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**Gail Perry** • Oct. 23, 2015



I can still remember the first CPE event that I attended. It was in Springfield, Illinois, and I was working at Deloitte's Springfield office before transferring to the firm's Chicago tax department. Springfield is in downstate Illinois (actually anything south of the Chicago area is considered downstate, just as anything outside of New York City is considered upstate New York), and the pace is a bit slower there.

Once a month, the local chapter of the Illinois CPA Society held a dinner event

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really believe it was my good fortune to be sharing in this very grown up method of learning.

When you choose to devote time to attending a conference, I hope you approach it with the enthusiasm I felt and still feel – the opportunity to learn from the pros, improve your skills, share in spirited conversations about the accounting profession, sample new products that can make your job easier, and socialize with your colleagues.

There is still time before the end of the year to pick up some CPE credits and participate in some outstanding conference events.

- Start with your state CPA society – visit their website and look for the conference schedule to find out what is planned between now and the end of the year.
- Consider user conferences relating to the software products that you use. There is no better way to stay on top of the latest changes and upgrades and to improve your comfort level with the programs that keep your office humming. There are some major conferences on the horizon – CCH Connections is October 25-28 in Las Vegas, and Thomson Reuters Synergy 2015 is November 4-7 in Orlando. Intuit's second annual QBConnect is November 2-4 in San Jose. These conferences are designed to inspire you and help you get the most out of your software investment.
- The AICPA's Women's Global Leadership Summit is November 12-13 in San Francisco. The objective of this conference is to focus on leadership, boardroom diversity, and best practices to enhance the skills and potential of women leaders within the financial community.
- SleeterCon is November 16-19 in Las Vegas. The Sleeter Group's annual Accounting Solutions Conference brings together accounting professionals, software consultants, and technology vendors from all sectors to learn and share ideas and concepts.
- CPA Practice Advisor's very own Ensuring Success occurs on December 3, and you

don't have to travel to attend. Learn from nationally-known speakers in an

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how you do it.

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