



Rio Grande Valley Chapter
of the TSCPA
Education Foundation

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2002

Rio Grande Valley Chapter
Texas Society of CPAs
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RGV Chapter of the TSCPA Education Foundation
CPE SCHEDULE FOR 2002 - 2003

LOCATION: BEST WESTERN PALMAIRE (WESLACO)

May 23, 2002	Income and Estate Tax of Foreign Persons – Inbound Tax (8 Hours)	Boxy Hornberger
June 20, 2002	Yellow Book Update (8 Hours)	David Holt
June 21, 2002	Small Business Reporting and Disclosures (8 Hours)	David Holt
July 26, 2002	1041 Preparation (8 Hours)	Blaise C. Bender
August 23, 2002	Accounting and Auditing Update (8 Hours)	Mike Anchors
September 27, 2002	CPE Expo - more courses to be added (8 Hours)	
	Ethics - Nita Clyde	
October 17, 2002	Estate Planning (8 Hours)	Danny Santucci
October 18, 2002	Family Tax / Quick and Easy Tax Research on the Internet (8 Hours)	Danny Santucci
November 22, 2002	2003 Tax Update (8 Hours)	Mike Deppe
December 6, 2002	Family Limited Partnerships (8 Hours)	Blaise C. Bender

The May 23, 2002 course still falls under the 6/2001-5/2002 fiscal year and qualifies for the Season Pass option and the Buy 32, Get 8 Free program. Watch for an announcement in the June newsletter on CPE incentive programs for the coming year that will take effect June 1, 2002.

FOR AN UPDATED LIST OF ALL AVAILABLE CPE, INCLUDING PRINTABLE REGISTRATION FORMS AS COURSES APPROACH, VISIT THE RGV CHAPTER WEBSITE AT www.rgvcpa.org

SATELLITE BROADCASTS OFFERED BY THE TSCPA (ACPEN) IN MCALLEN

May 15, 2002	How to Get the Kids through College after the 2001 Tax Act: What Every CPA Needs to Know
June 19, 2002	Not-for-Profit Update
July 17, 2002	Governmental Accounting & Auditing Update
August 21, 2002	Understanding Business & Tax Fraud for CPAs
September 18, 2002	Accounting & Auditing Update
October 23, 2002	Estate Retirement & Financial Planning Principles & Techniques for CPA's
November 13, 2002	Controllership
December 11, 2002	Annual Tax Update

For additional information on these satellite broadcasts, contact the TSCPA at 1-800-428-0272,

Kay Woods at 972-687-8695 or email Kay Woods at kwoods@tscpa.net

Congratulations to our 2002-2003 Officers and Directors

President	Robert L. Perkins
President-elect	Carol Ann Schmitt
Vice-President	Lise Shepherd
Treasurer	Kay Fitzgerald
Secretary	Ruth Gonzalez
Director	Steven (Matt) Hamby
Director	Antonio Villeda

RGV Chapter Awards Four \$1000 Scholarships

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants awarded four \$1000 scholarships to deserving UTPA and UT Brownsville accounting students. On behalf of the RGVC TSCPA, Dr. Wig De Merville, UTPA, presented checks to Debbie L. Grant and Brian Paul Petro at a gathering of the UTPA accounting faculty. UT Brownsville recipients included Leyla Fitzgerald and Modesta Salinas. For more information, please visit <http://www.rgvcpa.org/scholarship.htm>

Scholarship winners and RGV Chapter representatives attended a scholarship luncheon sponsored by the Law Offices of Antonio Villeda. Antonio Villeda's law office concentrates on civil and commercial litigation, bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation, tax litigation and IRS representation, accident cases, and divorce matters involving substantial property disputes. Antonio Villeda is a CPA/Attorney having graduated from Texas A&M, magna cum laude, and has a law degree from SMU Law School. He is board certified in business bankruptcy nationally and by the state of Texas. He is a Valley native, born in Raymondville and raised in Mission. The Chapter extends its appreciation for his sponsorship of the luncheon.

AICPA Minority Accounting Student Scholarship

Do you know of a deserving minority student considering accounting as a career? Applications are now being accepted for AICPA's Scholarships for Minority Accounting Students. The program supports minority accounting students at the undergraduate level and in several specific graduate degree programs. Application deadline is July 1.

You can obtain an application through the AICPA Web site, at <http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/mini/smas.htm>, or through the FaxBack service. From a fax machine, dial 201-938-3787, follow the voice cues and select document number 652. For more information, contact the AICPA Minority Initiatives office at 212-596-6270.

TSCPA Annual Meeting June 13 – 16, 2002

This year's Annual Meeting of Members is June 13-16 at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa in Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M. (505.867.1234). It is the largest resort ever developed on Native-American land and the resort's architecture and ambiance reflect an Old New Mexico pueblo community. This year's meeting promises to be a great and unique getaway for Texas CPAs and their families. This is your opportunity to participate in important discussions with other CPAs regarding goals and challenges for the future. An innovative three-hour workshop, "Who Moved My Cheese?," offered by Steve Frohman, will teach members practical methods to help them adapt to change in work and personal life. Ray Clay will teach a two-hour update on ethics on Friday, June 14. This presentation provides an update on rule changes and reviews the disciplinary process conducted by TSBPA when an ethics violation is brought to their attention. Make your hotel reservations before May 12 with the Hyatt.

State Board Tentatively Approves New Independence Rule

At its meeting January 17, 2002, the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy approved a new independence rule on first reading. The new rule is one paragraph, which reads as follows:

A certificate or registration holder in the performance of professional services, including those who are not members of the AICPA, shall conform in fact and in appearance to the independence standards established by the AICPA and the Board, and, where applicable, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the General Accounting Office and other regulatory or professional standard-setting bodies.

The new rule requires Texas CPAs to comply with national independence standards when practicing in Texas. It replaces the previous independence rule, which set out standards specific to Texas CPAs only. There is a 30-day period from the date it is published in the Texas Register to comment on the rule. It must be approved for final reading at the next State Board meeting before it goes into effect.

In November 2000, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission issued a new rule on independence for auditors of publicly held companies. These rules represented a substantial change in independence concepts for auditors of publicly held companies. Subsequently the AICPA also issued new independence standards, to some degree following the concepts established by the SEC. The Government Accounting Standards Board has an exposure draft on independence rules outstanding. If this new Texas rule passes on second reading, Texas CPAs may then follow these new independence standards. Until then, Texas CPAs should continue to adhere to the existing Texas Rules, which in some cases are more restrictive. For the complete SEC auditor independence rule, go to <http://www.sec.gov/rules/final/33-7919.htm>

New CPE Standards

The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Public Accountancy (NASBA) have issued new CPE standards. Among other things, they introduce the concept of independent study learning, allowing a CPA to engage in a program of learning with a qualified sponsor on a one-on-one basis. AICPA and NASBA put the standards into effect January 1, 2002, subject to approval by each state board. They have **not** been adopted in Texas. The CE Committee of the Texas State Board of Accountancy will study them at its next meeting. Read the full text at <http://ftp.aicpa.org/public/download/cpe/cpestandards.pdf>.

Texas Sales Tax – CPA Audit Program

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, SB 1037, passed in the 77th Texas Legislative Session, added a new section to the Sales Tax statute. Section 151.0232 creates a new program wherein independent CPAs can become Qualified Practitioners for sales tax auditing after completion of training and an exam. According to the TSCPA, Gonzalez, Cox & Arrambide, Inc., and the Texas Society of CPAs CPE Foundation, Inc. are training vendors listed with the Comptroller's office. Rules, procedures, and forms are still being finalized. Plans are for the first exams to be given in the spring of 2002.

Get more information from <http://cpa.state.tx.us/taxinfo/cpaaudit.html>. (At the time of publication, this site was not yet updated to include the TSCPA CPE Foundation as a vendor.) For information about TSCPA's CPA Audit Program courses, contact Kay Woods (e-mail kwoods@tscpa.net; phone 800-428-0272, ext. 695, or 972-687-8595).