



Spring 2011

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President's Message

Spring has arrived and with it the stress of tax and audit deadlines for most people, whether you work in public accounting or not. As the season changes, the leadership of your local chapter will soon be changing as well. I am happy to inform you that the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year has been selected by the nominating committee and will be announced to you in this newsletter with the election to be held at the next chapter meeting.

Our chapter continues to maintain our membership numbers, boasting a total of 1,861 members as of March 2011. We are the largest chapter in the state, with 11.7% of the total membership. However, one area seems to be lacking; our chapter meeting attendance.

Although we boast the largest membership number in the state, our membership attendance percentage is much lower than chapters less than half our size. We are trying hard to change these statistics for 2011. The only way to change these figures is to get more members involved with what we do.

In late April or early May, when you can come up for air after your busy season, find out what you can do to make our chapter better. We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our various committees, to assist with special projects like our miniature golf fundraiser, and to provide new and creative ideas for CPE and other chapter meetings. In the membership survey conducted by the FICPA in

November 2010, 39% of members stated that CPE opportunities were the most valuable aspect of their membership. If this is the case, we need to aim for 39% of our almost 2,000 members to attend at least one CPE meeting during the year.

Just like Uncle Sam, we want you. We want you to be involved, we want you to help us achieve the goals of the FICPA, and most of all we want you to get the best possible benefit of your membership in the FICPA. I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance our profession in Central Florida.

-Tarsha R. Jacobs

**Central Florida Chapter
President**

"39% of members stated that CPE opportunities were the most valuable aspect of their membership."



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Nominating Committee

The Central Florida Chapter Nominating Committee has nominated the following officers for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Elections will be held at the May 19, 2011 monthly meeting.

OFFICERS

- President
⇒ **T. Shepard Burr**
- President-Elect
⇒ **Ann Stachura**
- Secretary
⇒ **Kristen Bivona**

- Treasurer
⇒ **Andrea Riesen**
- CPE Liaison
⇒ **George Fender**
- CHAIRS
- Accounting Careers
⇒ **Cheri Swain**
- CPAs in Private Practice
⇒ **Larry Herring**
- CPE
⇒ **George Fender**
- Director At Large
⇒ **Andy Judd**
- Financial Literacy
⇒ **Linda Howard**
- Legislation
⇒ **Mia Thomas**
- Membership
⇒ **Stephanie Adams**
- Practitioner's Forum
⇒ **Martin Prague**
- Special Projects
⇒ **Pam Russell**
- Special Projects Subcommittee
⇒ **Ernie Janvrin**
- Young CPAs
⇒ **Kirsten Burbridge**
- Past President
⇒ **Tarsha Jacobs**
- According to the FICPA Chapter Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5: Any ten Public Practice or Not in Public Practice members of this

(Continued on page 3)

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."
- Henry Ford

What We Do!

As President Tarsha Jacob's message in this newsletter points out, the survey of our membership indicates that 39% of our membership agrees that continuing education programs are the most valuable part of membership in the Central Florida Chapter of the FICPA. We're 1,800 + members strong, and your opinion counts!

But I beg to differ (Boo!)

I used to believe the same thing. However, during my time in leadership of the Chapter, I have seen first-hand the really important work we do in addition to CPE. Yes, we put on programs for CPAs in Private Industry (who don't do tax returns), sponsor the Practitioners Forum for those who like to get up really early, and of course, put on our general monthly Chapter meeting. Our Committee

Chairs Larry Herring, Marty Prague, and George Fender really work hard at this with their VOLUNTEER committees. (Feel free to help them out with your ideas and a few hours of your time).

I agree that it is really important that we have outreach to involve Young CPAs and Young Attorneys with special programming, and foster our relationship with UCF and Beta Alpha Psi (the accounting fraternity), and promote accounting careers to students. But that's for CPAs and accounting majors.

What really turns me on is the Chapter's outreach to the Orlando area community, when we share our expertise with the community-at-large. Linda Howard, the Chair of the Financial Literacy Taskforce, is the penultimate VOLUNTEER, lead-

ing a dedicated group of VOLUNTEERS (do you see the pattern here?) to present financial literacy programs in our high schools. We have the most successful financial literacy program of any FICPA Chapter in Florida. Linda and her team have made dozens of presentations this year to teenage students, including teenage moms, and have plans for many more. If you have a few hours and want to experience a major "feel good", then sign up for the short training session and a couple of presentations.

Get out there and show them what you can do! Make yourself proud of being a CPA!

-T. Shepard Burr, CPA
President-Elect &
Secretary

"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right."

-Henry Ford

Nominating Committee

(Continued from page 2)

chapter may submit supplemental nominations provided that such nominations be filed with the Secretary at least twenty days prior to the date of the election of officers. Notice of such supplemental nominations

shall be mailed by the Secretary to all Public Practice and Not in Public Practice members at least 10 days prior to the election of officers.

-Ken Kosloski, CPA



THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!

For advertising information call / email

Andrea Riesen, CPA

(407) 645-4775

Ariesen@glccpa.com



The FICPA YCPAs Present
CASINO Night

Thursday, June 9th
(In conjunction with FABexpo)
Howl at the Moon
615 Channelside, Tampa
6-9 pm

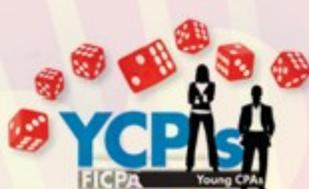
Try your luck at the gaming tables!
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WIN BIG...
GREAT PRIZES raffled throughout the night &
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A Special Thanks to our [Sponsors & Contributors!](#)

Visit: www.ficpa.org/CasinoNight

All proceeds benefit the FICPA Educational Foundation



Legislative Update

2011 Session is In!

The 60-day 2011 Legislative Session began on March 8 and, without question, the budget will be the biggest topic considered by the Legislature.

There is a projected budget shortfall of \$3.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2011-12. In addition to this, Governor Scott's budget is calling for a reduction in school property and Florida corporate income taxes which, if agreed to by the Legislature, would increase the overall budget deficit. These are just a few of the reasons the FICPA will continue to be an active member of the Coalition to Protect Florida's Economy, a group that remains firm on the following positions:

- We oppose any proposal to tax services
- We are not opposed to a systematic review of sales tax exemptions
- But we are opposed to any automatic sunset of sales tax exemptions

FICPA Monitoring Legislation

Florida House and Senate members will propose and debate thousands of pieces of legislation. Here are issues that are on the FICPA's "watch list":

Board of Accountancy (BOA)

1. The budget is the only constitutionally mandated bill the Legislature must approve. With a projected \$3.6 billion shortfall, the FICPA will work hard to ensure the Florida Board of Accountancy (BOA) is properly funded.
2. With unanimous support from the BOA, the FICPA will sponsor legislation that requires mandatory peer review as a condition for firm licensure (see below).
3. Governor Scott's appointee to the BOA.
4. Sweeping trust funds and trust-fund consolidation.

Services Tax

1. The FICPA will continue to oppose taxing services.
2. The FICPA will participate in any legal challenge with the Coalition to Protect Florida's Economy against proposed constitutional amendments seeking to tax services.

Peer Review Legislation – HB 413 & SB 662

1. This legislation creates S. 473.3125, Florida Statutes, which establishes for those Florida CPA firms that perform one or more audits, reviews, compilations, or any other agreed upon attestation engagement to enroll in a peer review program and undergo a peer review at least once every 3 years.
2. It should be noted that other than Delaware, Florida is the only state that currently does not require a peer review (dedicated to enhancing the quality of accounting, auditing and attestation services performed) as a condition of firm licensure. With the passage of the one-year work experience requirement in 2008, and Mobility legislation in 2009, adding peer review in 2011 will put all Florida CPAs on equal footing with those throughout the United States.
3. The FICPA will monitor these and other issues outlined in the 2011 Legislative and Regulatory Policies. To view them, visit www.ficpa.org/GovPolicies.

*-Mia A. Thomas, CPA
Legislation Chair*



Welcome New Members!

The FICPA welcomes 49 new members to the Central Florida Chapter.

During October and November 2010:

- ⇒ Jose A. Cruz of Altamonte
- ⇒ Kenneth A. Simon of Apopka
- ⇒ Robert A. Ferguson of Chuluota
- ⇒ Ashley E. Wilmoth of Kissimmee
- ⇒ Chase R. Bonar of Lake Mary
- ⇒ Katie Fitzpatrick
- ⇒ Michael A. Germain
- ⇒ Steven D. Goldstein
- ⇒ Abusalma Hamood
- ⇒ Xenia Janibekova
- ⇒ Jason L. Kimmel
- ⇒ Ashlee Malet
- ⇒ Jennifer R. Rodriguez
- ⇒ Ali K. Seif
- ⇒ Jessica A. Sofranec
- ⇒ Ricardo R. Villamil of Orlando

- ⇒ Robert L. Hernandez
- ⇒ Krystal Strickland of Sanford
- ⇒ Carolina Montes of Tampa
- ⇒ Kelly R. Thompson of Winter Park.

During December 2010 and January 2011:

- ⇒ Rebecca M. Monroe of Apopka
- ⇒ William R. C. Cocke of Clermont
- ⇒ Lisa G. Edwards of Deland
- ⇒ Ronald J. Yelland of Melbourne
- ⇒ Scott R. Kennedy of Ocoee
- ⇒ James R. Andolfo
- ⇒ Sonja J. Bines
- ⇒ Irene E. Chiang
- ⇒ Wesley F. Crowley
- ⇒ Jared Eutsler
- ⇒ Seth J. Haplerin
- ⇒ Alexander L. Hofmeister
- ⇒ Lauren Katez

- ⇒ Philip A. Kelsey
- ⇒ Melanie King
- ⇒ Christina R. Mantegna
- ⇒ Mazier Nayab
- ⇒ Kathy H. Nguyen
- ⇒ Megan E. Parker
- ⇒ Christopher W. Robertson
- ⇒ Helen Roces
- ⇒ Brian M. Rudman of Orlando
- ⇒ Simone S. Saletto
- ⇒ Daniel S. Stoner of Oviedo
- ⇒ Jason Boxman of Wintermere
- ⇒ William G. Coffey of Winter Garden
- ⇒ Ralph E. Drtina
- ⇒ Jennifer Geraghty
- ⇒ Jonathan S. Gorman of Winter Park
- ⇒ Marissa A. Kaprow
- ⇒ J. Wydra of Winter Springs

-Stephanie Adams, CPA

Membership Chair



Financial Literacy Task Force

Financial Literacy Task Force is coming into the home stretch. The committee has already touched over 300 students at 8 different locations, with 3 more locations on the agenda that begun in March. The locations we have attended so far include:

- Memorial Middle School
- Workforce Academy
- Mt. Sinai MB Church
- Lake Brantley High School
- University High School
- Hagerty High School

- Jones High School
- Wekiva High School

Locations on the horizon:

- Seminole High School
- Junior League
- Evans Elevate Program

As we wind down this school year, we are also looking forward to next year. We want to ensure that we continue with each of the locations we presented to this year, plus, we want to add some new locations. We will need more

help and welcome new volunteers! The experience is both needed for the students and rewarding to the presenters. Please feel free to contact me directly for more information or how YOU can join us.

Continued thanks to the volunteers on the Financial Literacy Task Force

*-Linda S. Howard
Task Force Chair
L.Howard@ouc.com*

"We welcome new volunteers! The experience is both needed for the students and rewarding to the presenters. "



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Chapter Social Fundraiser

Altamonte Springs

Come out for a morning of fun with your family, co-workers, and friends to support a great cause.

All members of the FICPA are encouraged to come out, have some fun, and help us raise some money for scholarships for UCF accounting students!

Cost?? \$15 per adult/\$10 per child or 4 tickets for \$50

How do I sign up?? Send check (made out to FICPA-Central FL Chapter) to Shep Burr with names of the players: T. Shepard Burr, CPA P.O. Box 950369 Lake Mary, FL 32795-0369.

Hurry – deadline for registration is April 22.

Saturday

April 30

9:30 AM

Questions?? Contact Pam
Russell at 407-275-5554 x 120
or prussell@lazboyorlando.com

Florida Institute of Certified
Public Accountants

*Founded in 1905, the FICPA
has been working to advance the
accounting profession in Florida
for more than 100 years.*

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directory/Region4/CentralFlorida](http://www.ficpa.org/ficpa/Members/Chapters/directory/Region4/CentralFlorida)



VISION

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

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.

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30