



# Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica

**'The Reference Point for Chartered Accountants in Jamaica'**

## Benefits of Membership

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica (ICAJ) is recognised as the voice actively representing its members' views and interests to industry, regulators, government, academia and the general public.

Members of ICAJ have access to a global network of local and international accounting and finance professionals, technical resources and career opportunities available from the ICAJ website and access to the George Willie Resource Centre.

As a Chartered Accountant (CA), you become a member of one of the largest professional accounting, finance and business membership organisations in the Caribbean region.

Many Chartered Accountants serve in prominent positions within the private and public sectors in Jamaica, no doubt, often based on the reliance placed on their designation as Chartered Accountants, which attests to their knowledge, skills and competence in the key areas of management, business planning and control, financial and regulatory obligations, Accountancy, taxation and audit. A detailed list of benefits is provided below.

## Access to Lifelong Learning - Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- **Technical CPD Sessions:** Maintain and upgrade your knowledge, skills and competencies relevant to your profession by participating in monthly CPD seminars which cover a wide range of topics. ICAJ members enjoy a discount of approximately 20-30% on seminar fees.
- **Online CPD:** Access to seminars streamed "live" and delayed from our website in a self-paced and web-based environment. ICAJ members enjoy a discount of approximately 20-30% on webinar fees.

- **‘Soft Skill’ Training & Development:** Enhance your leadership, communication, problem solving, negotiation and other personal attributes by participating in these seminars, as well as ICAJ’s Toastmasters and Writers Clubs.
- **Professional Development:** ICAJ members are usually given high priority during the process of selecting speakers for CPD sessions.
- **Public Fora:** Participate in public fora often organised through ICAJ’s partnerships with public bodies and non-governmental organisations to facilitate discussions and debates on national issues including social, economic, education and health. These public sessions are often free to members and the general public and they provide invaluable networking opportunities for our members.

## Remain current with local, regional and international industry knowledge

- **eIFRS:** Members are able to access from their online profile, up-to-date information on IFRS including IAS, Interpretations (IFRIC/SIC) as well as material issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Convenient access to this very important resource is included as part of your annual subscription. The cost of purchasing the hard copy IFRS manuals directly as a non-member represents 40-51 % of the annual ICAJ membership fee.
- **Tax Alerts:** The Institute disseminates important Government tax updates to all members.
- **Technical Advisories/Bulletins:** The ICAJ issues bulletins and advisories, periodically, to provide guidance to members on how to deal with certain technical matters relating to taxation and accounting standards as they arise.
- **Newsletters:** Members receive quarterly newsletters published by the ICAJ as well as publications from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC). Members can access these publications online from the ICAJ website at [www.icaaj.org](http://www.icaaj.org).
- **Annual Reports:** Members can conveniently access our annual reports online which provides information on the ICAJ’s programmes and activities.

- **George S. Willie Resource Centre:** Provides access to books, as well as online resources on Accountancy and other related topics and is available to members for research purposes.

## Connect with Local and Regional Professionals

- **Events:** Participate in the annual **ICAC Conference** which brings together over 3,500 regional accountants for social interaction and networking, while focusing on critical issues to improve the standards within the regional profession. ICAJ members are automatically members of ICAC and enjoy discounted rates of approximately 9% on registration fees for Annual Conferences.

Our **Annual Awards Banquet** which is ICAJ's premier social event honours members for their outstanding contribution to the Institute and to the Accountancy profession. The event may also recognise retired members for their long and invaluable service to the Institute and welcome new members to the profession. This event also helps to build the public image and brand of the ICAJ.

A fun event, our annual **Members' Lyme** offers members the chance to network and socialise with their peers, students and other stakeholders in a relaxing environment.

Members are also provided the opportunity to interface with fellow members in commemorating the establishment of the Institute at our annual **Thanksgiving Services** held in January in Kingston and Montego Bay.

- **Member Directory:** Members of the public are able to access our list of over 1,100 members and make connections with our approximately 200 practising members.
- **Access to Technical Advice:** Members can obtain advice from our technical committees on matters relating to taxation, accounting standards and audit.
- **Social Media:** Join us online on Facebook and Twitter to learn about event details, activities of the Institute, and more.

## Access Employment Opportunities to Advance Your Career

- **Job Postings:** Members can visit our website to access employment opportunities posted periodically by employers in Jamaica, regionally and internationally.

- **Vacancy Advertisements:** Employers can advertise vacancies for accounting staff on our website or utilise our services to send email blasts to a target group of accounting professionals.

## Shape the Future of the Profession

- **Service on ICAJ Committees:** Serve on one or more of the Institute's Committees – see list below, by simply directing your request to [info@icaj.org](mailto:info@icaj.org). Serving on committees allows for interaction with other members and the opportunity to make a contribution to the development programmes of ICAJ and the Accountancy profession.
  - Accounting Standards Committee
  - Audit Practice Committee
  - Bye-Laws and Handbook Committee
  - Continuing Professional Development Committee
  - Current Affairs Committee
  - Disciplinary Committee
  - Finance Committee
  - Future of the Profession Committee
  - Investigations Committee
  - Legislation Review Committee
  - Library and Website Development Committee
  - Membership Committee
  - Public Relations and Publications Committee
  - Public Sector Committee
  - Student Affairs Committee
  - Taxation Committee

Access the ICAJ Bye-Laws from the ICAJ website at [www.icaj.org](http://www.icaj.org) for an overview of the work of each Committee.

- **Service on Local and Regional Boards:** ICAJ members are frequently invited to serve on audit, finance and other Committees in the private and public sectors. These invitations are directly linked to the fact that they are ICAJ members, and in many cases the opportunities would not otherwise be available e.g. PSOJ, Public Accountancy Board. Two ICAJ members are appointed to serve two year terms on the Board of the ICAC.
- **Service on International Boards:** Through its membership of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the ICAJ nominates members to serve on the IFAC Board or Committees. These nominations are exclusive to ICAJ members. A representative of ICAJ currently serves on the Board of IFAC and a technical advisor from ICAJ also participates in IFAC Board meetings.

## Professional Development Clubs

- **ICAJ Toastmasters Club:** Develop your public speaking skills by joining the ICAJ Toastmasters Club. Participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a no-pressure environment while increasing their self confidence.
- **ICAJ Writers Club:** Join the ICAJ Writers Club and learn how to write publishable articles. The Club is designed to capture and express topical issues in writing for self-development and facilitates the sharing of ideas for articles to be published in the media.

## Accommodation for Meetings and Other Events

- **Meeting Room Rental:** ICAJ offers three affordable options for room rental for meetings, seminars and other events which can accommodate up to 100 persons. Special packages are available to ICAJ members.

## Members' Welfare

- **Employee Benefits Plan:** Participate in ICAJ's group life and health insurance plan which provides benefits to members and their families as well as staff at competitive premium rates.
- **ICAJ Welfare Fund:** The ICAJ Welfare Fund was established in 2010 to provide assistance to qualifying past or present members who are facing financial challenges due to disability, natural disasters etc.

## Community Outreach

The Institute provides an opportunity for members to participate in its community outreach programmes at the Elsie Bemand Girls Home, located in Meadowbrook, St Andrew, as well as the Sunbeam Children's Home for Boys which is situated in Spring Village, Bushy Park, St. Catherine.



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