

2018-2019 OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARDS

By Rhonda Ledbetter, TXCPA Volunteer and Governance Specialist

To inspire chapters in their continuing work to elevate member service, TXCPA bestows Outstanding Chapter Awards to the small and medium-sized chapters. Selection is made by a group of past presidents from chapters of all sizes, who understand the work involved in successfully leading volunteers. Here are a few highlights about the chapters honored for the 2018-2019 year.

Outstanding Small Chapter: Southeast Texas President: Wendi Christian, CPA, CGMA



To compete with other exhibitors for the attention of more than 3,000 high school students at the [Southeast Texas Youth Career Expo](#), the chapter generated awareness of the profession with a low-cost, high-impact display. A member's Corvette and a ski boat were parked near the main entrance, with signs saying "Owned By A CPA."

For the eighth year, a tailgate party before a Lamar University football game was hosted for accounting students, faculty and chapter members. The event provided an opportunity for casual interaction and networking – valuable for students hungry for a chance to learn more about the people who comprise the accounting profession and about their career paths.

A school supplies drive for grade school children was held for the 11th year. The project serves a disadvantaged elementary school in a different city in the chapter area each time. In addition to meeting the challenge of continuing the project, the volunteers inspired an increase in the volume of supplies donated.

The chapter works to encourage participation in TXCPA, especially attendance at the two TXCPA Board meetings. There were 10 members at the Annual Meeting and 10 at Advocacy Day, despite the chapter's remote location and small size. For the sixth consecutive year, their attendees included at least one member who had not been to a TXCPA Board meeting before.

Outstanding Medium-sized Chapter: Central Texas President: Lindsey Skinner, CPA, CGMA



Assisting Mission Waco with their annual drive, the Young CPA Committee collected almost \$3,000 and bought 232 backpacks, 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer and 1,400 pairs of socks. The increase in donations was almost 200% over the previous year. Especially noteworthy, the chapter had 15 new volunteers among the 38 who stuffed

backpacks with supplies and distributed them to appreciative parents.

The chapter added a charitable project: testing donated appliances and restocking a nonprofit resale store. There were four new volunteers among the six working on a Saturday afternoon. This was in addition to recruiting 11 new volunteers for the chapter's participation in the annual [HEB Feast of Sharing](#), a community-wide free meal. Volunteers seated people, worked in the serving line and brought plates to the tables. More than 6,500 individuals enjoyed a warm holiday dinner and entertainment by various community groups.

To help the CPA-PAC contribute much-needed funds to political candidates and incumbents who understand the importance of the critical role of the CPA in preserving the state's business climate, an event was held where almost 30 CPAs met with Texas State Representative Kyle Kacal and Senator Brian Birdwell. This was the first PAC gathering in years and the first time for chapter members to meet the two key legislators. Another new project was personal thank you letters to all area CPA-PAC donors from the chapter chair.

Help Make Your Chapter Award-Winning

Members are the key to – and the reason for – chapter success. Contact your local president or executive director and find out how you can get involved in making yours an award-winning chapter! You can get contact information through the [TXCPA website](#).