



FOOTNOTE Spring 2003

President's Letter *Johanna Zimmerman*

As I make plans to attend my tenth national annual meeting and my year as President draws to an end, I want to thank members and guests who have made time to attend our meetings. We have had fewer meetings this year, but they have been well attended. Shelly Randolph has planned the programs and arranged for speakers and meeting rooms with a special flair for organization for several years. She worked with the IMA, ASWA, and the Los Angeles Members in Industry Committee of the CalCPA for the A&A Update and the Tax Update. Behind the scenes Judith Pollack took care of details. She printed meeting sign in sheets, name tags, CPE Certificates, and attendance lists. We are planning one more meeting to be held near the beginning of June to install the incoming Board of Directors and award scholarships. We are organizing a panel discussion on accounting careers with a number of successful women who have chosen some very exciting career paths. Look for the flyer and plan to join us for an entertaining evening.

I want to thank the Board of Directors. I have been honored to serve with three past presidents. Louise Teeter, owner of her own busy practice, served as Immediate Past President. She has been working to complete the Board for 2003-2004. If you could offer an hour or so a month, she would be glad to hear from you. Annette Berko, Tax Manager at Kirsch, Kohn and Bridge, as Secretary has gathered and organized our thoughts. Kathy Edwards, tax guru at Ticketmaster, has served as Vice President of Membership.

Jenny Bolsky has served as Vice President of Public Relations. She has brought you a really excellent newsletter for the last two years while making partner at Miller, Kaplan, Arase & Co. LLP. Jenny has set up the newsletter on line and delivered four beautifully prepared issues a year.

Carol Suruki-Boedeker, Audit Manager at Moss Adams, has served as Treasurer. She keeps our financial records complete and up to date. Nancy Kearson, Certified Valuation Analyst, has moved from Director at Large to heading our Scholarship Committee. Twylah Bowman served as Director at Large. Though she has been busy organizing her practice, she was always ready to lend a hand; she was a tremendous help selling raffle tickets at our meetings. Suzanne Maloney has been swamped by school, but I have appreciated her support.

Again, I want to send a special thank you to all of you who have met the challenges of making this year satisfying and enriching.

Member News

Jean Sommerville married Dave Proctor on April 7th in Las Vegas. Jean is a founding member and former president of the Los Angeles affiliate.

Barbara Guerra was inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni at her alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University, on April 26th.

Suzanne Cloutier has left Bay Sherman Craig & Goldstein, LLP to start her own practice. Her new firm is Cloutier & Associates, an accountancy corporation.

Louise Teeter has been elected Vice President—Membership on AWSCPA's national board of directors.



AWSCPA Scholarships

You probably buy raffle tickets at our dinner and lunch meetings, knowing that every dollar goes towards scholarships. You may not know that our national organization provides “enhancement monies” for affiliate scholarships each year. National enhancement monies are provided by the AWSCPA CPE Foundation (that's the \$15 optional donation you see on your dues invoice each year). These member donations are designated for the sole purpose of funding the national scholarship enhancement program.

The national enhancement to affiliates is based on a percentage calculated between the affiliate funds total pool and the AWSCPA CPE Foundation funds available. To be eligible for national enhancement funds, our affiliate is required to submit an application and provide proof that local funds have been dedicated for the local portion of a scholarship (via board of directors meeting minutes or a separate resolution). This year your board has voted to award \$4,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

The Los Angeles affiliate awards these scholarships every year to accounting students based on financial need, commitment to the accounting profession and involvement in extracurricular activities. We will honor the recipients at our June dinner meeting. If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage her to contact Nancy Kearson at nkearson@earthlink.net for an application.

California Women Business Owners

The California Women Business Owners (CWBO) is a Southern California organization for women who run their own businesses. It holds dinner meetings on the second Monday of every month at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th from 6:00 to 9:00. The topic is improving working relationships. For more information, visit the website at www.cwbo.org

Member Profile—Barbara Guerra

Barbara Guerra has been one of AWSCPA's most active members, at both the affiliate and national levels. Currently the president of our national board, Barbara recently retired, and has moved away from the Los Angeles area. We will certainly miss her friendly charm and enthusiastic support at our affiliate meetings! A CPA since 1978, Barbara joined AWSCPA in 1979, before there were any local affiliates. She signed on with the Los Angeles affiliate in 1985 because it was the only local organization dedicated to the advancement of women in the profession. At the time there were still very few women in accounting, and she felt the need to be connected to others.



Although her father was a CPA, Barbara initially had no interest in the profession—having seen his long hours and nightmare tax seasons. Nonetheless, after dabbling in language, art and journalism (now her hobbies), Barbara took her first accounting course and got hooked. In short order she had a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a CPA certificate. Within three years she had achieved partner status at a regional firm headquartered in San Antonio.

In the 1980's Barbara moved to Los Angeles with husband Leo (also a CPA) to join friends in their regional practice. Later she went to a national firm specializing in SEC auditing. Barbara loved the fast pace, and was elected partner in 1988, along with our own Nancy Brakensiek. The two were to be the first women partners, but before the effective date the firm merged with Touche Ross. Barbara later joined the audit department at Southern California Edison, where she remained for eleven years until her retirement this spring. In addition to serving AWSCPA, Barbara has been involved with numerous professional and civic organizations, including the AICPA, CalCPA and the Educational Foundation for Women in Accounting, and still somehow found time to volunteer in her community as well.

Having faced the challenge of being treated on equal footing with men in the profession is one of the things that motivate Barbara to continue working towards equality for all women in accounting. She recalls applying at a Big Eight firm back in 1973 and being told she could fill out an application, but she wouldn't get an interview because the firm had already hired its "quota" of women for the year! Among the benefits of AWSCPA membership, Barbara cites a huge network of friends and colleagues, courage and training to be a leader, support, referrals and a sense of belonging. Barbara feels that board service at the local and national level has enhanced these benefits and fulfills her need to give back—especially for the women who follow her.

After the whirlwind sale of their house (it was never even on the market) and move to Texas, the Guerras have settled in a rental while building their dream house in the Texas Hill Country about an hour outside San Antonio. Their three sons now grown, the couple has six grandchildren. Barbara loves waking every morning and sitting on the front porch with her coffee, husband, dog and newspaper, watching the birds and people going to work. She is looking forward to the art studio she'll have incorporated into her new house, along with reading, writing, researching (mostly on influential women of the past), and needlework. Barbara plans to stay active in our organization, continuing her national presidency, and serving another year on the board as immediate past president. Lucky for us!

Annual Leadership Conference

This year's conference, entitled "Debits, Credits and All That Jazz" is scheduled for June 24-26, 2003 in the beautiful city of Montreal. As always, the conference will provide excellent technical programs covering all the latest hot issues, and more opportunities than ever to network with members of AWSCPA from around the country. In addition, the Association for Accounting Administration (AAA) will be hosting its 20th Anniversary Symposium in Montreal the same week. We'll be staying at the lovely Hotel Wyndham Montreal in the heart of downtown Montreal, just minutes away from some of the city's best attractions, and right next to the Metro for those places that aren't within walking distance.

Montreal is a wonderful city of full of history, great food, shopping, beautiful parks and museums. One of the evening events planned is a "dine around" where you get a chance to try out some of Montreal's best restaurants. For those seeking history and culture, try one of Montreal's many museums. The fabulous Museum of Fine Arts needs two buildings to house its impressive collection. The Pointe-a-Calliere, the Museum of Archaeology and History, is built on the site of the original colony and is a fascinating collection of artifacts, ruins, and exhibits. The Museum of Contemporary Art of Montreal is the only one in Canada, and is right across the street from our hotel.

For those looking for other types of diversions, Montreal truly offers something for everyone. There are the fun shops and history of Vieux-Port (Old Port) or the beautiful Jardin Botanique, the world's second largest botanical garden and the Insectarium or the amazing Biodome. Explore the Parc Olympique (Montreal was host to the 1976 Summer Games) and take a trip up the world's tallest inclined tower for a memorable view of the

entire city, including the St. Lawrence River. Wander the Underground City. Be inspired by the Basilica of Notre-Dame. Montreal is home to Crescent St. and the Latin Quarter where you'll find every type of nightlife you could want, most open until 3:00 a.m.!

Consider planning your trip to include the 24th International Montreal Jazz Festival, which is headquartered right at our hotel, and starts the day our conference ends. Because June and July are Festival months, you'll want to get your hotel reservations right away if you plan on taking advantage of some Montreal vacation time and either arriving early or staying beyond the conference. For more information visit www.awscpa.org.



Mission Statement

The American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants provides a supportive environment that promotes equity and provides opportunities for the achievement of career goals in a competitive and rapidly changing profession.

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