

February/March 2020

FORUM

LEADING SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE EVERYDAY CPA

TXCPA Houston

Building a Stronger Future

**AVOIDING ESTATE
TAX RETURN CLAIMS**

**CLOUD ACCOUNTING
SYSTEMS MADE BIG
STRIDES IN 2019**

**2019 PAC FUNDRAISING
CLOSES OUT STRONG,
NOW ONTO 2020**

**AICPA EXPERT
WITNESS SKILLS
WORKSHOP**

Chapter News:

- 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza
- 2020 Conferences
- CPAs Helping Schools

Message

from the desk of _____



Ramsey Womack, CPA
President

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and your 2020 is off to a great start. As you may recall from my last message, Jennifer Poff had resigned her position as executive director and Kristie Ondracek has been serving as the acting executive director. While the office has been quite busy with the staff turnover, I was very pleased with the staff's execution of the recent 2020 Tax Expo and TXCPA Houston Annual Meeting. The Search Committee continues its search for our next executive director.

TXCPA Houston held its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 15. We had a great turnout from our members to hear our presentation on "Honor Our Past, Own Our Present and Recognize Our Future". We were also privileged to have TXCPA Chair, Lei Testa, address the members about the activities and initiatives at the state level. In addition, the mid-year meeting of TXCPA and its board of directors was in Houston, January 24 and 25, with approximately 30 Houston members attending.

Be sure to take advantage of TXCPA Exchange, our online community. TXCPA Exchange is a great place to get advice and feedback from fellow TXCPA members on a variety of topics related to accounting, audit, tax, software recommendations, careers and more! Remember to browse through previous discussion posts and provide input on your areas of expertise. There are currently three communities within Exchange: CPA Practice Management, Nonprofit Accounting and Tax Issues. Members are encouraged to join these communities to start conversations and discussions on related topics. Visit Exchange today: <http://exchange.tscpa.org>.

As always, I would like to encourage our members to get involved in our chapter. TXCPA Houston has 28 committees that members can participate on. Volunteers benefit through networking with their peers, contributing to the success of the organization and building skills in public speaking, event coordination and leadership. Committee terms are for one year, June 1 – May 31; however, members can join at any time. More information is available [here](#) and members can sign up to join a committee [here](#).

We have several events coming up in the next few months, including our 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza and annual conferences. View the Forum's Chapter News section or visit www.houstoncpa.org to learn more. I hope you will participate in these events and look forward to seeing you there.

Message



from the desk of _____

As you read this, you are either taking a break in the midst of the busy season, which good for you, or you are reading this after all the big deadlines have been met (i.e. April 15th). No matter what you are doing, I hope you enjoy this issue of the Forum.

Kristie Ondracek, CPA, CGMA
Acting Executive Director

TXCPA Houston would like to thank you for your membership and your valued contributions to our association. We are happy to serve you and we want to build a stronger future with you, our members.

In January, we had a successful Tax Expo in Sugar Land where tax professionals learned about the updated tax regulations and how to best serve their clients. We held the TXCPA Houston Annual Meeting at St. Regis where we honored the past, owned the present and recognized our future. It was a great evening in which members were able to catch up with one another and meet most of the staff.

On January 24 and 25, I attended the TXCPA Midyear Board of Directors and Members Meeting at the Omni with Houston leadership and members. We networked with members from across the state, received an update about the activities at TXCPA and about CPA Evolution from AICPA Chair Bill Reeb. As a member of this organization, we encourage you to attend these member business meetings to help learn about the activities of TXCPA, AICPA, and TXCPA Houston.

As you are working on year-end financial and tax reporting, the staff and committee members are planning the 2020 conferences to help you grow stronger in your accounting, technical and leadership skills. In addition, we are gearing up for the 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza on May 9 at the Bayou City Event Center. We have several exciting events planned for this year, so please visit our [website](#) to register for the upcoming events!

TXCPA and TXCPA Houston have committees working on our future plans. We are reviewing our strategic plan at the state and chapter level to see how best to meet the needs of our members. This discussed at the TXCPA Houston Annual Meeting and TXCPA Mid-Year Meeting where feedback was asked for. It is your feedback that helps us improve our offerings. We hope you will contact us to let us know how we can serve you best.

TXCPA Houston

Ramsey Womack, CPA
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By Anthony J. Cooper, J.D., MBT

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Cloud Accounting Systems Made Big Strides in 2019

By Dave Kerr, CPA



Upon reflection, 2019 was a tremendous year for Kerr Consulting and our accounting partners. As CEO, I am proud to be a member of the Texas Society of CPAs, and to run one of the fastest-growing accounting software consulting companies in the United States based in Texas!

When I started in 1987, I had no idea how dramatically things would change for accounting systems by 2020. One of the most important changes over the past year is, without a doubt, the move toward "next-generation" cloud-based computing solutions. We knew that our clients were looking for easier to manage, more powerful systems, and the latest stats are proving that to be true. According to a recent study, as many as 84% of large enterprises are now running on a multi-cloud strategy. Small and medium businesses are catching up quickly.

Accountants should receive the lion's share of the credit for this improvement in technology. You have been at the forefront demanding more sophisticated cloud-based solutions that could provide streamlined, accurate, real-time data – all in the "cloud."

Owners and C-level executives also deserve some credit. As reliable internet and cloud-based solutions have become commonplace, they are

choosing to do away with the cost and headaches of supporting their own servers, IT staff, and hardware. "Serverless" solutions had a market share of 50% back in 2018 and the market share increased to 58% in 2019.

Our clients say it makes more sense for them to recoup infrastructure expenses and repurpose support staff to other customer-facing positions. They are using some of those savings to do away with old hardware and to modernize and create greater efficiency (and bottom-line profit) by moving to a cloud-based setup.

Internet as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a service (PaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS) are growing exponentially across the U.S., and 2020 is expected to be a banner year for these solutions as well. Some estimate investment by small and medium businesses into modern cloud systems will double in 2020!

As a part of our strategy for 2020, Kerr Consulting has developed our own line of SaaS services with our "Anywhere Apps" line of products. These solutions are truly next-generation, and they provide features that were almost unimaginable only a few short years ago at an affordable price point.

It's hard to believe that it has already been over 25 years since the internet became a common utility. The systems of 2020 are finally bringing business operations into a single, cohesive, easy-to-manage smart system and are returning years of investment.

Our clients are truly amazed at the Return on Investment (ROI) they have experienced by embracing these modern cloud software applications. A few years ago, I was wondering if the accounting world would ever find a comfort level with the cloud. I can confidently answer that question as "Yes!" as we enter 2020, and I am excited to see improvements we will experience over the next few years.



Dave Kerr is the founder and CEO of Kerr Consulting. Kerr Consulting is a nationwide firm that focuses on the implementation of accounting software technologies including the Sage and Microsoft offerings.



Official TXCPA Houston Corporate Partner.
Visit [Kerr Consulting's website](https://www.kerrconsulting.com) for more information.

Continuing Education Units for Volunteering with VITA

Interested in earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for volunteering with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)?

Now is the time to give back to the community by helping taxpayers in the low-to-moderate income bracket with free preparation of their tax returns. To participate with the Beyond Careers VITA program:

- pass the VITA/TCE training at the Advance level
- submit a Volunteer Agreement to Barbara Davis at beyondcareerstax@gmail.com
- volunteer a minimum of 10 hours to receive the CEUs from the IRS.

For more information, contact Barbara A. Davis, Beyond Careers executive director, at beyondcareerstax@gmail.com or 281-900-6413.

References:

[Volunteer Protection Act of 1997](#)

[FACT Sheet- Continuing Education Credits for SPEC VITA/TCE Partners and Volunteers](#)

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Avoiding Estate Tax Return Claims

By Anthony J. Cooper, J.D., MBT



Late-filing penalties for estate tax returns are frequently used as grounds for professional liability claims against CPAs, in large part because of their cost: Given the steeply progressive tax rates for estate tax and rapidly accruing penalties, they often exceed \$300,000.

There are several factors that may cause a preparer to miss the deadline, the most common of which is the irregular filing due date for estate tax returns—it comes nine months after the decedent's date of death, rather than, for example, April 15 or October 15.

To avoid such penalties, consider the following:

- Implement a due date tracking system. This can be as simple as a calendar devoted solely to estate tax return due dates.
- Have at least one person be primarily responsible for tracking estate tax return filing deadlines, rather than having each tax partner or tax manager track his or her own deadlines.
- Continually review the estate tax return tracking system to ensure that your firm meets any impending due dates.

While the estate tax return filing calendar is simple and relatively inexpensive, it can be effective in reminding your firm of the impending due dates, as long as it's placed in a conspicuous, frequently viewed location.

Another common cause of late filings for estate tax returns or failing to pay estate taxes on time—and the resulting penalties—is the failure of the estate to provide adequate and timely information about estate assets in order to prepare a return or to marshal assets to pay the tax. The CPA who has been retained to prepare the return is left holding the bag when large penalties are assessed, due to the negligence of the estate's executor, trustee or attorneys.

Sometimes, there are disputes about estate assets or other complications that can distract the CPA from filing the return on time.

In one case involving a large estate inherited by the client, the bulk of the estate was a majority partnership in a successful business, but the newer minority partners felt that their interests had been undervalued, compared to the majority interest.

The dispute went into litigation right in the middle of tax season, and the CPA delegated the monitoring of the litigation to his assistant, who became ill before he could log the estate tax return due date on the calendar devoted to such due dates. About a year later, the litigation had been resolved, and the due date had been missed by several months. The late payment penalties came to about \$200,000.

If you know that the return is not going to be filed on time, it is critical to 1) estimate the amount of estate tax that will be owed, based on the best information you have; 2) make sure that this tax is paid to the IRS before the due date of the return [nine months after the date of death], along with the extension of time to file; and 3) document your file with correspondence to the client, outlining the nature of the estimate and why it was necessary.

If cooperation from the estate or its agents is lacking, consider disengaging well in advance of the return filing due date, payment due dates or extended due dates. If disengagement is not possible, consider timely filing the estate tax return, based on estimates when the information needed to create a complete return is missing or not available.



Anthony J. Cooper, J.D., MBT, is a tax specialist with CAMICO (www.camico.com), responsible for providing policyholders with information regarding corporate income, gift and estate tax issues.

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2019 PAC Fundraising Closes Out Strong, Now on to 2020

By Steven R. Goodman, CPA, CFP®

In December, the TXCPA Houston CPA-PAC (Houston PAC) made a plea for additional contributions. While we are often the most successful chapter in raising PAC contributions as measured by total dollars, we often fall behind the statewide individual participation goal, hence this special appeal. Typically, December Houston PAC receipts are around \$1,000, and December 2019 saw receipts of \$4,691, which was 41% of all December TXCPA CPA-PAC receipts from across the 20 Texas chapters.

The total calendar year 2019 Houston PAC receipts were \$33,974, a 7% increase from the prior year. While these generous contributions from our members give us something to celebrate, the donations came from only 4% of our members. By comparison, 12% of the CPA members in El Paso provided contributions to the TXCPA El Paso CPA-PAC.

Remember that the TXCPA CPA-PAC funds activities that benefit all of us as CPAs. Funds are used to assist legislators in their re-election contests who have been supportive of our profession and to the business environment in which we operate. Given that 2020 is an election year, we need to start early and need greater

participation in the TXCPA CPA-PAC. Your contribution to Houston PAC will directly impact our local legislators.

It is easy to participate. You can do so now via this link <https://www.tscpa.org/member-login/?ReturnUrl=/advocacy/contribute?filter=pac>, which after signing in, allows for a one-time contribution or for you to set up a pledge to make annual, semi-annual, quarterly, or monthly automatic contributions. Or, you can simply add in the contribution with your dues renewals.

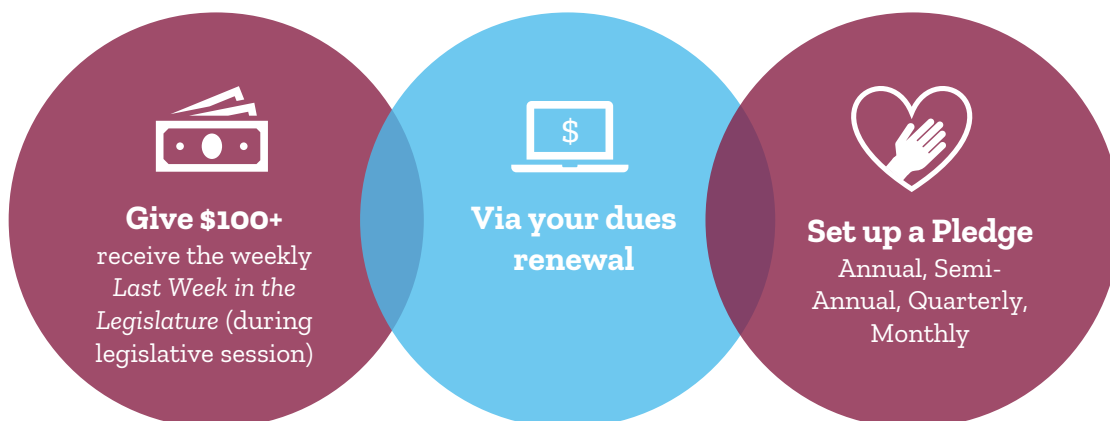
A contribution of \$100 or more will entitle you to receive the ever-popular *Last Week in the Legislature*, a weekly update email when the legislature is in session. This contribution will also allow you to attend the TXCPA CPA-PAC events at the TXCPA Midyear Meeting. With your help, we hope to celebrate 2020 as a banner year for the CPA-PAC.



Steven R. Goodman, CPA, CFP® is the Founder and President of Goodman Financial Corporation which was registered in 1989. As President, his responsibilities include firm management, and maintaining client and firm relationships.

TXCPA

EASY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



Thank you for your support of the profession!

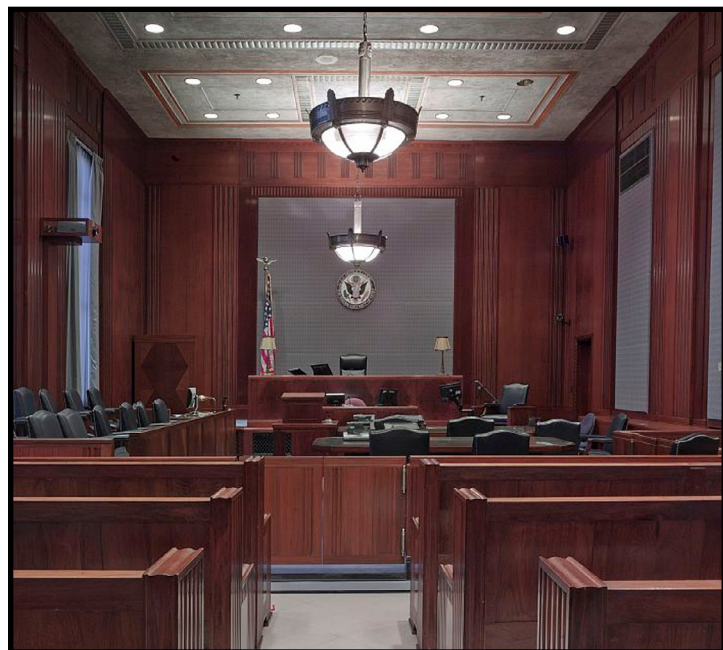
AICPA Expert Witness Skills Workshop

By Gwendolen Haley, MSA, CPA, CVA, CFE

The company I work for does ninety percent litigation work, so I will be asked to testify as an expert witness soon. But I have never testified and the only public speaking I have done is in group presentations that we had to do in college. As a recently credentialed CPA, I was looking for hands-on experience in court. When I heard about the AICPA Expert Witness Skills Workshop, I thought it would be a good chance to practice and obtain positive feedback in a safe environment.

The AICPA Expert Witness Skills Workshop was a three-day hands-on workshop that focused on the necessary skills to credibly communicate an expert opinion to a trier of fact. The morning of the first day and the first session after lunch was an overview of expert reports and deposition and a demonstration of a deposition on qualifications. After the afternoon break, the hands-on fun began with two ten-minute mock depositions on qualification, and one was videotaped. Following the depositions, the financial expert in the room provided an assessment of the things that were done right and what I could improve on. After the videotaped deposition, I went to another room where another financial expert and I watched parts of the video. She commented on my posture, general demeanor and made suggestions of things to tweak. For the deposition, I received an evaluation from three people.

The second day was more practical training on testifying. This time it covered direct and cross-examinations performed by attorneys and only one was videotaped. Again, after each testimony, we received a critique from a financial expert. But that day, we also had an evaluation from the two attorneys. For my direct examination, I received a critique from a financial expert and two attorneys. And after my cross-examination, I received a critique from two financial experts and two lawyers.



The final day was our simulated trial with a judge that was videotaped. It started with the attorney I was working with asking me questions about my qualifications as an expert witness and my opinion. During the direct examination, the judge asked questions for clarification on items I did not explain in detail. Then the opposing counsel asked me "yes and no" questions about my qualifications and opinion. After the mock trial was over, which lasted about 15 minutes, the two financial experts, attorneys, and the judge offered an analysis.

My confidence increased by listening to the numerous reviews by three financial experts, attorneys and judge. Over the three days, I learned a great deal of what I need to work on. One of the most important things I learned, on the second day of the workshop, was that during my mock cross-examination I did not smile much and was not as friendly as I was during my direct examination. On the last day at the mock trial, I tried to remember to relax, smile and be friendly to the opposing counsel. By the last day, I realized that the more practice I had, the sooner I was able to relax and the easier it was to

answer their questions without a nervous tone in my voice.

If you are nervous like I was about testifying or you are an expert witness that just wants a critique of your skills, you should plan to attend the AICPA Expert Witness Skills Workshop. You will enjoy the process and the positive experience.



Gwendolen Haley, MSA, CPA, CVA, CFE is a Valuation Analyst at J. Richard Claywell, CPA. Gwendolen is an active TXCPA Houston member and serves on the FVS committee.

CALL FOR

Volunteers



CPAs Helping Schools is a supporter of Texas FBLA and offers you a unique opportunity to serve as a judge at the 2020 State Leadership Conference for Future Business Leaders of America in Galveston. On **Thursday, March 26, 2020**, high school students from all over Texas will be competing to advance from the state to the national level. Over 30 different events need judges.

Judges are needed for morning and afternoon sessions. You may choose to judge both. You will judge one event during a session. Some events have morning and afternoon sessions, or you may choose to judge a different event in the afternoon. FBLA plans for a three-judge panel in each event.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in any of these areas, please click the link and fill out the judges form - <https://forms.gle/PB6tYvVvVkhFpei58>.

Location: Galveston Convention Center
5600 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, TX 77551

Session times: 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 – 5 p.m.



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Chapter News

CPAs HELPING SCHOOLS - A GRANT PROJECTS VISIT AT CFISD



On December 17, TXCPA Houston member, David Garza, CPA, and marketing coordinator, Michelle Carr visited three Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (CFISD) campuses that received 2019 CPAs Helping Schools grants. Seeing the programs in action enabled us to understand how the funds are enhancing the students' learning experience.

CFISD Ault Elementary will be using their funds towards the purchase of two risers.



CFISD Ault Elementary purchases helped students learn currency and counting with Magnetic Money, fractions with Rainbow Fraction Tower Sets and geometry with Interlox Base Blocks.



CFISD Hancock Elementary purchased the Keyboard Learning Mat and Numeracy Noggin' Wall Mount for their Math in Motion program.

Chapter News

NETWORKING AND BUILDING CONNECTIONS

TXCPA Houston hosts various networking events to help members connect and build professional relationships. Through our Morning Buzz meetups, Member Happy Hours, and Young Professionals events, we empower our members to build a stronger CPA presence in our community and bring awareness of the value of our profession.

Morning Buzz



Morning Buzz at Cavo Coffee! We had a great group for networking before heading into work. Check our website for more upcoming networking events at www.houstoncpa.org.



Young Professionals Happy Hours

TXCPA Houston Young Professionals and NAIFA Young Advisors kicked off the new year with a happy hour at Preslee's Houston!

Chapter News

2020 TXCPA HOUSTON ANNUAL MEETING

St. Regis Houston

On Wednesday, January 15 at the St. Regis Houston, TXCPA Houston held its annual meeting. We had a great turnout from our members to hear our presentation on "Honor Our Past, Own Our Present and Recognize Our Future". We were also privileged to have TXCPA Chair, Lei Testa, address the members about the activities and initiatives at the state level.



Thank you to everyone who joined us and for your continued support.



L-R: Ramsey Womack, CPA, Kelly Hunter, CPA, Darrell Groves, CPA and Ben Simiskey, CPA



L-R: Ryan Firth, CPA, Robert Allen, CPA and Terrance Ray, CPA

STUDENT AUXILIARY

The TXCPA Houston Student Auxiliary provides career training, career path options and information, networking and hiring opportunities for students in the Houston area interested in accounting.

REASONS TO JOIN TXCPA HOUSTON:

- Networking with Houston's most prominent CPAs
- Getting involved with your future profession
- TXCPA Houston gives scholarships every year
- You can join at TSCPA.org for just \$35, or apply for free membership at Student Auxiliary events

JOIN US FOR THE 2020 STUDENT AUXILIARY SPRING EVENTS:

TXCPA Houston—	777 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 500 Houston TX 77056
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Check-in; snacks; and mingling with other students
6:30 – 8 p.m.	Presentation
8 – 8:30 p.m.	Additional networking time with students and professionals

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT EVENT!

- Friday, February 7, Catch a Thief - Fraud and Other Topics
- Friday, February 28, Account Me Out - Alternative Careers
- Friday, March 27, Energy Panel

TXCPA HOUSTON



For more information: call 713.622.7733 or email students@houstoncpa.org.

Chapter News



2020 SCHOLARSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020 • BAYOU CITY EVENT CENTER

Make plans to join us on **Saturday, May 9, 2020** at the **Bayou City Event Center** for our 34th annual charity event and 14th Scholarship Extravaganza. Our continued focus is to provide financial aid to accounting students attending local area universities and community colleges, as well as grants to underfunded PreK-12 schools for educational programs and equipment as part of our CPAs Helping Schools initiative.

In addition to providing funding for the elementary education grant program, the goal this year is to provide 30 scholarships of \$3,500 each to qualified university students and contribute to our Scholarship Endowment, which will ensure sustaining scholarships in the future. The success of this annual event, raising over \$5,700,000 to date, is due to the support of Houston-area CPA firms, foundations, businesses, affiliate professions and our very own

membership. These funds have transformed the lives of many accounting students by providing them with the funds to make their fifth year of education possible as they move toward their dreams of becoming accounting professionals in Texas.

In 2020, we honor WG Consulting Executive Managing Director and CEO **Roger Burks**. Roger has given back immensely to the profession and Houston community for more than 35 years. Prior to WG Consulting, Roger's career began in public accounting with Touche Ross in audit and then as partner for Deloitte before moving into industry and later building his own companies. He is known for his unique insight in the Houston market, his integrity and his ability to cut to the chase. Roger advocates to "do the right thing, the right way, every day" and "Faith, Family, Friends, Fun, Firm...in that order."

Your event sponsorship gives you access to a wonderful evening of entertainment, dinner and fundraising. This is a great time to network with business professionals of the Houston community. With your help, we can make this year's extravaganza a success and continue the education for accounting students throughout the Houston area for another year.

To receive recognition on the printed invitations, return the commitment form to Carol Spencer, cspencer@HoustonCPA.org or fax to 713-622-3327 on or before March 1, 2020. [Review the Sponsor Incentives for additional details on the benefits of your sponsorship.](#) If you have any questions, please contact the chapter staff at 713-622-7733.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza - a true celebration honoring Roger Burks and encouraging young people to use their skills, talents and personality to make a difference in their quest to become successful accounting professionals.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

2020 SCHOLARSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA CURRENT SPONSORS

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Blomstrom Financial Services	Dean's List
David Donnelly	Dean's List
Gunther von Gynz-Rekowski	Dean's List
Jeff & Aletha Harris	Dean's List
Kelly Hunter	Dean's List
Mohan Kuruvilla	Dean's List
LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors	Dean's List
Mark & Alice Lee	Dean's List



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2020 Scholarship Extravaganza

Roaring Twenties in 2020: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future CPAs

Saturday, May 9, 2020

6:01 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Bayou City Event Center

9401 Knight Road, Houston TX 77045

Honoree: Roger Burks, CPA

Net proceeds of this event will be donated to:

TXCPA Houston Foundation Accounting Scholarship Fund, Accounting Scholarship Endowment,
and CPAs Helping Schools

Commitment Form

Contact Name _____

Company _____

Address _____ City/St/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check one: This commitment is _____ corporate _____ personal.

Contribution Commitment Level

UNDERWRITERS: Summa cum Laude (\$20,000) (16 tickets – 4 Scholarships) \$ _____

Magna cum Laude (\$10,000) (10 Tickets – 2 Scholarships) \$ _____

Cum Laude (\$5,000) (8 tickets – 1 Scholarship) \$ _____

SPONSORS: Chancellor's List (\$2,500) (4 tickets) \$ _____

Dean's List (\$1,000) (2 tickets) \$ _____

Program Supporter (\$500) \$ _____

Speakeasy Sponsor (\$5,000) (4 tickets) \$ _____

Cocktail Hour Sponsor (\$5,000) (4 tickets) \$ _____

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Forward completed form to:

TXCPA Houston 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza

777 Post Oak Boulevard, #500 | Houston TX 77056-3212

Fax: 713.622.3327 or email: cspencer@houstoncpa.org

Contributions to the 2020 Scholarship Extravaganza are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax Exempt No. 74-1988533

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Chapter News

UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS

Register at www.houstoncpa.org

ETHICS FOR CPAS: IT'S A MATTER OF CHOICE

In-person Ethics Course

4 CPE hours

Deanna Sullivan, CPA, CGMA

February 27, 2020 • 12:30 - 4:15 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

In-person Ethics Course

4 CPE hours

Deanna Sullivan, CPA, CGMA

March 27, 2020 • 12:30 - 4:15 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

TAX UPDATE CLASSES

Federal Income Tax Update - Northwest Houston **8 CPE hours**

Steven J. Tillinger, CPA

February 10, 2020 • 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lone Star College - University Park

[Register Here](#)

Federal Income Tax Update **8 CPE hours**

Steven J. Tillinger, CPA

February 12, 2020 • 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TXCPA Houston

[Register Here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Morning Buzz

Cavo Coffee - 2617 Bissonnet St.

February 20, 2020 • 7:15 - 9:15 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

Young Professionals Happy Hour

Hugh O'Connors Irish Bar - 7620 Katy Fwy Ste 350

March 5, 2020 • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Morning Buzz in Houston Heights

Throughgood Coffee - 732 W. 27th Street

March 26, 2020 • 7:15 - 9:15 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

Chapter News



Upcoming Conferences

SAVE THE DATES

Please make your calendars for these upcoming conferences. Registration will open soon.

Financial Reporting Symposium

May 14, 2020

The Post Oak Hotel

Attendees receive relevant information and perspectives on current accounting, auditing, and financial reporting issues from a panel of nationally known professionals.

Spring Accounting Expo

May 19-20, 2020

NRG Center

Network at our largest two-day event designed for members in business and industry with approximately 700 local CPAs.

CPE by the Sea

June 17-19, 2020

Galveston Convention Center

At our three-day conference network with top CPAs, gain valuable information covering all professional areas of interest and enjoy the Galveston attractions.

Energy Conference

August 26, 2020

Omni West Houston

Seasoned energy professionals and executives address the significant current issues affecting the energy industries as well as the accounting processes.

CFO/Controllers Conference

September 17, 2020

Houston Marriott Sugar Land

A one-day conference caters to the financial leaders of small to mid-size companies.

Medicare Workshop/ Personal Financial Planning Conference

October 26-27, 2020

TXCPA Houston Training Facility

This two-day event provides participants valuable knowledge for better financial decisions in every financial stage of life.

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Now is your chance to partner with the TXCPA Houston Foundation at our upcoming conferences. Reach decision makers in both public practice and in a range of industries!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Chapter News



NOW ACCEPTING 2020 ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship Alert! Are you seeking scholarship funds to help with your fifth-year accounting education to earn the hours required to become a Texas CPA?

The TXCPA Houston Foundation Accounting Scholarship application period is open. Application and required materials must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 28, 2020**, for consideration of financial aid for your 2020 Fall Semester. For criteria and application, [download a 2020 Accounting Scholarship Application](#).

SUBMIT YOUR 2019-2020 RECOGNITION AWARD NOMINATIONS

TXCPA Houston wants your suggestions for our 2019-2020 Recognition Award recipients. 2020 marks our 34th annual recognition of Houston Chapter members, who have excelled in committee leadership, committee projects, chapter participation and recognition, and service to the profession or the public. Complete any of the [nomination forms](#) for your recommendations. Or simply email the name of the nominee, the suggested recognition category, your name, and why you believe this nominee holds the attributes of the award.

- Outstanding Committee Chair
- Outstanding Committee Member
- Outstanding CPA of the Year
- Young CPA of the Year
- Distinguished Public Service
- Distinguished Service to the Profession
- Significant Contribution by a Member in Industry
- Significant Contribution by a Member in Education
- Significant Contribution by a Member in Public Practice

Send your nominations to chapter@houstoncpa.org by **Monday, February 10, 2020**. Contact membership manager Carol Spencer at cspencer@houstoncpa.org if you have any questions.



Member News

PKF TEXAS PROMOTES NEW DIRECTOR

On January 7, 2020, Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C. (PKF Texas) announced that TXCPA Houston member, Sam Razmandi, CPA, has been promoted to Entrepreneurial Advisory Services Director. This promotion was effective as of January 1, 2020.

"It is an honor to have Sam on the PKF Texas team," said Byron Hebert, CPA, CTP, Chief Growth Officer and Entrepreneurial Advisory Services Practice Leader. "We are proud to recognize his contributions to the firm and watch him grow in his career alongside the firm's continuing success."

Mr. Razmandi joined the firm in 2012 and works closely with owners and CFOs to help them achieve their company goals by providing reliable and timely financial information, improving processes and procedures and helping identify and understand key performance indicators. Throughout his career, he has worked with companies in the manufacturing, distribution, retail and wholesale, and professional services.



Entrepreneurial Advisory Services
Director, Sam Razmandi, CPA

Please help us congratulate Sam Razmandi, CPA on his promotion!

As a leader in the Houston market, Creative Financial Staffing helps companies attract and hire exceptional accounting and finance talent. Founded by CPA firms, CFS has unique resources to better understand your hiring needs and assess candidate potential.



Let Our Network Work For You

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TXCPA News

Practice Ready Pilot Program for Future CPAs

TXCPA and Thomson Reuters have partnered to develop and offer Practice Ready, an online learning program focused on helping accounting grads become more hireable. [Practice Ready](#) is currently being offered exclusively to TXCPA members and supplements traditional academic programs with experiential learning to provide the tools, insights and experience needed to work at a firm or corporation. Take advantage of this free staff training opportunity and encourage your new hires or interns to register for the pilot program. Learn more in this [short 12-minute launch video](#) and share this [registration link](#) with any potential participants.

Visit TXCPA Exchange for Member-to-Member Advice

Our online community, TXCPA Exchange, is a great place to get advice and feedback from fellow TXCPA members on a variety of topics related to accounting, audit, tax, software recommendations, careers and more! Remember to browse through previous discussion posts and provide input on your areas of expertise.

There are currently three **communities** within Exchange: [CPA Practice Management](#), [Nonprofit Accounting](#) and [Tax Issues](#). Members are encouraged to join these communities to start conversations and discussions on related topics.

Visit Exchange today: <http://exchange.tscpa.org>.

TXCPA Peer Assistance Foundation - Serving the Profession

For more than 25 years, the TXCPA Peer Assistance Foundation has made a positive impact on the CPA profession in Texas through administration of the Accountants Confidential Assistance Network (ACAN). ACAN provides a confidential conversation with CPA volunteers who have first-hand experience with mental and physical health issues.

We celebrate ACAN and the work they do to help CPAs, exam candidates and accounting students learn how to merge healthier living with a demanding accounting career. For more information about ACAN, call 866-766-2226 or visit www.tscpa.org/resources/acan.

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Chapter News

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Let Accounting Practice Sales, the largest marketer of CPA practices in North America, assist you. We understand your concerns and respect your confidentiality. Contact us for a FREE, no-obligation valuation of your firm. Buyers, for additional information on any of the listings below, contact us by email Holmes@APS.net, by phone (888) 847-1040 or visit our website www.APS.net.

Featured Practices for Sale (gross revenues shown):

- League City Area CPA \$1.8MM
- West Houston CPA \$1.1MM
- NW of Houston CPA \$430K
- West Houston CPA \$350K
- SE Texas CPA \$305K
- Houston CPA \$210K

Want To Purchase West Houston Tax Practice -

West Houston CPA firm looking to purchase a west Houston tax practice firm or sole practitioner.

Call Al Zientek, CPA at 281-496-6152 x201 or email azientek@zientek.com.

Looking to Share Office Space -

CPA near retirement but not ready to retire is looking to share office space with an equally aged individual with a view to transition into retirement or into other ventures as opportunity brings forth. Current offices in the Galleria area (4900 Woodway Dr. #1200, Houston, TX 77056) are very attractively built-out. In addition, the office building across the street is in the final stages of remodeling and the owner is very aggressive in lowering rent significantly. Call William E. Blummer, CPA at 713-623-2113.

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Chapter News

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CPAs play an integral role in their companies' important decision-making processes. Becoming a sponsor is a great way to engage these influential accounting professionals. There are many upcoming events for you to take advantage of.

Sponsorship benefits vary and levels start at \$500. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for an upcoming event, contact TXCPA Houston at cpe@houstoncpa.org.

Please welcome our new corporate sponsor,
Briggs & Veselka Co.!



A Legacy of Loyalty



Left: Ed Roth, CFA, CPA, CFP®, CEBS • Charlotte M. Jungen, CPA, CFP® • Wade D. Egmon, CPA, CFP® • Steven R. Goodman, CPA, CFP® • Chris A. Matlock, CPA, CFA

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Information and opportunities relevant to you!

TXCPA Houston member have a multitude of committees and tasks forces on which they can serve. Please check your top three committee(s) based on interest.

Name: _____

Business: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

CPE Related Committees

Quality control and oversight of Society CPE

- _____ CFO/ Controllers Conference
- _____ CPE by the Sea
- _____ Tax Expo

Membership Related Committees

Work on Society image enhancement, career awareness and member services

- _____ Membership Development
- _____ Young Professionals

Industry/Other Committees

Plan topics, serve as on-site coordinators for industry CPE.

- _____ Business & Industry
- _____ Energy
- _____ Healthcare

Professional Services Committees

Plan topics, serve as on-site coordinators for CPE.

- _____ Accounting & Auditing
- _____ Forensic & Valuation Services
- _____ Personal Financial Planning
- _____ Circular 230 Roundtable
- _____ Northwest Roundtable

Charity/Civic Related Committees

Sponsor community and organization events.

- _____ Accounting Scholarship Endowment
- _____ Accounting Scholarships
- _____ CPAs Helping Schools/
- _____ Accounting Career Education
- _____ CPA-PAC
- _____ Public Affairs
- _____ Scholarship Extravaganza

Thank you for signing up!

Your active participation will provide: current topic updates, professional development, networking opportunities ... and more!

You will be placed on the distribution list for each chosen committee. Committee meeting dates vary from monthly to quarterly. Email this form to chapter@houstoncpa.org.



LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

Visit the TXCPA Houston Career Center to find the job that's right for you!

Employers and recruiters can access the most qualified talent pool with relevant work experience to fulfill staffing needs. Job candidates can access the most successful and rewarding companies to invest their skills and talents in.

Recruiters: Target your recruiting and reach qualified candidates quickly and easily.

Job Candidates: Post your resume to all employers, even confidentially and get job alerts sent to your inbox.

Simply complete our online registration form and start posting jobs or searching for jobs today!

Visit careers.houstoncpa.org today!



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