

2020 National President Candidate Essay

Submitted by James Kent II, Central RVP

Candidate Profile:

I, James E. Kent II, have been with this branch of the Service for 12 years and a member of AIM-IRS in the CSC chapter for 11 of those years. After being introduced, I immediately recognized the organization's value and was eager to develop mechanisms to expose more people to the benefits & greatness it offered. On the chapter level, I was instrumental in the revitalizing the chapter through improved marketing (website, communications & advertisements), innovative modifications to our workshops and implementing improved standards & procedures. This was achieved throughout various roles that culminated in my service as Chapter President. Regionally, I was influential in laying the foundation to reactivate chapters and implementing a new chapter. As the Central Region VP, I led multiple regional conferences of which the 2015 Spring Conference was the largest that the region had ever hosted. From the national perspective, my service has also been consistent and inclusive. I have worked on or provided support for most of the committees, redesigned the national website improving its aesthetics & features, contributed as presenter & aided other functions at the ABMTS. I also served as National Sr VP (2016 – 2018), during which the organization's operating capital increased 52.7% & total capital increased 13.1%. And currently, I am the National Bylaws Committee Chair. I've consistently sought to utilize my knowledge, skills, leadership & enthusiasm to benefit this organization and those we impact.



Outside of the Service, I have served in a myriad of positions. I am a licensed financial advisor that educates & assists individuals with effective money management strategies. I also train & develop others to positively impact the financial literacy of families & organizations in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Missouri and Illinois. I'm very active in ministry at my church including several leadership roles that have developed & grown ministries in Illinois, Florida, Missouri and Ohio. I participate in various community service activities and have spoken throughout the country on topics of finance, spiritual matters, men's empowerment and self-help.

One of my philosophies is that serving passionately and effectively is the preparation ground for leading successfully.

Vision

My vision for AIM-IRS encompasses a rebirth that will enhance the organization's relevance in the Service and all that we serve. In the life cycle of any organization, there are choice-points that become the launch pad towards the next tier of success. Our organization's inception proved our motivation & desire to combat injustices in the workplace. Our longevity attests to our insight & strength of developing tools and strategies to navigate ever-changing environments that attempt to thwart individual progress. Now it is time to surmount the cloaked barriers that stifle our organization's momentum towards destiny.

Goals

If elected to the office of National President, I will commit to, first, redefining our foundation. New levels of success are rarely accomplished without reconstruction. As National President, it is critical to capitalize on our historic knowledge & experience while exploring new landscapes to re-establish a base on which to build. And secondly, I will lead purposeful efforts to engage intrinsic & exterior barriers that perpetuate apathetic response towards our mission. I have the utmost confidence that the mission of AIM-IRS is relevant to any and everybody. We have effective tools for career advancement & personal development. We know that people will invest in what they want. Our next successes are predicated on our ability to reconnect our supply with the desirable demand.

The next administration will have the arduous responsibility of this rebirthing process. If elected as your National President, I would count it a privilege to engage the pain of rebirth in order to provide (our organization) the gain of new life.