

Final Thoughts on 2016-2017

Editor's Note: In the final *Today's CPA* issue of TSCPA's fiscal year, Chairman *Kathryn Kapka*, CPA-East Texas, takes a look back at 2016-2017.

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By **Kathryn W. Kapka**, CPA | 2016-2017 TSCPA Chairman

ow! I had been warned that this year would go by quickly, but it has flown! It's hard for me to believe that it's already the end of my term as your TSCPA chairman. It has been a privilege to serve as chairman of this wonderful organization and to meet and interact with so many of our fascinating members and leaders. As I traveled to all the chapters across the state, I've been inspired by the diverse and talented group of individuals involved in TSCPA and this profession. I have learned so much about our members by visiting them where they live and work. While we share many common values and goals, we are as diverse as this great state that we live in!



Since this is my last Chairman's Message for the year, I'd like to highlight some areas of focus that members identified as being important to them. Be sure to read

the "Year in Review" article for more details. It's the cover article in this *Today's CPA* issue.

The CPE Foundation continued to provide high-quality educational programs. The world we live in today is notably different from what it was five or 10 years ago and continues to change at a rapid pace. Technology has shifted the way we receive information and take our education. A task force was appointed this year to evaluate our CPE function and how we can better serve our members. New programs are developed on a regular basis and you can also look to the Society for free CPE programs designated for members-only. Other changes are in the works to maximize the benefit of our quality CPE products.

One of the most important values of your membership is the ability to network with other members. For more than a century, TSCPA has served as a community of accounting professionals. In this community, relationships are developed and dialogue on key issues takes place. Whether you work in public accounting or business and industry, having a network of your peers can be indispensable in your career. They are colleagues, friends, experts and go-to professional resources. With TSCPA, you can choose how to tap into this network through chapter activities, community service projects, mentoring opportunities, LinkedIn groups or the myriad of other ways members keep in touch and share information. I encourage each of you to plug into your CPA network and reap the benefits of a collective group of knowledgeable and dedicated peers.

Protecting your profession and CPA license is a vital role that TSCPA plays. Whether it's in Texas or nationally, with new legislation, regulations or standards, you can count on TSCPA to be watching out for your interests. This past year was packed full with activities by our dedicated leaders and volunteers who did an

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incredible amount of stellar work in this area. They continued to be respected voices to legislators and regulators. I was so impressed by the way they developed and advanced TSCPA's legislative agenda, hosted an Advocacy Day, reviewed numerous proposed bills, served on a panel at an IRS public forum, testified before the IRS, issued a number of comment letters and more, all to ensure the views of our membership were represented. As your chairman, I appreciated the amazing work they did on behalf of TSCPA.

One other area I wanted to touch on here is communications. As busy CPAs, how can we stay on top of the ever-changing practice of accounting, not to mention the opportunities to serve in our communities and with our professional organization? TSCPA keeps us informed through accurate and timely communications that go to all members, as well as to the various segments of the membership. As your valued partner, TSCPA saves you time by providing content and resources that allow you to find what you need quickly to solve your challenges, enhance your perspective, and keep you up to date on innovations and trends in the profession.

As we close out the year, I'd like to thank you for all the support you've given me as I served as your 2016-2017 chairman. Next year will be another significant one for TSCPA as we develop a new strategic plan that will serve as a solid foundation for the future. My hope is that we will continue to attract new, diverse individuals to join us in helping to build an even stronger organization in the years to come. ■

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