 CPCU's!



## 2016 New Designees:

### ***Delaware North:***

Rodney Schunk

### ***Erie and Niagara Insurance:***

Joseph Putney

Joe Zinni

### ***GEICO:***

Joshua Bancroft

Tracey Brewer

Brady DeVore

Tricia Dwigun

Kathryn Guard

Sarah Harding

Kelly Ignatjew

Danielle Kopcho

Dana Machajewski

Alyssa McGovern

Matthew Paluch

Kevin Parks

Brittany Reling

Justin Spencer

Kristina Stopa

Keith Szymanski

Juan Torres

Jennifer Wagner

Jaqueline Weeks

### ***Lawley:***

Kathleen Lancaster

### ***Liberty Mutual:***

James Tippet

### ***Merchants Insurance:***

Michael Alessandra

Lisa Alvear

Marisa Banas

John Bodensteiner

Christopher Brown

Sandra J Foley

Samuel Webster

Daryl Witt

### ***NOVA Casualty:***

Bryan Owczarzak

### ***State Farm:***

Liz Dick

### ***Utica National:***

Matthew Gavigan

Jason Ihle

Christopher Niesser

### ***Walsh Duffield:***

Sean Keenan

# 2017 Board of Directors



Meet our new 2017 Officers:

*President:* **Brenda I. Sokolowski, CPCU**

*Vice President:* **Kevin Kubera, CPCU**

*Secretary:* **Karen J. Dean, CPCU**

*Treasurer:* **Jennifer Wagner, CPCU**



Chapter Member of the Year award honoring Kurt Bingeman, accepted by Gary Hollederer of Russell Bond.



Candidate Scholarship winner Lisa Hussainov from Witkin Scott Associates.

## 2017 CPCU Buffalo Chapter Officers

Questions? CONTACT US!

### 2017 Officers:

#### **President**

Brenda Sokolowski, CPCU, CIP, ACSR  
brendanotsteve@aol.com

#### **Vice President**

Kevin Kubera, CPCU, ARM  
kevin.kubera@fnrm.com

#### **Secretary**

Karen Dean, CPCU, AU, CIC  
kdean@merchantsgroup.com

#### **Treasurer**

Jennifer Wagner, CPCU, AINS, AIC AIS, API  
jenniferwagner@geico.com

#### **Immediate Past President**

Elaine Lovelace, CPCU, ASLI, AU, AAI

### 2017 Directors and Committee Chairpersons:

#### **Candidate Development**

Lynn Dominiak, CPCU

#### **Education**

Kenneth P. Carter, CPCU

#### **By-Laws, History, Membership**

Joanne Klenk, CPCU

Darryl Witt, CPCU

#### **Social**

Sam Webster, CPCU

Barb Schaffstall, CPCU

#### **Scholarship Committee**

Sandy Sugg, CPCU, API, AIM

Joann Decker, CPCU

Shelly Gorcica, CPCU

#### **Webmaster**

Brian N. Lane, CPCU

Ken Grek

#### **Public Relations**

Melissa Stephen, CPCU, APA

#### **Candidate Representatives**

Kelly Stornelli

Want to join the Board or attend chapter meetings? We would love to help you get more involved!



## Upcoming Events

### Networking Social at NYBP

Location: New York Beer Project, 6933 Transit Rd, Lockport, NY 14094

Date: Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. 4:30pm – 7pm.

Come out and catch up with fellow CPCUs. Guests welcome!

More information here: [Networking Social NYBP](#)

### Headshot Happy Hour

Location: Bobby J's Italian American Grille, 204 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Date: Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Come get your professional headshot and enjoy drinks and appetizers too.

Book your headshot time slot here: [Headshot Happy Hour Registration](#)

### SAVE THESE DATES!

#### Bowling Social

Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm – 4pm. Spare Time Bowling, 2850 William St, Cheektowaga, NY

Due to popular demand, our family event is back! Stay tuned for details!

#### Candidate & Career Development Breakfast

Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Milo's Restaurant, 5877 Main St, Williamsville, NY

Our annual candidate event with a special guest speaker.

Attention Candidates! Which course do you still need? Contact our education director Ken Carter to let us know: [KCarter@merchantsgroup.com](mailto:KCarter@merchantsgroup.com)



**Congratulations!**

**Your Chapter has achieved the Gold level of  
Circle of Excellence Recognition!**



# The Institutes® CPCU Society

Buffalo Chapter

PRESENTS

## HEADSHOT HAPPY HOUR

FEATURING

*Heather Dellini*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

### WHEN

Thursday, February 23rd

5:30 pm - 8:30pm

Select a 1 hr time slot for your photo session

### WHERE

Bobby J's Italian American Grille

204 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY

TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT

[BUFFALO.CPCUSOCIETY.ORG](http://BUFFALO.CPCUSOCIETY.ORG)

LIMITED TO FIRST 50 REGISTERED!

**TIME TO UPDATE  
YOUR  
PROFESSIONAL  
HEADSHOT!**

### INCLUDES

- 1 Professional Headshot chosen from 4-6 proofs
- 2 Bar Drink Tickets
- Appetizers

### TICKETS

- \$25 for Members
- \$50 for Guests

### DRESS

- Business Attire
- Allow your photo to make your best first impression

### WHY

- LinkedIn Profile
- Professional Networks
- Email Signature
- Company Website
- Business Cards