

Ready, Set, Be Active!

Association involvement and awareness bring about industry pride and greater success

When running for the position of ACA International treasurer more than three years ago, the presidency seemed far, far away, but like a flash it has now arrived. It is my honor to serve the association in this capacity.

Although I have been very involved with ACA for years as an instructor and member of various association committees, it is a tremendous learning experience when you commence your term on the

Executive Committee. What I have learned in my first three years is simple: I am more proud of our industry and ACA International now than at any other time of my involvement.

I have always believed that ACA was a high-quality, proactive organization, representing the needs of our industry diligently on a daily basis. I have now experienced that high level of service first-hand with my many visits to ACA headquarters and

through close working relationships with the ACA staff.

For many of our members, ACA is a part of their daily lives through access to ACA On-Line, and *Collector* magazine, or through participation in one of our many educational offerings or on one of our unit and national committees.

I would like to see, over the next 12 months, a concerted effort among our 5,400+ members to explore the programs offered at ACA to arrive at the same positive enlightenment I have achieved as one of your leaders. Reserve one hour this month to sit down, log on to www.acainternational.org, and review this incredible resource! When *Collector* arrives in your office, circulate it among staff members and learn from the industry-related articles. Sign up for one of our popular teleseminars, online seminars or regional training programs, and experience the cultivation of skills and techniques. Finally, make it a point to attend a

unit meeting, volunteer for committee assignments or find out how you can become involved in our grassroots legislative efforts.

Although ACA maintains a staff of almost 70 association professionals, much of our success depends heavily upon the volunteer efforts of our members around the world!

Throughout the next year, I will be traveling on association business and attending numerous regional and unit meetings. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of our members, to hear about your personal successes and challenges and to serve as a liaison to ACA headquarters, recommending programs we can develop to continue to meet and exceed your expectations. I would love to hear your feedback. Feel free to contact me at harry@remitcorp.com or (570) 387-6470, ext. 202, to share your thoughts about our industry and ACA International. Here is to a successful new year! **cm**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Strausser III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Harry Strausser III, IFCCE, MCE, is 2004/05 president of ACA International. He can be reached at harry@remitcorp.com.