



## FOOTNOTE Spring 2002

### President's Letter

*Louise Teeter*

This year has gone by so fast and my term as president is almost over. I want to thank each and every member of the board who worked to make this a very successful year for our affiliate. I feel very fortunate to have had such a great team to work with this past year.

Annette Berko, immediate past president, lent her years of experience and filled in wherever she was needed to help out this past year. Johanna Zimmerman, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, worked on our scholarship and fund raising programs. I have relied on both Annette and Johanna to mentor me during the past year. Carol Suruki, secretary, and Karen Katzbeck, treasurer, did a terrific job keeping our minutes and our books. Kathy Edwards, vice president of internal relations, helped get information out about our affiliate. Kathy Edwards is a past president of our affiliate and has stayed on as a board member for several terms.

Jenny Bolsky, vice president of public relations, and Suzanne Maloney, volunteer board member, worked hard to perfect our newsletter, which we are now sending out by e-mail. Nancy Kearson and Jeanne Phares, directors-at-large, have been available to offer creative ideas and help to the board.

A special thank you to Shelly Randolph, our programs chairperson. Shelly put together many interesting and informative programs this past year. And, thank you to Twyla Bowman, who has recently joined our board and has been working with Shelly on programs.

This year our affiliate offered several interesting programs for our members and guests. We started out the year with our September meeting featuring a very interesting and informative program on forensic accounting presented by AWSCPA Los Angeles board member Nancy Kearson. In November, Mark Dauberman talked about GAAP updates at the joint meeting with other accounting groups. Our December holiday party honored our affiliate's past presidents. January's joint tax update meeting was the fourth annual return of our fellow member, Nancy Brakensiek, who talked about the tax law changes for the 2002 tax season. At the February luncheon meeting, attorney Olivia Goodkin brought us up to date on labor laws.

I have learned so much through participating as a board member of AWSCPA, both on the local and national levels. I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as president this year. It has been a rewarding experience for me.

## Upcoming Events

- |                                 |                |               |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Step Up...and Take Your Mark! | Lunch Meeting  | May 21, 2002  |
| • Scholarship Awards Dinner     | Dinner Meeting | June 18, 2002 |

Remember, when you bring a guest to any meeting, you will receive a coupon good for \$5 off the price of our next meeting.

---

## Step Up... and Take Your Mark!

Christine Martin, MA, MBA, MCC is a one-on-one high performance executive coach and business development consultant specializing in start-ups, professional practices, and growth-oriented companies. She co-founded T. L. Consultants, Inc. in 1986 and has served as President/CEO since that time. Christine is a graduate of The Graziadio School of Business & Management's Presidential/Key Executive MBA Program at Pepperdine University. She earned her BA and MA degrees in Philosophy at the University of Southern California, and is credentialed by the International Coach Federation as a Master Certified Coach.

Based on the "we can do it!" attitude and immense success of the swimming events of two Olympic Games and the examples of client successes, Christine will illuminate the basics of high performance for the professional women of AWSCPA. Having given the command "Step up!...and take your mark" to thousands of swimmers from 5 to 95 she takes the wisdom and inspiration of her experiences and applies them to everyday issues in the business world. This is an interactive keynote workshop designed to illustrate a pragmatic recipe for achievement through purpose, planning, practice and performance. You will come away with the essentials of high performance, the core ideas of the program in printed form, and memorable stories about producing a result that was seen by a billion people.

---

## Scholarship Awards Dinner

We have a very exciting meeting planned for June 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our annual scholarship awards and installation of the 2002-2003 board of directors, we are privileged to present Judge Marlene A. Kristovich as our speaker for the evening. Judge Kristovich, a member of the Los Angeles Affiliate of AWSCPA, currently serves as a Superior Court judge for the State of California, County of Los Angeles. She has worked as a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice and a litigation attorney for the Treasury Department, as well as serving as a Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge before being elected to her current post.

In 1996, Judge Kristovich represented the United States Department of State in Armenia and Uzbekistan, helping to set up the courts under those countries' new constitutions and evaluating human rights violations. The judge's experiences during her diplomatic service will be the focus of her talk. Please join us for an interesting and eventful evening.

## Lunch Anyone?

Would you like an opportunity to meet and network with members in your area? Or just a chance to get out of the office on a spring day? Come to a lunch group meeting:

- The **Westside** lunch group normally meets the first Friday of every month at the Nordstrom Café in the Westside Pavilion, noon. This month's meeting is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information, e-mail Louise Teeter: [lteeter@lafn.org](mailto:lteeter@lafn.org)
- The **Valley** lunch group meets next on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at P.F. Chang's in Sherman Oaks (Ventura and Sepulveda), 11:50. Meetings are normally scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month. For more information, e-mail Carolyn Fox: [cfoxcpa@pacbell.net](mailto:cfoxcpa@pacbell.net)

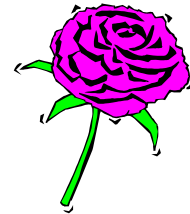
---

## Tribute to Doris Cole

*Annette Berko*

Doris Cole, a long-time member of AWSCPA of Los Angeles, lost her battle with cancer on March 13, 2002. In addition to AWSCPA, she was active in many organizations, such as Cal Society, PNG, Jewish Home for the Aging and her temple, among others. Doris was in charge of the AWSCPA valley lunch group for several years.

I met Doris about 10 years ago at the first valley lunch group. We hit it off immediately. Someone told me that she was the only female CPA he knew that could walk into a room of male CPAs, and get a kiss and a hug from everyone in the room. As a fitting tribute, her funeral was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, and many CPAs were among the standing-room-only crowd that took time from their busy day to say a final farewell to Doris. She was an amazing woman, and will be missed by everyone that knew her.



---

## Welcome New and Returning Members

Marissa Bueno

Rosenfeld & Bueno

Catherine Ann Lao

ACL Development Co.

Patty O'Connell

Holthouse Carlin Van Trigt, LLP

## Member Profile—Jean Sommerville



In 1983 Jean Sommerville founded the Los Angeles affiliate of AWSCPA with the help of several other determined CPAs. At that time, women weren't welcome at traditional networking meetings such as the Rotary Club or Kiwanas. Jean and a few other women who had reached the top ranks at the "Big Eight" didn't have the opportunities available to their male counterparts, and recognized the need for an organization that would provide networking and support for women in the profession.

A Southern California native, Jean attended the University of Redlands, where she majored in business administration with minors in computer science and dance/theater. After graduation she had her pick of schools (including Harvard), but chose UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Although originally attracted by the school's "management in the arts" program, Jean chose to pursue concentrations in accounting and information systems. She put herself through school working thirty hours a week at JPL, and had offers from all of the top accounting firms after graduation. Jean chose Price Waterhouse because of its affiliation with numerous arts organizations.

During her years in public accounting Jean contributed a great deal to the profession, as well as to the public interest. Her clients included such corporate giants as Mattel, Disney, Carnation and Great Western. In the 1980's Jean traveled to Washington, D.C. to assist the federal government in quantifying the cost of the S&L bailout; the FDIC chairman used her report in his testimony to congress. Later, she coordinated the government's case in the Lincoln Savings failure, which resulted in settlements from all of the major participants in the debacle. During this time Jean married, divorced and took on single parenthood.

Jean ascended to senior manager at a time when few women made it to the top. Although she struggled against discrimination along the way, Jean never got bitter—she just fought back! She returned from a two-year stint in Germany, where women in the workforce received little respect, with a renewed commitment to improving opportunities for professional women. That resolve provided the impetus for the Los Angeles AWSCPA affiliate. Depending on word of mouth to promote the first meeting, Jean and the other founders hoped for a group of 50. Instead, they got over 200, and our affiliate was born.

After fifteen years Jean left public accounting to join Great Western Financial as senior vice president and director of operations analysis. She led the company's recovery from the Northridge earthquake one mile away, restoring critical operations within 48 hours, and keeping service to customers intact. Jean also taught at UCLA's Anderson School of Management before moving to Transamerica as senior audit director. Jean currently serves as director of finance for the Colburn School of Performing Arts, where she is able to combine her technical skills with an appreciation for the arts. Jean remains active in AWSCPA, while still finding time to volunteer at her daughter's ballet school and serve on the Redlands Chapel Restoration Committee and the La Cañada Tournament of Roses.

## Member News

**Nancy A. Kearson** has been awarded the Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) designation by the AICPA. The ABV designation recognizes CPAs with extensive professional experience in business valuation.

**Jenny Bolsky** was admitted as a partner in the firm of Miller, Kaplan, Arase & Co., LLP. Jenny works in firm's North Hollywood office, where she specializes in audits of nonprofit organizations and employee benefit plans.

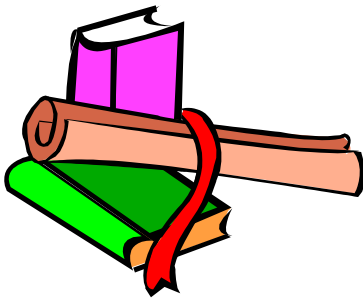
---

## Call for 2002-2003 Board Members

Please consider volunteering as a member of our board of directors for the 2002-2003 year. Serving on the board can be a truly gratifying experience. It provides opportunities to meet new people, develop leadership skills, and most important, help other women find support and success in our profession. New perspectives and fresh ideas are critical to the success of our organization. The investment of just a few hours of your time each month will provide significant rewards for you and for the Los Angeles affiliate. If you are interested, please contact Annette Berko at (818) 907-6500 or [aberko@kkbcpa.com](mailto:aberko@kkbcpa.com).

---

## Debra Gerwerter Scholarship



This year, in honor of our longtime colleague and friend, the Los Angeles affiliate will award a special scholarship to a deserving accounting student. Since this cause is so dear to our hearts, the screening process will be more rigorous than for scholarships previously awarded by our organization.

Members of our affiliate will personally screen each application. We plan to award a \$1,000 scholarship based on financial need, commitment to the accounting profession, and involvement in extracurricular activities. An exciting awards dinner on June 18<sup>th</sup> will honor this exceptional scholarship recipient. For more information or an application, please contact Johanna Zimmerman at [jezimmermancpa@msn.com](mailto:jezimmermancpa@msn.com).

---

## We've Gone Electronic

90% of our members are now receiving the newsletter electronically. Please remember to let us know if your e-mail address changes. For the few of you that have not submitted your e-mail address, please consider it. This will help us save on postage and printing costs.

## Annual Leadership Conference

*Kim Fantaci*

Our 2002 Leadership Conference will be at the Adams Mark Hotel on the world famous River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. AWSCPA is excited to feature Ann Richards as its keynote speaker at the conference to be held June 12-14<sup>th</sup>. The former governor of Texas is well known as a leader and role model. A longtime advocate of civil rights and economic justice, Richards is also acclaimed as a dynamic speaker who says what she thinks.

The conference will offer 17 hours of varied continuing professional education (CPE) with a technical track and a leadership/professional development track. Concurrent sessions will include topics of interest to all CPAs, including those in industry and in public accounting. In addition, the Educational Foundation for Women in Accounting (EFWA) will present three bonus pre-conference seminars on Wednesday morning. Receive CPE for "Management Styles", "Negotiating Conflict Situations", and "Presentation Skills" while learning the information necessary to thrive in the profession. The best part... participation is included in your conference fee!

Social and networking events will include a narrated barge tour on the river and drop off in the heart of the River Walk, the annual awards banquet at the restored historic buildings of a former convent at the Southwest School of Art & Craft, and a closing reception in the form of Fiesta Noche del Rio at the Arneson River Theater. In addition, there will be an optional tour of historical San Antonio and many interesting attractions to visit on your own. Attractions include the



Alamo, the King William historic area, Market Square – El Mercado, the mission trails, and the Spanish governor's palace. To learn more about San Antonio or request a visitors' guide, see the Convention and Visitors Bureau website at [www.sanantoniocvb.com](http://www.sanantoniocvb.com) or call 800-447-3372. Registration is simple by mail, fax or on-line! For more conference information, visit the AWSCPA web site at [www.awscpa.org](http://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.

---

## 2001-2002 Board of Directors

President	Louise Teeter	<a href="mailto:lteeter@lafn.org">lteeter@lafn.org</a>
Secretary	Carol Suruki-Boedeker	<a href="mailto:carols@mossadams.com">carols@mossadams.com</a>
Treasurer	Karen Katzbeck	<a href="mailto:kkatzbeck@aol.com">kkatzbeck@aol.com</a>
First Vice President	Johanna Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:jezimermancpa@msn.com">jezimermancpa@msn.com</a>
V.P. Programs	Open	
V.P. Public Relations	Jenny Bolsky	<a href="mailto:jbolsky@millerkaplan.com">jbolsky@millerkaplan.com</a>
V.P. Membership	Kathy Edwards	<a href="mailto:katherine.edwards@ticketmaster.com">katherine.edwards@ticketmaster.com</a>
Immediate Past President	Annette Berko	<a href="mailto:aberko@kkbcpa.com">aberko@kkbcpa.com</a>
Directors at Large:	Nancy Kearson	<a href="mailto:nkearson@earthlink.net">nkearson@earthlink.net</a>
	Jeanne Phares	<a href="mailto:jphares@deloitte.com">jphares@deloitte.com</a>
Programs Volunteer	Shelly Randolph	<a href="mailto:slrwiggins@earthlink.net">slrwiggins@earthlink.net</a>
Newsletter Volunteer	Suzanne Maloney	<a href="mailto:suzannem@mossadams.com">suzannem@mossadams.com</a>