

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.....	2
A MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIR.....	2
A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING CHAIR.....	6
2015-2016 CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER FICPA BOARD.....	7
A MESSAGE FROM OUR ANNUAL SPONSOR- USA PAYROLL	8
A MESSAGE FROM OUR ANNUAL SPONSOR- AMERIPRISE.....	9
AVAILABLE RENTAL SPACE	10
CPE SCHEDULE.....	11
LITERACY TASK FORCE UPDATE.....	12
CPA DAY OF SERVICE	12
BOWLING & NETWORKING EVENT	14
PRACTITIONERS FORUM MEETING SCHEDULE	16
CPAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE SCHEDULE.....	16
ADVERTISE IN THE FICPA NEWSLETTER	17

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The FICPA Vision

The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants is the premier professional organization representing Florida's Certified Public Accountants.

The FICPA Mission

We serve the diverse needs of our members; enhance their competency and professionalism; support professional standards; promote the value of our members and advocate on behalf of the profession.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIR

Dear Readers and FICPA members,

During the past year, it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as Chair of the Central Florida Chapter (CFC) of the FICPA. On behalf of the entire leadership team, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the overall status of our chapter, review the accomplishments of our team and look prospectively to the future for some unfinished work and challenges for the incoming officers.

Membership

The CFC appears to be holding steady at 2,155 members and continues to be the largest chapter in Florida with Broward County at 2,148 members. We have surpassed our chapter goals of 2,000 plus members through the outstanding efforts of our chapter along with the FICPA's assistance attracting new and renewed members over the year. However, with the retirement of the baby boomer generation, we are seeing a drop off at the other end of the spectrum in membership. FICPA offers a complimentary membership to the student members, but we

all need to do our part to recruit CPAs that have cancelled their memberships so as to continue the sustainability of our organization. So what looks like a high number of members at the chapter level, still has our organization challenged. If you have any ideas to enhance these efforts, please don't hesitate to reach out to your incoming officers for assistance on the membership committee.

Finances

Our current financial condition is strong. Our net assets are almost \$30,000. We are required to retain a positive net asset balance equal to the prior year's dues, which is approximately \$15,000. Thus, we annually make a contribution in July to the FICPA Educational Foundation, Inc. to endow scholarships to various universities in Florida, primarily to the University of Central Florida.

We strive to cover all costs of CPE meetings and have had to slightly raise the fees to align with the venue charges. We have been honored by speakers who don't charge a fee, but we provide gift cards for appreciation of their time.

I would like to express my appreciation to our Treasurer **Alicia Ruttinger** for her patience and hard work with the Treasurer position and wish her well as she becomes the incoming chair.

Challenges and Unfinished Work

As with any organization, some of our work remains unfinished. We are confident that the incoming officers will do what needs to be done to have a successful year.

As outgoing chair, I have recommended continuing the fiscal alignment with FICPA so that our chapter reflects transparency locally and at the state level. Additionally, the CFC is working towards establishing an annual fall event in Central Florida that extends the 1040K run held in South Florida with a 5K/10K. Currently, proceeds from the event will contribute to a student scholarship fund for the future of the CPA profession. Please consider joining the committee to enhance the momentum for the event.

Acknowledgements

Volunteers and community support make everything that the FICPA does successful. I would like to acknowledge

the contributions by many individuals who have participated in these efforts. First, I would like to thank the officers: **Stephanie Adams** (Outgoing Chair-Elect), **Alicia Ruttinger** (Treasurer), **Karen Vergara** (Secretary) and **George Fender** (CPE Liaison).

Other board members have provided our members with continuing education opportunities on relevant topics and I would like to thank them and their team for their past and on-going contributions: **George Fender** (CPE Liaison), **Larry Herring** (CPAs in Private Practice) and **Marty Prague** (Practitioner's Forum).

A special thank you to **Ashley Vance** for her efforts on the Accounting Careers committee putting together the Student Field Day event for the last two years. We wish her well as she rotates off the board in the next fiscal year.

The Financial Literacy Taskforce has provided education to high school students in and around Central Florida under the leadership of its chair, **Linda Howard**. She has shaped the program and minds of students to be cognizant of financial decisions they should consider as they go out into the world. We thank Linda for her continuing support on the committee.

The Young CPAs have continued to recruit and keep this group engaged in our organization under the leadership of both **Kirsten Burbridge** and **Dena Harrison**, who teamed up with Kirsten mid-year. We are thankful for their collaboration on this committee going forward as well as their efforts working with the state's committee.

We owe the ongoing success of the newsletter and chapter website to **Lisa Wells** who has continued these endeavors for the last couple of years and is continuing to do so.

A special thank you to **Dayna Stephens**, who I worked alongside with to establish the initial 5K in Central Florida at UCF. We are both continuing in the next fiscal year to keep this effort alive in the fall of 2015 and prospectively.

Additional support for which I am thankful include: **Kristin Bivona** (Past Chair), **Mia Thomas** (Legislative Chair and incoming FICPA Chair), **Scott Wagner** (Membership), **Scott Smith** (UCF Faculty Liaison), **Ernie Janrvin** (Master Tax Guide Subcommittee), **Josh Slee** and **Bianca Bermudez** (Student Ambassadors) and our fantastic Regional Representative, **Tarsha Jacobs**.

All of the events would not be possible without the continued support of our volunteers and members, as well as our Annual Sponsors-**USA Payroll** and Mike Bensey of **Ameriprise Financial**, who have committed their time and resources to helping the CFC continue to grow and achieve our mutual goals.

Looking Ahead

CFC is entering its next year under the leadership of our new Chair, **Alicia Ruttinger**. As Past Chair, I will continue to serve you on the Board and will do my best to support their plans and activities. I am confident that Alicia and the other incoming officers, **Karen Vergara** (Chair-Elect and Treasurer), **Larry Herring** (Secretary) and **George Fender** (CPE Liaison), will serve our profession and community with vigor and take the CFC of the FICPA in new directions.

Sincerely,



Andrea B. Riesen, CPA, CGMA

FICPA Central Florida Chapter Chair, 2014-2015

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING CHAIR

Dear FICPA members,

I am both flattered and privileged to serve our Chapter as the 2015-2016 Chair. I am taking on the position after learning from several very driven and devoted members of our board over the past few years. Our Immediate Past Chair, **Andrea Riesen** is one of those people. Andrea's commitment and leadership to our Chapter has simply been outstanding.

Our Chapter is fortunate to have an Executive Board stocked full of diligent and selfless individuals. I am grateful to be able to continue to serve our members and represent our profession in the community beside such talent. I would like to thank Andrea and all of the current and former Officers and Directors, for making our Chapter the success that it is today.

During June and July, we will be planning and budgeting for the current year's programs. I would like to invite you to contact me directly to provide any feedback or suggestions to help our Chapter to continue meeting its goals and/or improve your experience with the Chapter. I can be reached at 407-644-7455, or at aruttinger@cricpa.com.

I am truly honored to be entrusted with such a great task and I am excited to continue the Chapter's many initiatives, and implement new ones.

Alicia Ruttinger,

FICPA Central Florida Chapter Chair, 2015-2016

2015-2016 CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER FICPA BOARD

Chair – Alicia Ruttinger

Chair-Elect – Karen Vergara

Secretary - Larry Herring

Treasurer – Karen Vergara

CPE Liaison – George Fender

Past Chair & Nominating Committee – Andrea Riesen

Legislation – Mia Thomas

CPAs in Private Practice – Larry Herring

Practitioner’s Forum – Martin Prague

Special Projects – Dayna Stephens

Accounting Careers – Andrea Riesen

Financial Literacy Taskforce – Tarsha Jacobs

Membership – Scott Wagner

UCF Faculty Liaison – Scott Smith

UCF Student Representative – Charles Schultz

Young CPAs – Kirsten Burbridge

Newsletter & Website – Lisa Wells

Board for Fiscal Year 2014-2015



Larry Herring (Private Practice Chair), Alicia Ruttinger (Treasurer), Andrea Riesen (Chair), Stephanie Adams (Chair-Elect), George Fender (CPE Liaison), Kristin Bivona (Past-Chair)

Board for Fiscal Year 2015-2016



Larry Herring (Secretary), Alicia Ruttinger (Chair), George Fender (CPE Liaison), Karen Vergara (Chair-Elect and Treasurer, not pictured)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ANNUAL SPONSOR - USA PAYROLL



Payroll solutions that make sense since 1994

USA Payroll is proud to be the 2015-2016 annual sponsor for the third consecutive year of the Central Florida Chapter of the FICPA. We are proud to be continuing our scholarship program. With your help, we can do great things for those who chose to become future CPA's.

USA Payroll will donate 10% of all commissionable revenue for twelve months for every referral that becomes a USA Payroll client. All you need to do is let us know the referral is through the FICPA and the funds will be designated specifically for college scholarships. Also, any FICPA member client starting by November 30th will get their year-end reporting and W-2's at no charge. We look forward to another great year working with the Central Florida FICPA and its members.

Shawn Knapp



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR ANNUAL SPONSOR - AMERIPRISE



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- Plan oversight throughout the life of your plan

We've been helping people achieve their financial goals for more than 115 years. And we've built this long-running success, in part, by providing comprehensive services that address the retirement plan needs of businesses like yours. If you'd like to review your retirement goals and discuss 401(k) solutions that are right for your business, please contact me for a complimentary plan assessment.



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AVAILABLE RENTAL SPACE

May 11, 2015



RENTAL SPACE

Beautiful Office Space Rental in the Heart of Maitland

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Looking for a Space for Professionals?

Look no further. 150 Spartan Drive is the home of Kane and Koltun Law Firm. We are looking for the right candidate to fill our rental space. If you have a professional business and are looking to be in the local Maitland area, we have a lovely space just your size and priced to fit your budget.

Take a look at where you'll be:

Spacious three office suite in a **Class A** building, off of 17-92. On a tree lined, quiet residential street. The space includes a reception area, a workroom/ kitchenette and access to the large, fully-furnished, shared conference room. It's all pre-wired for network, internet and phone. It's perfect for your needs!

Call Jacque' at 407-661-1177 for more information.

FEATURES:

Water, Electric, housekeeping and sanitation services included.

**\$2250.00 monthly rent
Minimum one year lease.**

Conference room booking is on first come first serve basis.

Secure Key card access



Interior Offices



Shared Conference Room



Main Entrance of Kane and Koltun

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CPE SCHEDULE

Topic	Location	Credits	Date & Time	Time
A&A	Doubletree Hotel	3 hours	6/25/15	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
TB	Doubletree Hotel	3 hours	7/16/15	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
TB	Doubletree Hotel	3 hours	8/20/15	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Subject Open	Doubletree Hotel	3 hours	9/17/15	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

For the most current information about our CPE schedule, please visit our website www.centrafloridaficpa.com or contact George Fender at gfender@grennanfender.com.



LITERACY TASK FORCE UPDATE

As we prepare for next year, the Financial Literacy Committee will be under our new, fearless leader, Tarsha Jacobs. Congratulations to Tarsha!

We are also excited to have several new members joining the committee for next year:

- Isaa Juarez
- Nick Lebrede
- Jason Reigelsperger
- George Stiell

Special thanks to this year's Financial Literacy Stars: John Byrne and Tarsha Jacobs for all of their hard work during the 2014-2015 school year.

We are off for the summer, but will start back up in early September!

Linda Howard, CPA, CTP

Financial Literacy Chair

CPA DAY OF SERVICE

The 2015 Central Florida CPA Day of Service was a success! FICPA professionals and student members volunteered at the BETA Center on May 2, 2015 from 9 AM to 1 PM.

The BETA Center, located on Lake Underhill Road in Orlando, is an organization that works to give children and parents the knowledge and support needed for strong and healthy families, with a focus on teen moms and at-risk families. Individuals who come to the center are typically pregnant or parenting teenagers, with limited skills and little or no support from their families. Many women who come to the center have dropped out of school or are homeless. The BETA Center supports teen moms by getting them back in school, helping them with college or a trade, setting up day care for their children, and providing them with opportunities that they would not have otherwise.

FICPA volunteers started the CPA Day of Service by bringing donations such as canned goods, non-perishables, and office and cleaning supplies to the center. In the morning, each individual chose which

task they would like to complete that day, including mulching, pressure washing, tree trimming, cleaning high chairs and carpet, and paper filing. Towards the end of the day, **Ruth Patrick**, the BETA Center CEO & President, gave a tour of the facility and provided further information about the organization to volunteers.

Thanks to all of those who came out to support the BETA Center and the FICPA. Also, a special thanks to the CFC of FICPA for sponsoring a pallet of sod as well as lunch for the volunteers. Finally, a special thanks to **Cheri Swain** for coordinating and organizing the event!





BOWLING & NETWORKING EVENT

Thanks to all of those who came out to the FICPA Bowling & Networking event on April 25, 2015. The event was held from 3-5 PM at Kings Bowling on International Drive. FICPA student members and professionals mixed and mingled while enjoying some bowling. A special thanks to **Mia Thomas** for speaking at the event and providing valuable business etiquette tips. Hope to see you all at the next FICPA event!





PRACTITIONERS FORUM MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Speaker	Committee Member
6/16/15	Retirement	Randy Ellington	Marty Prague
7/21/15	Business Succession	Tim Caldwell/Pension Investors	Greg King
8/18/15**	A&A	Charles Keliher	Sharon Agee

** A&A

CPAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Date & Topic	Speaker	Credit
7/22/15 - "A&A Topic"	Kevin Reilly of Cross Fernandez and Reilly	TBA
8/26/15 - "Technology & Auditing"	TBA	TBA
9/23/15 - "Top A&A Topics of 2015"	Christine Hill of PwC (tentative)	TBA
10/28/15 - "Internal Controls (COSO)"	TBA	TBA
11/18/15 - "Corporate Tax Update"	Terry Walker of Vestal & Wiler	TBA
1/27/16 - "Individual Tax Update"	Richard Ornstein	TBA
2/24/16 - "ACA Update"	George Royal of Hub International	TBA
3/23/16 - "Investment Update"	Jim Dorman of Dorman Financial	TBA
4/20/16 - TBA	TBA	TBA
5/25/16 - "A&A Update"	Ed Hofma of Averett Warmus Durkee	TBA
6/22/16 - "Governmental Accounting Update"	Tom Reilly	TBA
7/27/16 - "Property Appraiser of Seminole County"	TBA	TBA
8/24/16 - "Social Security"	Scott Thomas of Stewardship Matters	TBA

Note: There will not be a meeting in December 2015.

ADVERTISE IN THE FICPA NEWSLETTER

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!

Advertise in the Central Florida FICPA newsletter and reach over 2,000 members in the Central Florida area.

**For advertising information, contact
Lisa Wells, Lwells14@knights.ucf.edu.**

Newsletter Brought to You By



Lisa Wells



Andrea Riesen