

Contents:

- President's Message..... 1
- JNC 2008 Update..... 1
- Meeting Notice 2
- Recent Events 2
- Upcoming Events..... 3
- TechCasts..... 3
- Announcements 3
- AWSCPA Mission..... 3
- Scholarship Opportunities 4
- Welcome to AWSCPA 4
- Special Thanks..... 4
- Charitable Endeavors..... 5
- Board of Directors 6
- Job Forum 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Chris Elzy, CPA

Here it is another holiday season starting. I can hardly believe it has been a whole year. I hope everyone can take a break from their busy holiday schedules to join us for the November 19 luncheon. The JNC Conference was held the last week in October.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Laura Foley to the AWSCPA board as the Programming Chair and the President-Elect. We all appreciate her stepping in to help out. I know what a big commitment this was with the next busy season looming in the near future.

If I don't see you at the November luncheon, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



JNC 2008 UPDATE

By Lynda Nigh, CPA

The 2008 Joint National Conference was held at The Fairmont Hotel in downtown Dallas, Texas last week. It was packed with information geared just toward women professionals. Monday was spent in the first AWSCPA sponsored Leadership Academy and exceeded everyone's expectations. Watch out world because all who attended will be making tracks. The JNC concluded (after providing an opportunity to obtain 25 CPE hours) with a 75th Anniversary Celebration for AWSCPA. All who attended the dinner and ceremony received a bound journal of the history of AWSCPA packed with information prepared by a committee of former presidents. More than a dozen past presidents were in attendance together with sponsors and guests. It was a very enjoyable evening. The 2009 JNC will be held at The Palms Resort in Las Vegas from October 19th through 21st. Plan on attending – you won't be disappointed. Be sure to ask Chris Elzy and Rose Lapham for more information on the conference – I know they will be more than willing to share their experiences with you.

MEETING NOTICE

The Role of the CPA in Business Brokering - by Carrie Allen, CBI, BBS

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
(Please allow time for check-in, lunch served at 12pm)

Cost: \$30 members / \$35 non-members / \$10 students

CPE: Counts as one (1) hour of CPE

Place: Acacia at St. Philips, 4340 N. Campbell Avenue

Menu:

- 1) **Cobb Salad** – Oven roasted chicken, crisp bacon, vine ripened tomatoes, Pt. Reyes farmstead blue cheese, chopped egg, and creamy avocado served over crisp greens with fresh herb vinaigrette.
- 2) **Wok Charred Salmon Salad** – Wild salmon wok-charred with Pacific Rim spices served over organic field greens tossed with steamed broccolini, water chestnuts, green beans, jicama, peppadew chile, and sesame-miso vinaigrette.
- 3) **Prime Rib Dip** – Lean prime rib shaved thin, served warm on a toasted roll with roasted chile, gruyere, and natural jus. Served with choice of cole slaw, fruit salad, side green salad, pickled beet salad, ranch fries, or onion rings. *Please specify your choice in your RSVP.*
- 4) **Grilled Portobello Sandwich** with roasted peppers, eggplant, and Fontina on grilled focaccia. Served with choice of cole slaw, fruit salad, side green salad, pickled beet salad, ranch fries, or onion rings. *Please specify your choice in your RSVP.*

Reservations: Contact **Lisa Gundvaldson** at lgundvaldson@cox.net by noon **Friday, Nov. 14th**.

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

RECENT EVENTS

Divorce Meets 1040: A Dissolution Primer

By Susan Piña

The AWSCPA Tucson Affiliate met on October 22nd for a CPE luncheon at the Red Sky Café. Our guest speaker was Laura Belleau, a family law attorney with Karp & Weiss. She is a certified family law specialist with the State Bar of Arizona and a member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

We learned the legal process that married couples must go through to divorce. She reviewed the timing requirements and circumstances that could change the length of time the process takes. The shortest time allowed is 60 days from the date the first documents are filed with the court. In her experience the average is six to nine months.

She also discussed the tax difference between alimony (aka spousal maintenance) and child support. There are many cases where alimony is a better choice for the taxpayer and should be considered. In general, most of her clients are against it when it first comes up, but once the tax benefit is explained, it becomes obvious that it can be a better agreement.

Another issue discussed was how the child support tables and calculations work. It seemed to be a straight-forward calculation; though, she acknowledged that she didn't know how the table arrived at the cost of raising a child.

The luncheon was a great way to celebrate the end of another tax year and catch up with friends. If you haven't been to a luncheon lately, you should try to attend one. Our board has lined up some very good speakers, and you can't beat a good lunch, good friends, and new knowledge!



UPCOMING EVENTS

This is a list of the planned luncheons and board meetings for the coming year. All are subject to change, and updates will be included in each future newsletter. But... **SAVE THE DATE!**

12/10/08 – Tax Update

1/21/09 – What Small Business Owners Need from Accountants: [Tamara Ferris](#), UA Eller College

2/18/09 – Stress Reduction: [Ann Pardo](#), Canyon Ranch

4/22/09 – Update on Tucson's Economic Growth: [Laura Shaw](#), TREO

5/20/09 – Basics of Medicare and Medicare Part D: [Isabel V. Sites](#), Healthnet

6/17/09 – Cyber Security

TECHCASTS

We will be sponsoring group sessions for the **AWSCPA** TechCasts. Each TechCast lasts an hour (or more) and occurs about once a month. You can sign up to view the TechCasts through the AWSCPA or join us for a group session. **You can check out all of the upcoming webcasts at <http://awscpa.org/home.htm>**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tucson Affiliate was awarded a Silver Star Award for the second year! We were one of four affiliates recognized at the JNC annual awards luncheon in Dallas. Thanks go to Kristen Smith, immediate past president, and her board for a job well done that resulted in this award for the Tucson Affiliate.

Baby Update – Here is an updated photo of Logan Smith (Kristen Smith's baby) at 4 months old. What a cutie!

AWSCPA Virtual Mall – Keep this [opportunity](#) in mind: **AWSCPA** has partnered with several companies to donate a portion of each purchase made through the **AWSCPA Virtual Mall** to the **CPE Foundation**, which provides national scholarships and helps affiliates with their scholarship programs. See the AWSCPA Virtual Mall (under "Useful Links") on www.awscpa.org.

Kaplan CPA Review is a long-time affinity partner with **AWSCPA**. Kaplan is dedicated to helping CPA candidates pass the exam with confidence on the first try. Student or professional members of **AWSCPA** are entitled to a **25% discount** on all of Kaplan's Complete Learning Systems and live classes. This discount alone will more than pay for your annual **AWSCPA** membership investment! To learn more about this discount, contact **AWSCPA** at info@awscpa.org.

AWSCPA Programming – We are preparing the topics for the next calendar year. Please take a brief moment to think about what topics you would like to visit. Is there a particular speaker you would like to hear from? When the perfect topic or influential speaker comes to mind, please take action—jot it down in an email and send your suggestions to sheri@klbhcpas.com. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!



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**.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

College Scholarships: Our **Affiliate** will be awarding **three \$750 scholarships** to female accounting majors who have taken a non-traditional approach to their education. The awards will be granted in time for use during the Spring 2009 semester. DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS NOVEMBER 14, 2008. If you know someone interested, contact Deb Hutchinson at 520-352-1212 or Deborah.Hutchinson@cliftoncpa.com to obtain an application.

Becker Scholarship: The **Tucson Affiliate** has received from National a scholarship for the **Becker CPA review course**. This scholarship must be awarded prior to December 31, 2008. We are requesting all members to encourage those sitting for the CPA exam who are interested in a Becker CPA review course scholarship to **immediately** complete the scholarship requirements set forth below and forward the information to National. The application form is available online at the Tucson affiliate website: www.awscpa.org/tucson.

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 December 15th. Applicants will be notified of acceptance on December 31st.
- 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). The scholarship will be awarded prior to December 31, 2008, and must be utilized with one year.

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 **Susan Brown** (azbrowns@comcast.net). 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!

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.

SPECIAL THANKS

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

- **BEACH FLEISCHMAN & COMPANY** for hosting our TechCasts. Without their sponsorship, we may not have won a **Silver Star** award at the 2007 and 2008 **Joint National Conferences**.
 - **CLIFTON GUNDERSON** for preparation of our member directory again this year.
 - **HAMMEL, BEAL & LAUER** for the use of their conference room for our board meetings.
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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 three years. We have also collected clothing for the **YWCA Your Sister's Closet**. This year we have plans to help the community as follows:

YWCA YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET This worthy organization 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. Find out more about this organization by visiting their website at <http://www.ywcatucson.org/>.

SCHOLARSHIPS The Tucson **AWSCPA** has a scholarship program for female accounting students who have taken a non-traditional path to their education. This year we're increasing our scholarships from two at \$500 each to **three at \$750 each**. For an application or more information, please contact Deborah Hutchinson at Deborah.Hutchinson@cliftoncpa.com. The deadline for applications is **November 14, 2008**.

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: **Roberta McCue**, 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 on the memo line.

In addition, you can help this cause through a **tax-deductible contribution** directly to our scholarship fund at **The University of Arizona Foundation**. Simply complete the contribution form below and mail it along with your contribution to the 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 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS...



President:
Chris Elzy
celzy@azlitho.com

Photo not available

VP / President-elect:
Laura Foley
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**Co-Director Communications
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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. (NOTE: *Newsletter postings must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month. Ads must be 200 words or less – no logos or tables – submitted in a Microsoft Word® document. All postings may be further edited as needed for space limitations.*)

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

This space is available! If you have any job openings, email them to Kelly (kellyc@cpahammel.com) or Kristen (kristensmithcpa@yahoo.com).
