

Tucson Affiliate November 2006 Newsletter

Contents:

- President's Message..... 1
- Meeting Notice 2
- Recent Events 2
- Announcements 3
- Special Thanks..... 3
- Charitable Endeavors..... 4
- Board of Directors 5
- Upcoming Events..... 6
- Welcome to AWSCPA 6
- AWSCPA Mission..... 6
- WebCasts 7
- Job Forum 8
- Puzzles 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lynda N. Nigh, CPA

Thanks to all and **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner – time to enjoy family and friends – time to give thanks.

So – **THANK YOU** to the amazing professional women who serve as officers and directors of the **Tucson Affiliate**. All have been busy working on exciting programs, delicious lunch menus, and finding that perfect venue for our speakers. We are accepting **scholarship** applications through November 30th and encourage you to get the word out to all accounting students. The Tucson Affiliate directory will be available in the near future, and we hope you find it invaluable in networking and staying in touch with fellow members.



Tucson affiliate **president, Lynda Nigh,** makes every opportunity count!

And most importantly, **THANK YOU** to our members – **THANK YOU** for your feedback, your meeting attendance, and your desire to make the **Tucson Affiliate** your professional organization. It's been said before, but it really is true – **"It's all about you."** Keep those great ideas and suggestions coming our way.

See you at the **November 29th** meeting – will we all be on diets by then?

MEETING NOTICE

IRS Answers to Tough Questions by Susan Freund

- Date and Time:** Wednesday, November 29, 2006
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
(please allow time for check-in, lunch served at noon)
- Cost:** \$25 members / \$30 non-members / \$10 students
- CPE:** Counts as one (1) hour of CPE
- Place:** McMahan's Prime Steakhouse, Swan & Ft. Lowell

Menu:

Starter: Tossed greens with champagne vinaigrette

Entrée, choose one:

- 1) **Chicken Saltimbocca** – prosciutto, provolone cheese, and a mushroom marsala sauce with fresh seasonal vegetables and roasted new potatoes.
- 2) **Pasta** – seasonal vegetables sautéed in extra virgin olive oil and tossed with pasta and alfredo sauce.

- Reservations:** **Notify** Debi Moore by telephone: 790-3500 x218
or e-mail: debi.moore@cliftoncpa.com
Reservation deadline: **Monday, Nov. 27th** at 12:00 pm

Note: Participants who sign up but are unable to attend will be billed unless they notify [Debi](#) of the cancellation [24 hours](#) in advance of the luncheon.

RECENT EVENTS

Social Security and Medicare: The Nuts and Bolts

By Susan Pina, CPA

Our October luncheon topic had the potential to be tedious, but for those who took the risk and attended, we found Social Security and Medicare to be interesting and the information presented very useful! When I



I saw the topic of the luncheon, my first thought was "This is something I need to learn, but I bet it will be hard to keep focused." Surprisingly, the speaker made the topic easy to listen to and included extremely useful information. Add to that a great lunch at Acacia in a very nice, private room, and you have an exceptional hour of CPE.



Our guest speaker was Dan Chavez, District Manager of the Social Security Administration's Tucson office. He began by discussing the history of Social Security and Medicare. He included how it is funded and who benefits from the programs. After the overview he discussed the newest part of the program, Medicare Part D, about which he presented the nuts and bolts of how it works. He agreed that it is a difficult program to understand and added he has never run for or held an elected office. It is his job to administer the program with the rules set by the officials we elected.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) During his presentation he provided several websites where we can get additional information or refer clients (or parents in my case). I have checked out two of them and have found them useful (www.socialsecurity.gov and www.medicare.gov).

To end the presentation Dan Chavez quickly reviewed the future of Social Security. I have read many authors' descriptions of the problems of Social Security, and I must admit that Dan Chavez provided the best information in the simplest terms. I can honestly say I understand what challenging decisions our elected officials face regarding Social Security and its future over the next 40 years.



The luncheon also provided time to socialize and relax with others in our field. Our affiliate president, Lynda Nigh, updated us on upcoming events and progress on some ongoing projects. She also showed the Star Affiliate Award our group had won at the joint national conference in September. Finally, we also awarded a gift certificate to Risky Business to the first winner of our monthly puzzle contest. Alex Miller (photo at left) was the first to submit the correct answers to last month's match puzzle. (See page 9 for this month's puzzle and your opportunity to win.) The luncheon was an enjoyable event!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWSCPA Member Drive – National has decided to continue its drive for new members, and you can benefit. For each new member you recruit you will receive a \$10 gift certificate and a chance to win a semi-annual grand prize. See [Welcome](#) on page 7 or www.awscpa.org for more details.

Women and Money – The **AWSCPA** Tucson Affiliate is pleased to announce its support of the **YWCA's** 3rd Annual **Women & Money Conference** to be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the Westin La Paloma. The affiliate will sponsor scholarships for four deserving women and will send two members to host an **AWSCPA** display table. Visit their website (www.ywcatucson.org/womenandmoney/home.htm) for useful resources and more information about how this conference can benefit you and your clients!

women
& money



Board Position Available – Promotion and media relationship committee chair. If you're a creative writer willing to assist with media notices and press releases for our affiliate, we need your talents. Guidelines and samples are available – we need someone to implement. Please contact [Lynda Nigh](#) for more information.

AWSCPA Virtual Mall – As you start your holiday shopping, keep this **opportunity** in mind... AWSCPA has partnered with several companies – including Lands' End, Office Depot, Dell Computers, and The Sharper Image – who will donate a portion of each **AWSCPA** purchase to the **CPE Foundation**, which provides national scholarships and helps affiliates with their scholarship programs. See the Virtual Mall on www.awscpa.org (from the home page click "Useful Links" then choose Virtual Mall) for a complete listing. To count toward their contribution, most of the vendors require you to begin your shopping at the Virtual Mall.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Tucson AWSCPA would like to thank the following firms and individuals for their contributions to our affiliate:

- **THERESE HERZOG** – for collecting and delivering the clothing donations to the [Your Sister's Closet](#)
- **BEACH FLEISCHMAN** – for hosting our webcast presentations
- **CLIFTON GUNDERSON** – for preparation of our member directory again this year
- **HAMMEL & COMPANY** – for the use of their conference room for our board meetings

CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS

In an effort to give back to the community, the **AWSCPA** Tucson affiliate has started a tradition of collecting donations for select charities and other charitable endeavors each year. We have our own **scholarship** fund through which we have given scholarships to deserving college students – we awarded two \$500 scholarships in each of the last two years. We have also collected **trunkloads** of clothing for the **YWCA Your Sister's Closet**. This year we have plans to help the community as follows:

YWCA YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET provides unemployed women with clothing that is appropriate for job interviews and to begin employment. They need professional clothing that is stylish, clean and preferably ON HANGERS. Clean out a closet and bring your gently used items to our next luncheon. You'll receive a receipt for your contribution, and we'll take care of delivering them to the YWCA.

SPONSORSHIPS In February 2007 we will be a table sponsor at the **YWCA Women and Money** seminar. In addition, we will be providing scholarships to the event for four women who would otherwise not be able to attend.

SCHOLARSHIPS The Tucson **AWSCPA** has a scholarship program for female accounting students who have taken a non-traditional path to their education. (See our [Announcements](#) on page 3 for updates from the 05/06 recipients.) Our 06/07 scholarships will be awarded at the December luncheon. There are several ways you can help fund these scholarships:

\$\$\$ Give and receive... participate in the **50/50 raffle** at each meeting – one ticket for \$1 or six tickets for \$5. The proceeds are split – half to the winner and half to benefit the scholarship fund. **OR** you can purchase tickets for the next raffle by sending your check (made out to **AWSCPA**) to: **Susan Pina, AWSCPA Treasurer (fbo scholarship), c/o Beach Fleischman & Co., P.C., P.O. Box 64130, Tucson, Arizona 85728-4130**. Please indicate "Raffle tickets" and the number of tickets you want on the memo line.

In addition, you can help this cause through a **tax-deductible contribution** to our scholarship fund at the **UA Foundation**. Simply complete the contribution form below and mail it along with your contribution to the UA Foundation or give it to a Board member at the next luncheon.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Please accept my donation of \$_____ to the AWSCPA Scholarship fund.

Donor name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Make your check payable to The University of Arizona Foundation, with "fbo AWSCPA Scholarship" on the memo line.

Mail this form with your check to:

The University of Arizona Foundation
 Attention: Scholarship Development Office
 PO Box 210109
 Tucson, AZ 85721-0109

THE 2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS...



President:
Lynda Nigh
299-5755
lnigh@msn.com



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VP Hospitality:
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VP Newsletter:
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Member-at-large:
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darlene@taxandmoneywise.com



Member-at-large:
Lori Hoby
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Finance Committee Chair:
Amanda Campion
795-3112
amanda.campion@gmail.com



Hospitality Committee:
Elvira Urquidez
790-3500
elvira.urquidez@cliftoncpa.com



National Board Member:
Alex Miller
721-5000
alexmillercpa@mindspring.com

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov. 29, 2006	AWSCPA luncheon, Hot Tax Topics – Fresh from the IRS, see page 2
Dec. 7, 2006	Webcast, see page 7
Dec. 13, 2006	Webcast, see page 7
Dec. 20, 2006	AWSCPA luncheon, Cyber Security
Jan. 19, 2007	AWSCPA half-day seminar, The Games We Play: Strategies and Ethics
Feb. 28, 2007	AWSCPA luncheon, Fraud Fighters
Mar. 28, 2007	AWSCPA luncheon, Sales Tax – A Privilege?
Apr. 25, 2007	AWSCPA luncheon, Tucson's Economic Outlook

This listing is a tentative schedule of this year's events. These dates or topics may change to fit speaker schedules, so check back for updated information in each month's newsletter. **Save the Dates!!**

WELCOME TO AWSCPA!

AWSCPA is dedicated to serving all women CPAs. As a member of this national organization, you will find yourself in a **supportive** environment with valuable resources to help you achieve your **personal** and **professional** goals. You will also find rewarding **opportunities** for **leadership**, **networking**, and **education**.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS Membership in the **AWSCPA** is open to **all** individuals (male and female) who are or who are **aspiring** to become certified public accountants.

READY TO JOIN? If you would like more information and a **membership application**, please contact **Nannon** Roosa (nannon.roosa@cliftoncpa.com). You may also speak to any board member at our monthly luncheons.

ALREADY A MEMBER? Let your associates know how valuable your **AWSCPA** membership has been to you! Just a reminder: when you renew your annual dues, **please** be sure to include the **affiliate fee** of **\$30** for your local group. This fee enables us to continue providing high quality programs in Tucson!

Did you know – right now the **AWSCPA** has a **membership drive** in which you can receive a **\$10** gift card from **Barnes & Noble** for every new member you enlist before **January 31st**! In addition, for each new member you recruit, you'll be entered into the semi-annual drawings for a grand prize. All new members will be listed in the monthly newsletters (New Members article) online (www.AWSCPA.org) – and if you see someone you personally recruited, let the National Office know and your reward will be sent.

We appreciate your support and attendance at our programs! Please feel free to contact any board member if you have questions, concerns or suggestions! You may also visit the website of the AWSCPA National Office at www.awscpa.org.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!! Visit our website: <http://www.awscpa.org/tucson>

AWSCPA MISSION

The **American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants (AWSCPA)** is a national organization dedicated to serving all women CPAs. The **AWSCPA** provides a supportive environment and valuable resources for members to achieve their personal and professional goals through various opportunities including **advocacy**, **networking**, **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**, **education**, and **public awareness**.

WEBCASTS

We will be sponsoring group sessions for the **AWSCPA** webcasts. Each webcast lasts an hour (or more) and occurs about once a month. **Beach Fleischman & Company** has agreed to host these webcasts at their offices, and a continental breakfast will be provided.

Join us for another hour of learning, food, and networking!

UPCOMING WEBCASTS:

December 7th, 9-11am

TAX UPDATE

Stay current on the latest tax developments that may affect your business. Take advantage of new tax breaks in The Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act and the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Learn about the newest changes in the code and other "hot" topics. The session will emphasize tax planning strategies and compliance issues.

Presented by: Sharon S. Lassar, PhD, CPA, associate professor at Florida International University

Location: Beach Fleischman & Company, 1985 E. River Road, Suite 201 (parking in the rear)

The techcast begins promptly at **9am**, so please arrive by **8:45am** to allow for check-in.

Cost: \$20 for members, \$40 for non-members, and \$10 for students – everyone is welcome.

RSVP to **Susan Pina** at spina@bfcocpas.com before 12pm on December 5th.

December 13th, 9-10am

LEADERSHIP – TAKING PERFORMANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

There is a sense of urgency to hire and maintain peak performers in today's rapidly changing, technology-driven global market. Not only are businesses faced with inevitable changes, but also it is mandatory that leaders, managers and associates address existing hurdles, such as generational differences as well as geographic differences in the workplace. What is effective in one arena may be a total failure in the other.

Personal accountabilities are crucial not only for a firm to survive but to actually thrive. Pick up on tips, techniques, and behaviors that are tried and true regarding elevating your team and workgroups to over-the-top performance all day, every day.

Presented by: Peggy Pattison, performance coach and CEO – Peggy Pattison Unlimited

Location: Beach Fleischman & Company, 1985 E. River Road, Suite 201 (parking in the rear)

The techcast begins promptly at **9am**, so please arrive by **8:45am** to allow for check-in.

Cost: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$5 for students – everyone is welcome.

RSVP to **Susan Pina** at spina@bfcocpas.com before 12pm on December 11th.

Check back for more upcoming webcasts each month.

JOB FORUM – IT’S ALL ABOUT YOU!

The **Tucson AWSCPA affiliate** strives to develop more networking **opportunities** for our members and meeting attendees. As part of this networking, we are providing the **forum** for employers with positions available to match these **opportunities** with individuals seeking employment. This will be a *confidential* service if you are seeking employment.

For those **seeking employment** contact **Kelly Crandall** (email: kellyc@cpahammel.com). For those with **positions available**, contact **any Board member** to announce your opening at a monthly meeting or in our newsletter.

PLEASE communicate this employment connection to your employers for future employment **opportunities** for others. This is a **FREE** service for those looking for great CPA's – that's you!

Job Openings

EAST-SIDE CPA FIRM seeks two or more people, CPA preferred but not essential. Positions offer flexible hours and working arrangements – great for a stay at home parent who wants to spend time with their kids but still keep their hand in the profession. Good math and people skills essential, should be experienced with Word and Excel, and a have decent computer background. First position is mostly in office, focusing on individual taxation, available immediately – full-time+ during mid-Feb to mid-April, but flexible hours during the rest of the year. Second position available mostly during tax season for someone experienced in business taxation of all kinds – corporate, partnership, fiduciary, etc. Work from home/per diem arrangements possible. Send resume to alexmillercpa@mindspring.com.

SIMPLY PUZZLING

Know the AWSCPA

This month’s contest is a quiz about the AWSCPA – both national and our affiliate. If you don’t know the answers, you may be able to find them within the newsletter (Sept, Oct, or this one) or on the national website (www.awscpa.org). How many can you answer correctly? Provide your list of answers by number with the correct letter indicated (e.g. 1.A., 2.B.) or this page, with your name and contact information via fax to **Kelly Crandall** at (520) 885-3699. If you submit the most correct answers, you will win a prize!

Good luck!!

1. The AWSCPA was started in _____ by nine women CPAs. Our local affiliate began in February 1989.
a. 1883 b. 1923 c. 1933 d. 1983
2. AWSCPA is represented by _____ affiliates and over 2,000 members.
a. 6 b. 12 c. 18 d. 25
3. Our affiliate provides support, education, and networking opportunities through:
a. luncheons b. webcasts c. half-day seminars d. all of the above
4. At this year’s conference our affiliate was recognized with a _____ award.
a. “Best Affiliate” b. “Academy” c. “Star Affiliate” d. “Most Improved”
5. In 2005 the AWSCPA began holding an annual Joint National Conference with:
a. GAO b. ASWA c. FASB d. AICPA
6. We learned about Social Security and Medicare benefits from _____ at October’s luncheon.
a. Carl Davis b. Dave Cohen c. Charlie Daniels d. Dan Chavez
7. Our current affiliate president loves to _____.
a. travel b. perform audits c. tap dance d. surf
8. One of the organizations our affiliate supports is:
a. PETA b. YWCA c. Rotary d. NAU
9. Our immediate past president, Anne Hoff, was drawn as _____ during an ASCPA event.
a. Yoda b. an angel c. Barbie d. Wonder Woman
10. The last webcast we presented (11/9) provided information about:
a. public speaking b. leadership c. interviewing d. tax preparation

SuDoku

Have you tried SuDoku? As accountants we work with numbers every day, so **AWSCPA** plays **Word SuDoku!**

As with standard SuDoku, fill in the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains each of the letters provided only once. Additionally, the letters will spell a six- to nine-letter word or phrase that will appear one time within the grid, read either across or down. Solve the clue using the letters provided to determine the word or phrase then complete the puzzle. See last month’s solution on page 10 for more clues to complete Word SuDoku. (You do not need to complete this puzzle to enter the contest above.)

Clue: A service only CPAs can perform: _ _ _ _ _
Letters: A C D I K O S T U

D	I		O	S		T		
					C	D	U	I
				I		S		
S			K			I	T	
	U		C		A		S	
	D	C			S			
		T		D				
A	K	D	S					
		O		A	I		D	S

SIMPLY PUZZLING – SOLUTIONS TO LAST MONTH

Match Game

Here are the famous women matched to the correct description.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Amelia Earhart | C. American aviator |
| 2. Betsy Ross | R. 18 th Century American Quaker, seamstress of the first US flag |
| 3. Diana, Princess of Wales | H. Deceased British schoolteacher and philanthropist |
| 4. Dr. Ruth Westheimer | Q. Popular American sex therapist and author |
| 5. Elizabeth Taylor | A. Academy award winning American actress |
| 6. Ellen DeGeneres | B. American actress, comedienne, Emmy award winning talk show host |
| 7. Hillary Rodham Clinton | O. NY Senator and former First Lady |
| 8. Imelda Marcos | M. Former First Lady of the Philippines |
| 9. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis | L. Former First Lady of US |
| 10. Jane Austen | S. 19 th Century English novelist, <u>Pride & Prejudice</u> |
| 11. Janet Reno | I. First female US Attorney General (Clinton Administration) |
| 12. Katie Couric | P. Popular American media personality/newswoman |
| 13. Margaret Thatcher | K. Former British Prime Minister |
| 14. Oprah Winfrey | E. Billionaire talk show host and actress |
| 15. Pocahontas | N. Native American and friend of early American colonists |
| 16. Queen Elizabeth | T. 40 th monarch of Britain since William the Conqueror |
| 17. Rose Mofford | D. Beehive-coiffed former Arizona governor |
| 18. Sandra Day O'Connor | J. First female US Supreme Court Justice from Arizona |
| 19. Susan B. Anthony | F. Civil rights leader, abolitionist, suffragette |
| 20. Wonder Woman | G. Comic book super heroine, wielding the Lasso of Truth |

SuDoku

To complete word SuDoku, you must first solve the clue using the letters provided, then find the only place within the puzzle that the clue will fit – in its entirety – readable either across or down (see the first puzzle grid below).

Then you can complete the rest of the grid as normal (solution in second grid).

Clue: Most members of our organization are: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Letters: A C E M N O P S W (Answer: **WOMEN CPAS**)

		C	S	N	W			
M	N				O	W	C	
	E			C	M	S		P
O	C	N			E		S	
		A	O		N	E		
	M				C	N	A	O
A		E		O	P		W	
	O	M			A		E	S
				E	S	A		

P	A	C	S	N	W	O	M	E
M	N	S	E	P	O	W	C	A
W	E	O	A	C	M	S	N	P
O	C	N	P	A	E	M	S	W
S	W	A	O	M	N	E	P	C
E	M	P	W	S	C	N	A	O
A	S	E	M	O	P	C	W	N
C	O	M	N	W	A	P	E	S
N	P	W	C	E	S	A	O	M