



## FOOTNOTE Summer 2002

### President's Letter

*Johanna Zimmerman*

I joined AWSCPA of Los Angeles in 1990, a few months after I had established my own practice. I had strong feelings of trepidation. Should I try to afford the dues? Would I want to attend the meetings? Would anyone talk to me? Over the years AWSCPA of Los Angeles has been a lifeline to me; helping me stay in contact with a diverse group of professional and successful women I admired. This group of women helped me expand my dreams from simply supporting myself to doing well for myself; showing me the worth of the many avenues open to women CPAs and helping me to find my own way. I have found a network of women in public accounting and private, and in related financial fields, that I could recommend with every confidence that my clients would welcome the referral. I have traveled many miles with this group of women who knew and valued the same things I know and value. I have given and received referrals for jobs and for clients over the years. Membership has shifted over the years. New members have been welcomed, scholarships have been expanded; we are close to having our own web site. Recently, I received an email from the diversity chair of one of the remaining "big four" firms asking for information on AWSCPA of Los Angeles activities for his newsletter. The expansion has been all to the good; we have also had losses. Some of us have retired; some have moved away from Los Angeles; some very precious friends have died.

I look at the list of past presidents with awe. They worked hard to keep our affiliate going. They honored the whole membership by spending a great deal of time to encourage each member who participated and attended meetings. Difficult as it will be for me; I would like to continue this tradition.

My goal this year is to develop a network of committees to support each board member. If you are a continuing member you must be aware we have fewer and fewer members who are willing and able to accept any board position. We have no member who is willing to be president next year. Each task is just too time consuming for a single member to tackle alone. To schedule, notify, and record our activities we need one member to assume each tiny task for one meeting, one newsletter.

I know most of our members are not able to commit to being tied down to a whole year. How about three hours? Can you recommend a meeting place, or type and email a meeting notice, or recommend and confirm a speaker? Can you attend one dinner/lunch meeting and sell raffle tickets? Can you form a committee to judge scholarship applicants? Please call or email any board member you may be able to help. Even if you cannot help right away; your help will be welcomed in the coming months.

## Upcoming Events

- A Night with Jack Kyser                      Olympic Collection                      September 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.

---

### A Night with Jack Kyser

Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), has been called the “guru of the Los Angeles economy” by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. Mr. Kyser is responsible for interpreting and forecasting economic trends in the Los Angeles five-county area, and for analyzing its major industries. His advice is frequently sought by business, government and the media. Prior to joining the LAEDC, Mr. Kyser was chief economist for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. A member of the Economic Policy Council of the California Institute, the research and policy arm of the California Congressional Delegation, Mr. Kyser also serves on the economic advisors panel for the State Controller and the California Chamber of Commerce. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial design, and an MBA from the University of Southern California.

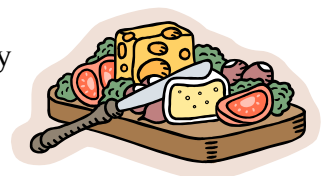
Mr. Kyser will speak about how he uses real world business experience to support the success of our business community. This is a joint event with the LA Chapter of CalCPA’s Members in Industry. It should be a great networking opportunity as well as an interesting presentation.

---

### 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? Come to a lunch group meeting:

- The **Westside** lunch group meets the first Friday of every month at the Nordstrom Café in the Westside Pavilion, noon. For more information, email Louise Teeter: [lteeter@lafn.org](mailto:lteeter@lafn.org)



- The **Valley** lunch group meets next on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at P.F. Chang’s in Sherman Oaks (Ventura and Sepulveda), 11:50. Meetings are normally the third Tuesday of the month. For information, email Carolyn Fox: [cfoxcpa@pacbell.net](mailto:cfoxcpa@pacbell.net)
- 

### Help Us Keep in Touch

If you have moved, or plan to, please send your new contact information to [jbolsky@millerkaplan.com](mailto:jbolsky@millerkaplan.com), (or call 818/769-2010) so that we can keep our records up to date.

## Scholarship Awards Dinner

At our June meeting we awarded scholarships to five outstanding young women who are pursuing careers in accounting. The students received scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$1,000 based on their commitment to the accounting profession and involvement in extracurricular activities. It was an inspiration to meet these bright and promising women, and we look forward to their contributions to our profession.



Scholarships winners Kimberly DeCrane, Jaimee Brubacher, Sumi Shrishrimal, Drangana Lane and Jennifer de Puzo with incoming president Johanna Zimmerman at the awards dinner *(Photo by Miroslav Peric)*

Our featured speaker for the evening was Judge Marlene Kristovich, a member of our affiliate and a Superior Court judge for the State of California. Judge Marlene entered the accounting profession at a time when there were very few women in the field, and worked at a “big eight” accounting firm while supporting her siblings and pursuing her law degree. We were glued to our seats as Judge Marlene described her experiences representing the U.S. Department of State in Uzbekistan, helping to set up the courts under the country’s new constitution and evaluating human rights violations. Those of us lucky enough to sit at Judge Marlene’s table during dinner also heard about some of her personal adventures, such as sailing solo from Hawaii to California.

---

## 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.

## Thank you!

Thank you, all who made donations towards our affiliate basket for the annual conference or for our ad in the conference brochure saluting our own Barbara Guerra as the new board president.

Carolyn Fox  
Rose Kujawa  
Carol Suruki  
Louise Teeter

Karen Katzbeck  
Suzanne Maloney  
Alan Sworski

Marlene Kristovich  
Sue Richman  
Jenny Bolsky

A special thank you to Alan Sworski of Planned Estate Services, who generously donated the entire cost of our one page ad in the brochure, and to Suzanne Maloney and Carol Suruki for creating a fabulous Southern California-themed basket to be auctioned off at the conference.

---

## Welcome New and Returning Members

Theresina Lloyd

United Cambodian Community

---

## Member News

**Nancy A. Kearson** spoke to the Harvard Business School Association of Southern California in June at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Her talk focused on the valuation process for small privately held companies.

**Karen Katzbeck** married Bob Fuelleman, a computer controls consultant to power plant builders and operators, on June 15th. The newlyweds are busy with their beautiful new house overlooking the city.

**Karen Bowman** was admitted as a partner at Deloitte and Touche LLP. She has transferred to D&T's Washington DC office, where she is in the audit practice focusing on financial services institutions.

**Kathy Edwards** was married on June 29<sup>th</sup> to Michael Pare. After a trip to Montana to visit family, the happy couple is settling in at home in Santa Clarita with daughter Amber.

**Nancy Wheeler-Chandler** was elected chairman of the board of directors of CalCPA.

**Barbara Guerra** was elected president of AWSCPA's national board of directors.



**Sheila Shanker's** articles "Dealing with Changes in Your Practice" and "Hiring a CPA for Your Architectural Practice" were published in the premier issue of *Architecture Business & Economics*.

## Meet the Board

**President Johanna Zimmerman** ([jezimmermancpa@msn.com](mailto:jezimmermancpa@msn.com)) graduated from UCLA with a BS in home economics long ago. After marriage, Johanna was a stay-at-home mom for ten years. Eventually she went back to school, taking enough accounting classes to pass the CPA exam, and joined an international accounting firm. Johanna stayed at the firm for twelve years, working her way from para-professional to manager at the firm. In 1990 she decided to start her own firm, and in the same year joined AWSCPA. Johanna has served at both the national and affiliate level for over ten years. She was recognized by AWSCPA at the National Association of Women Business Owners awards luncheon in 1998. Johanna is also a member of the AICPA and CalCPA.

**Secretary Annette Berko** ([aberko@kkbcpa.com](mailto:aberko@kkbcpa.com)) is a charter member of the Los Angeles affiliate, and has been active on the board of directors for many years, serving in several capacities, including the presidency. Annette graduated from CSUN with a degree in mathematics and the lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. A year of student teaching convinced her otherwise, however, and she went on to obtain her masters degree in accounting. Annette passed the CPA exam and went to work for a local CPA firm, later receiving a masters degree in taxation. Annette is currently a tax manager for Kirsch, Kohn & Bridge. She lives in Sherman Oaks with her husband, two children, two cats and a dog.

**Treasurer Carol Suruki-Boedeker** ([carols@mossadams.com](mailto:carols@mossadams.com)) is a senior manager with Moss Adams LLP, where she specializes in manufacturing and distribution. She received her BS in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting, from CSUN. Carol is a member of the AICPA and CalCPA as well as serving on the AWSCPA board for the past several years. Carol is also involved with the Textile Professionals Club and serves on the board of directors of the Fashion Business Incubator, which provides business development assistance to growing apparel manufacturing businesses. She enjoys spending free time with her husband and two-year-old son.

**V.P. Public Relations Jenny Bolsky** ([jbolsky@millerkaplan.com](mailto:jbolsky@millerkaplan.com)) is a partner with Miller, Kaplan, Arase & Co., LLP, where she specializes in audits of employee benefit plans and nonprofit organizations. She received her bachelor's degree in economics from U.C. Davis and later a masters degree from Woodbury University. Jenny worked for the U.S. Department of Defense for three years before entering public accounting. She is a member of the AICPA and CalCPA, as well as the Southern California Association of Benefit Plan Administrators. She also provides pro-bono services to nonprofit organizations through the Clearinghouse for Volunteer Accounting Services. In her free time, Jenny enjoys gardening, horseback riding and relaxing with her husband and dogs.

**V.P. Membership Kathy Edwards** ([katherine.edwards@ticketmaster.com](mailto:katherine.edwards@ticketmaster.com)) is currently the tax manager at Ticketmaster. Her position involves not only federal, state and local tax for the company's growing business, but also intertwines with the other companies in the USA consolidation. She is also dealing with international issues as Ticketmaster expands into Europe, Australia and Asia. Kathy is currently pursuing her masters degree in taxation at Golden Gate University. She has been a member of AWSCPA for many years and has also served on the board as Director, V.P. Public Relations and President.

## Meet the Board

**Past President Louise Teeter** ([lteeter@lafn.org](mailto:lteeter@lafn.org)) is the owner of her own accounting firm in Marina del Rey since 1985. Her accounting practice specializes in individual, estate, trust and business income tax, general accounting, compilations, real estate and estate planning. She is also a licensed real estate agent. An active member of AWSCPA Los Angeles since 1986, Louise has served in various capacities as officer and director for several years. She has also served on the national board for the past four years. Louise is a member of the AICPA and CalCPA, and was recognized as AWSCPA Los Angeles' member of the year at the National Association of Women Business Owners awards luncheon in 2000.

**Director at Large Nancy Kearson** ([nkearson@earthlink.net](mailto:nkearson@earthlink.net)), who holds the designations Certified Valuation Analyst, Accredited in Business Valuation and Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Accounting as well as CPA, established her own firm in 2001. As a forensic accountant she has extensive specialized experience in all types of litigation-related financial appraisal and investigative analyses. She has qualified and given testimony as an expert witness. In addition to litigation services, Nancy's background includes auditing and business management for high net worth, high profile individuals.

**Director at Large Twylah Bowman** ([asproservices@aol.com](mailto:asproservices@aol.com)) is licensed in both California and Arizona. She began her career at KPMG Peat Marwick, and has held several positions in industry during her career. After spending a number of years as director of finance at Paramount Pictures' consumer products division, Twylah recently started her own practice specializing in accounting, bookkeeping, tax, financial analysis, budgeting and forecasting, business management and consulting. She holds a real estate license and is a Certified QuickBooks Advisor, as well as serving on the board of directors for the Paramount Pictures Credit Union.

**Volunteer Programs Shelly Randolph** ([slrwiggins@earthlink.net](mailto:slrwiggins@earthlink.net)) has recently joined Countrywide Home Loans as a senior internal auditor, specializing in loan administration and servicing issues. She previously spent several years with the internal audit and consulting outsourcing practice at KPMG LLP, specializing in financial services clients. She received her bachelor's degree in agricultural and managerial economics from U.C. Davis. Shelly is in the process of completing her CPA certification and is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors. She is currently serving her third year as programs coordinator for the Los Angeles affiliate. In her free time, Shelly enjoys trying new foods in the company of friends and afternoon tea time.

**Volunteer Newsletter Suzanne Maloney** ([suzannem@mossadams.com](mailto:suzannem@mossadams.com)) is a senior accountant in the state and local taxes division of Moss Adams LLP, where she works in such industries as wineries, airlines, apparel retail and manufacturing. Suzanne is a member of the Society of Auditors and Appraisers, and joined AWSCPA as a student member upon moving to Los Angeles in 1999. Suzanne attends the University of Phoenix at its Gardena campus. In her spare time she enjoys spending quality time with friends, reading, singing and snuggling with her two cats.

## Annual Leadership Conference

*Annette Berko*

On June 12 – June 14, I attended the 2002 National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. One of the highlights of the conference for the Los Angeles affiliate members (Louise Teeter, Johanna Zimmerman, Suzanne Maloney, Barbara Guerra and me) was the award our newsletter received at the Awards Banquet.



Affiliate President Louise Teeter and Newsletter Volunteer Suzanne Maloney proudly accept the *Star Affiliate* award from Jennifer Goforth

Another special moment for the Los Angeles affiliate was Barbara Guerra's installation as National President. Barbara also headed up the planning committee for the conference, and they did a wonderful job. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Our hotel was right near the Alamo and the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk was the destination for two of our evening events – a scenic barge tour on Wednesday night and the Fiesta Noche del Rio on Friday night.

The conference also included the Affiliate exchange, where we got some great ideas for planning the upcoming year and 18 hours of continuing education on various topics ranging from technical subjects to personal development. There was also plenty of time to network with other women CPAs from around the country.



2001/2002 National Board Members Marilyn Huset, Jenifer Goforth, Barbara Guerra, Johanna Zimmerman, Alex Miller, Marianne Heard, Louise Teeter, Kendra Hutchinson

---

### *Buying or Selling a home?*

**Twylah Bowman**, one of our members, is a licensed Realtor. If you're looking for a **Professional, ethical, and honest** representative, she's the one to call. She's **serious** about the service she provides and **serious** about doing the best job possible. Save time, energy, and your sanity. Give her a call today! **(818) 701-7272**

#### **Office:**

Century21 Exclusive  
19900 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, Ca 91364  
(818) 348-7500 x721