

FOOTNOTES

Spring 2004

President's Letter

Jenny Bolsky



It's hard to believe the year is almost over, and my term as president is coming to an end. It has been a great privilege to serve the Los Angeles affiliate of AWSCPA and its members. Although I was initially hesitant to accept the position, serving as your president has been a truly rewarding experience. This year has taught me a lot about leadership, and has also afforded me the opportunity to meet so many interesting people.

I have been especially fortunate to act as your president this year because of the phenomenal board that worked so hard to support the organization. I would like to thank each and every one of the dedicated board members who were willing to make the commitment to serve this past year. Each one took responsibility for a piece of the work that makes up the successful whole, resulting in another exceptional year for AWSCPA Los Angeles.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of: First Vice-President Nancy Kearson, whose professionalism and cool demeanor contributed to our productivity and kept our meetings on track; Treasurer Carol Suruki-Boedeker, who despite an incredibly busy year was able to keep our finances in order; Secretary Annette Berko, who faithfully attended board meetings and took our minutes; VP—Public Relations Louise Teeter, who produced four smashing, informative newsletters; VP—Programs Susan Richman, who coordinated speakers, meals and locations for all our meetings this year, including the labor-intensive joint meetings; Immediate Past President Johanna Zimmerman, whose dedication to AWSCPA is legendary, and Directors at Large Twylah Bowman, Irina Artem (who received a battlefield promotion upon receiving her license) and Suzanne Cloutier. The three former presidents deserve special thanks, as they served as my mentors this year, providing steady guidance, historical information and lots of advice! In addition, we got some excellent assistance from our volunteers Valerie Goldstein, Suzanne Maloney and Helen Wong.

It has been a pleasure to serve you. I look forward to a superb 2004-2005 year in the capable hands of Nancy Kearson, your incoming president.

Step Up... and Take Your Mark!

We are please to announce that May 18, 2004, the dinner meeting at Pinot Bistro on Ventura Blvd in Studio City will feature **Christine Martin, MA, MBA, MCC. of TL Consultants, Inc.** Christine is an International Coaching Federation (ICF) Master Certified Coach, as well as a board member of ICF. She is also an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University and Cal State Channel Islands.

Christine 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. 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.

Plan to attend this interesting and informative program:

Registration and Networking begins at 6:00 PM

Pinot Bistro

12969 Ventura Blvd. (just west of Coldwater Canyon)

Studio City, CA 91604

For more information call Sue Richman at 818-709-3551

Annual Scholarship Awards/Installation Dinner

We have a very special evening planned for our annual scholarship awards dinner, scheduled for Thursday June 17th. AWSCPA's National board of directors will be in town, and we have asked them to join us at our meeting. In addition to our annual scholarship awards and installation of the Los Angeles Affiliate's 2004-2005 board of directors, installation of the new national board of directors will take place at this event.

What's more, we are privileged to present a panel of current AWSCPA National board members for the evening's program. Incoming President, Jenifer Goforth; Outgoing President, Alex Miller; and Incoming First Vice-President, Kendra Hutchison will talk about AWSCPA and the role it has played in their personal and professional development. Please join us for an interesting and eventful evening.

We are very proud to introduce the AWSCPA – Los Angeles Affiliate
President-Elect for the 2004/2005 year,

Nancy A. Kearson, CPA, ABV, CVA, DABFA



Nancy Kearson, established her firm in 2001. As a business appraiser and forensic accountant she has extensive specialized experience in all types of business appraisal and litigation related financial and investigative analyses for all types of businesses. She has qualified and given testimony as an expert witness. In addition to litigation services her background includes business management for high net worth, high profile individuals. Prior to forming her firm, she was with Miod and

Company, LLP, from 1996 to 2001, including as Partner and Director of Litigation Services. While at Miod and Company she certified for the California Judicial Council the Norton SupportTax™ program. Ms. Kearson was also with the firm Gursey, Schneider & Co. from 1988 to 1996.

In addition to her active participation in AWSCPA, Nancy is also a director of the Los Angeles Chapter of California Society of CPAs, a member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts, and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. She is a frequent speaker at professional meetings and has written articles on forensic accounting and is a contributing writer to “Ask a CPA” on California Society of CPAs website.

Proposed Slate of Officers:

The AWSCPA – Los Angeles Board of Directors for the Year 2004/2005

President: Nancy Kearson

1st VP: Open

Past President: Jenny Bolsky

Secretary: Roobina Baghoomians

Treasurer: Judith Sacco

VP Programs: Susan Richman

VP Public Relations: Irina Artem

VP Member Services: Johanna Zimmerman

Director: Annette Berko

Director: Louise Teeter

Meet AWSCPA – Los Angeles Affiliate’s newest CPA -- Irina Artem



Irina Artem joined the Los Angeles Affiliate of AWSCPA in September 2002, and since receiving her license earlier this year Irina has become the Affiliate’s newest CPA member. Irina has been an active member of AWSCPA and a volunteer board member for the past year. She attended the national conference in Montreal in June 2003 and has participated on the AWSCPA national visioning task force.

Irina is employed with PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Los Angeles Transfer Pricing team. As part of the Transfer Pricing team, Irina combines her business economics education and her accounting knowledge to serve the firm’s multinational clients and deliver transfer pricing solutions and comprehensive tax planning strategies in all aspects of intercompany cross-border pricing arrangements. Irina is proud to be part of a firm that puts utmost value on its people, professional network, community, and exceptional client services; she looks forward to a long career with the firm as a Transfer Pricing expert.

Involvement with an organization such as AWSCPA is important to Irina not just for its networking opportunities but because it makes a difference in a starting professional’s life through a supportive environment, empowerment through knowledge, and inspiration by its membership. Seeing a large group of highly successful women who withstood many challenges, climbed to the top of their profession and also maintain happy family lives is highly encouraging to Irina, especially since she herself had to overcome adversity.

Irina immigrated to the United States with her family in 1992 from Moscow, Russia to escape the country’s anti-Semitism and religious persecution of her family. Despite the lack of financial resources, language and cultural barriers, Irina was determined to make the most of her new life in the new homeland. She persevered in school graduating from high school in the top 3 percent of her graduating class and from UCLA Magna Cum Laude. As a junior at UCLA, Irina was recruited by PricewaterhouseCoopers as a summer intern for the Transfer Pricing team, where she continues to work as a fulltime employee to this day. Although Irina is still at the beginning of her career she hopes that her story will inspire others to rise above challenges and succeed in their endeavors. Irina, her husband David, and their talking African parrot, Ira, reside in Studio City, California.

AWSCPA–LOS ANGELES MEMBERS-WE NEED YOU!

Board members needed. Benefits include a strengthened sense of belonging, lasting friendships, and a new line for your resume.

Please contact Johanna Zimmerman (phone: (310) 276-6962 or email jezimmerncpa@msn.com) for information on serving on the 2004-2005 AWSCPA - Los Angeles affiliate board of directors. We need volunteers who can give as little as an hour a month for a small job to four or five for a larger job.

AWSCPA NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP

by Louise Teeter

The AWSCPA recognizes achievements of its members and its affiliates each year at the annual leadership conference.

The American Woman's Society of CPAs would like to inform you of up coming deadlines for the National Scholarship Award and nominations for: Woman CPA of the Year, Educator of the Year, Public Service Award, and Woman of Courage. These are individual accomplishment awards that the AWSCPA recognizes by awarding individual achievements of its members and non-members with the following awards.

The **Woman CPA of the Year Award** recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the accounting profession. Criteria for this award are professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and contributions that further the advancement of women in the profession. Such contributions may include but are not limited to participating in successful mentoring relationships, implementing flexible work schedules or other family-friendly arrangements, advocating programs that promote women within a company, and supporting diversity programs. Nominations should include background information on the nominee and the reason why she should be selected.

The **Educator of the Year Award** recognizes excellence in teaching in the accounting field by a faculty member of a two- or four-year college.

The **Public Service Award** recognizes an AWSCPA member who provides a significant contribution of time and talent to public services outside of the accounting profession.

The **Woman of Courage Award** recognizes an AWSCPA member for achievement under difficult conditions.

Self-nominations are welcome for all awards. This year, the awards committee revisited the awards criteria and has opened nominations for the Woman CPA of the Year and the Educator of the Year to professionals outside of AWSCPA. The nomination forms, which must be completed, may be obtained from the AWSCPA website (www.awscpa.org) or by contacting the AWSCPA Administrative Office. Nominations are due by **May 31, 2004**. The nomination process can be an opportunity to learn more about the professional accomplishments and contributions to the community of affiliate members and members-at-large.

The individual awards will be presented at the AWSCPA/ASWA Joint National Conference, November 10-12, 2004 in Chicago. The AWSCPA believes the individual awards are a great opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of women that go above and beyond to help others.

National Scholarship: The American Woman's Society of CPAs now offers a national scholarship to individuals aspiring to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The recipient of the scholarship will receive funding for a CPA review course conducted by a recognized CPA review provider. The scholarship, valued at approximately \$2,200 will be paid directly to the review provider.

National Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicant must meet the minimum education requirements to sit for the CPA exam within one year of scholarship awarding.
- Applicant must either be an entering Senior, 5th year student, graduate student or a graduate AND eligible to take a review course within one year of scholarship awarding.
- Applicant must have a 3.0 GPA in accounting and a 3.0 GPA overall.
- Due date of application is March 15, 2004. Applicants will be notified of acceptance on June 30, 2004.
- Applicants must provide a validated transcript from their college to verify grades, major and classes taken.
- Applicant must submit an essay no longer than 1,000 words explaining why they are deserving of the scholarship.
- Applicant must either be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the United States.

Needs and scholastic aptitude will be considered for the recipient(s). Awarding of the scholarship will be done at several student conferences held between August and December of each year, including but not limited to the Beta Alpha Psi Annual Conference.

Again these deadlines are fast approaching so be sure to get your nominations in early. If you have any questions please call the AWSCPA at 1-800-297-2721 or email at info@awscpa.org.

Job Bank

Suzanne Cloutier, Cloutier & Associates, a long time member of Los Angeles Affiliate, is in charge of the job bank. There are currently several job postings.

See details of these listings on our website at www.awscpa.org/losangeles

If you have a job posting or are in search of a job, contact Suzanne at SCloutier@CloutierAssoc.com

Have you checked out the AWSCPA-Los Angeles Website lately?

Visit our website at www.awscpa.org/losangeles. The site currently includes basic affiliate information, including our meeting schedule for the coming year, board of directors and scholarship information. We plan to continually enhance our site with up-to-date information of interest to our members.

Please tell us what you think of the site, and let us know what else you would like to see there. We welcome your input.

Monthly Lunch Meetings

Would you like an opportunity to meet and network with members and friends of AWSCPA – Los Angeles Affiliate in your area? Or just a chance to get out of the office? Come to a lunch group meeting:

The **Westside** lunch group meets at noon, on the first Friday of every month at a Westside location. For more information e-mail Louise at: lteeter@lafn.org or call (310) 823-2234.

The **Valley** lunch group meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon. For restaurant location and more information e-mail Carolyn Fox: cfox@pacbell.net

These locations not too convenient? How about forming your own lunch group meeting in your area, downtown Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Bay or West Valley? If you are interested in starting a local lunch group meeting, contact Louise Teeter or Jenny Bolsky for details.

Deductible Contributions

You can make a deductible charitable contribution to the AWSCPA Educational Foundation – helping the AWSCPA-LA and/or National Scholarship Fund. For more information contact any board member for details.

AWSCPA-LA

AWSCPA-LA cups and pins are available for purchase at our meetings or through the board members. Cups and pins are \$5 each

AWSCPA & ASWA Joint National Conference

Mark your calendar now for the ASWA/AWSCPA Joint Inspired Solutions Conference in Chicago, Illinois, November 10-12, 2004, at the InterContinental Chicago Hotel. You won't want to miss these three education- and networking-packed days in the exciting city of Chicago!

This is going to be an especially exciting conference, the first “JAM”, Joint Annual Meeting with AWSCPA and ASWA, in several years.

Chicago is a great city to visit; the weather should be perfect in the fall, and the local restaurants superb. This conference will offer many opportunities to meet fellow CPAs from around the country, network with other professionals and earn quality CPE and Leadership Training Series Certification.

Check out the national website at www.awscpa.org for more details.

Be sure to book your hotel room early, space is limited and will fill-up fast.

2003/2004 Los Angeles Board

President.....Jenny Bolsky
1st Vice PresidentNancy Kearson
Secretary.....Annette Berko
Treasurer Carol Suruki-Boedecker
VP Programs..... Sue Richman
VP Public Relations..... Louise Teeter
VP MembershipOpen
Past President.....Johanna Zimmerman
Job BankSuzanne Cloutier
Director.....Irina Artem

Volunteers:.....Valerie Goldstein
Suzanne Maloney
Helen Wong

Footnotes—The AWSCPA--Los Angeles Affiliate Newsletter is published quarterly. Please submit items for publication to the newsletter editor, Louise Teeter at lteeter@lafn.org or lteeter@awscpa.org