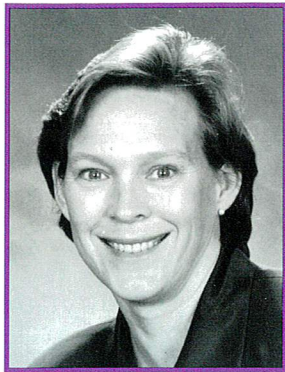


## President's message



KSCPA President  
**Paula Hanson, CPA**

### Change is in the Air

Change is in air for CPAs this spring. One obvious example is Kentucky's new Tax Modernization Act, which brings with it an entirely new state tax corporate structure. Be sure to read the tax law overview by **John Chilton** in this issue; it will help you get your bearings as we begin dealing with the myriad of questions which naturally follow any sweeping tax legislation. The Kentucky Department of Revenue recommends that tax professionals visit its Web site regularly; we are told that as questions emerge, the Department will be posting informal opinions there until final regulations are crafted and adopted. You can reach the site via <http://revenue.ky.gov/>.

Another change may eventually come in the form of an additional GAAP reporting tier for private companies. A national survey conducted this year by the AICPA found that those in a variety of financial communities (e.g., business owners, CPAs, bankers/lenders, financial managers, investors and sureties) valued the overall benefits of GAAP reporting. The survey revealed, however, that a large majority of the 3,700 respondents also believed that it was worthwhile to explore ways to improve the usefulness of private company financial reporting.

In response to the survey, the AICPA is recommending the establishment of a GAAP Reporting Task Force to consider ways to make GAAP requirements as suitable for private companies as they are for public companies.

Peer Review transparency is another potential agent of change. While the AICPA Council has gone on record in favor of improving transparency of the peer review process, there are several schools of thought on how best to achieve that goal. While we cannot be sure what changes will emerge from talks between NASBA and the AICPA, I believe that change is indeed in the air.

NASBA is considering a significant change to the educational requirements for accounting majors. A recent exposure draft proposes revisions to Uniform Accountancy Rules. Of the 150 required hours, the new regulation would increase the number of business course hours to 36 and accounting course hours to 30. In addition, two semesters of ethics would be required. A number of colleges and universities are seriously concerned about the impact such a change would have on their accounting departments, so perhaps in this case change may come slowly. As always, each State Board would have to formally adopt such a proposal before it would become effective.

I hope you have enjoyed the recent changes in the *Kentucky CPA Journal* (formerly, *kycpa.org the Magazine*). Credit for the improvements goes to the Society's Leadership Council for making many of the initial recommendations. As you will see from the increasing number of Kentucky-authored articles, KSCPA members and committees are now taking an active part in the publication of the new *Journal*. Special thanks also go to

Society staff for the ever-improving production quality. **Lorri Malone**, editor and **Kimberly Morris**, associate editor/graphic designer deserve special recognition for their tireless work on the publication.

### Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Some of us might figure that volunteer work is something that retirees and millionaires do in their spare time. It's for people who need something to do and don't need money. Right? Not at all ... There are quite a few tangible benefits to volunteering.

For students ... volunteerism is one of the things admissions officers like to see in the applications that come to them. For entry-level professionals, volunteering can be a way of getting some practical experience. For experienced professionals, volunteering can help you gain recognition in your specialty [through] networking.

For everyone, volunteering can literally improve your health. Studies indicate that volunteering is one of those healthy activities that can produce a healthier sense of well-being, reduce insomnia, strengthen your immune system, and help build endurance that would lead to a speedier recovery from surgery.

Putting it all together, here are the top ten reasons why you should try as hard as you can to find time for volunteering: Gain recognition; make important networking contacts; learn or enhance skills; strengthen your self-confidence; live healthier; make friends; have some fun; promote your profession and your community; express gratitude for the help you've received in the past; do good things for others.

If time is really scarce for you, think about job-sharing a volunteer job with other members of your family. You really cannot afford not to volunteer. It produces tangible benefits for your personal health, family, business, and community. Don't let your business competitors get ahead of you in this market.

Sincerely,

**Tom Louderback, CPA**, Louisville

*Editor's note: this letter was edited for space.*