

## Financial Briefs



Contact sport?

**Game On.** While playing an unexpectedly feisty version of the popular *Monopoly* board game on a hot Saturday night in August, Kenneth Repke of Frase MI attacked a fellow participant when that player adamantly refused to sell him the high-end properties of Boardwalk and Park Place. Repke went directly to jail, did not pass “Go” and did not collect \$200. He also had his “Get Out of Jail Free” card confiscated by a larger inmate.

**Hold the Pepper.** A bank in South Africa equipped 11 of its ATMs with pepper spray to keep criminals from blowing them up or installing card-skimming devices. Unfortunately, the pepper spray was accidentally released during routine maintenance on one of the ATMs, injuring three innocent people who required medical treatment. Embarrassed bank officials immediately removed the pepper spray from the ATM

dispensers and replaced it with a mild balsamic vinaigrette mist accompanied by a spritz of extra virgin pine nut oil.

**Brooklyn Bucks.** Brooklyn NY may soon have its own currency. In these chaotic economic times, a local currency project is being launched and aims at giving Brooklyn residents a tangible medium of exchange to benefit local area businesses and artists. A local currency is a method of trading goods and services intended to supplement other means of trade while improving community wealth. Local currencies circulate in a defined region and don’t leave the area because trade is restricted by the currency boundaries. According to a local artist who is the main proponent of the project, “This medium of exchange has more to do with meeting people and feeling that you’re connected to a community versus a monetary system.”

**Devil in the Details.** A financial firm in Latvia is taking souls for collateral when originating loans. Riga-based Kontora Finance does not require credit history or proof of employment when granting loans of \$100 to \$1,000. Applicants merely have to sign a short agreement using their immortal soul as the only security. If the loan is not repaid within 90 days, the creditor takes full possession of the soul. The only caveat is that the borrower can’t have previously used their soul for collateral or sold it outright. Donald Trump is developing the concept into a spiritual version of *Celebrity Apprentice* but is finding a dire shortage of celebs who are able to qualify.



### RMA Las Vegas Board 2009/2010

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### New Members

- Ron Opfer, Asset Solutions Services, Henderson, NV
- Jim Rimpo, VP, Nevada State Bank, Las Vegas, NV
- Mark Ufford, Chief Credit Officer, Town & Country Bank, Las Vegas, NV

**rma vegas voice**

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## Financial Moments in History

**390 BC:** Gauls attack on Rome and its treasury is thwarted by the sounds of geese. Grateful Roman defenders build a shrine to *Moneta*, the Goddess of Warning. The word “money” is derived from her name.

**410:** Rome falls to the Visigoths and banking is abandoned in Western

Europe until the time of the Crusades nearly 700 years later.

**752:** In France, *Pepin the Short* (father of Charlemagne) mints the *denier* coin. His name stems not from his height, but from his irritating habit of never having enough *deniers* in his pocket to cover his bar tab.

**1124:** In England, silver coinage is so inferior that King Henry I cuts off the right hands of his *Mint Masters* on Christmas Day. Christmas is never again the same for the *Mint Masters*, but coin quality improves almost immediately.

**1545:** King Henry VIII of England legalizes inter-

est charges on loans - rates top out at 10%. Sadly, late payment penalties are also introduced and feature a 10% reduction in the height of the borrower.



**Kevin Pentony, Editor**

(send comments to [kpentony@ogienviro.com](mailto:kpentony@ogienviro.com))

**Upcoming Events & "Home-Grown" Classes**

Thurs, November 18, 2009, *Forbearance Agreements: The What, Why, When and How* - O'Acés - Sunset & CC215  
Weds, January 20, 2010: General Membership Meeting  
Weds, February 17, 2010: General Membership Meeting  
Weds, March 17, 2010: General Membership Meeting  
Weds, April 21, 2010: General Membership Meeting  
Weds, May 19, 2010: General Membership Meeting

All RMA Las Vegas General Membership Meetings are held at Sierra Gold, 6515 S. Jones Blvd. (at CC 215)

For further RMA information, contact Jodi Graham, Chapter Administrator ([Jodi.Graham@nsbank.com](mailto:Jodi.Graham@nsbank.com), 855-4537)

**Upcoming RMA Classes**

February 19, 2010: Global Cash Flow  
April 22-23, 2010: Commercial Loan Documentation  
June 3, 2010: Analyzing Business Tax Returns

Register at: <http://www.rmahq.org/RMA/>



Magnetic personality (see No. 2) →

**Top 10 Actual Workplace Complaints**

(from CareerBuilder.com survey of Human Resource Managers)

10. "I am annoyed that the company didn't provide a place for naps during break time."
9. "She spends too much time caring for stray cats around the building."
8. "He is trying to poison me."
7. "She is too sun-tanned."
6. "He breathes too loudly."
5. "She eats all the good cookies."
4. "He has bells on his shoes and it's not the holidays."
3. "She wants to check a co-worker for ticks."
2. "He is magnetic and keeps de-activating my magnetic access card." (see photo at left)
1. "She smells like road maps."

**Member Profile**

**Anna Cavalieri** is a board member of RMA's Las Vegas Chapter for the 2009/2010 year where she serves as President. She began her banking career in 1989 and is a Vice President and Business Banking Manager with Wells Fargo Bank. Anna is from Southern Utah and has been in Las Vegas since 1989. RMA Vegas Voice recently spoke with Anna about her experiences this year as Las Vegas Chapter President and her expectations for the coming year.



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**Vegas Voice:** "Anna, what would you say was the high point of your tenure as RMA Las Vegas President this past year?"

**Anna Cavalieri:** "Without a doubt, it was my trip to the RMA Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas in June. It was a great occasion to share ideas with colleagues from all of the RMA Chapters around the country."

**VV:** "I know you had the opportunity to spend some quality time with your fellow board members Bill Wilson and Jodi Graham and RMA Regional Manager Lisa Poirot, but what is the most meaningful thing that you took away from the conference?"

**AC:** "I definitely have a greater appreciation for the importance and diversity of RMA's educational offerings. For example, we have a "home-grown" class coming up on November 18th: *Forbearance Agreements - The What, Why, When*

*and How* which is being taught by some extremely talented local experts. We'd like to hold more of these in the coming months. And the RMA classes on tap for the first half of next year look outstanding: *Global Cash Flow* in February, *Commercial Loan Documentation* in April and *Analyzing Business Tax Returns* in June."

**VV:** "Can you talk about some of the upcoming RMA Las Vegas programs?"

**AC:** "The meeting dates for 2010 are set, but the program is not yet finalized. Our Program Chair Bill Wilson tells me that we are planning on having Jeremy Aguero of Applied Analysis, Jon Ralston and Bill Lerner as speakers. Also we're putting together a program on International Financial Reporting Standards."