



Rio Grande Valley Chapter
of the TSCPA
Education Foundation

NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2002

Rio Grande Valley Chapter
Texas Society of CPAs
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CPE SCHEDULE FOR 2002 – 2003 RGV CHAPTER OF THE TSCPA EDUCATION FOUNDATION LOCATION: BEST WESTERN PALMAIRE (WESLACO)

These courses qualify for the season pass program.

November 22, 2002	2003 Tax Update (8 Hours)	Mike Deppe
December 6, 2002	Family Limited Partnerships (8 Hours)	Blaise C. Bender
	Medicaid Planning (4 Hours)	David Vogel
May 23, 2003	To be announced at a future date (4 Hours)	

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

These courses do not qualify for the season pass

October 23, 2002	Estate Retirement & Financial Planning Principles & Techniques for CPA's
November 13, 2002	Controllership
December 11, 2002	Annual Tax Update
May 14, 2003	Accountants' Civil Liability: What Every CPA Needs to Know to Protect the Practice
June 18, 2003	Not-for-Profit Update
July 16, 2003	Governmental Accounting & Auditing Update
August 20, 2003	College Financial Planning for CPAs
September 17, 2003	Accounting & Auditing Update
October 22, 2003	Representing the Elderly Client
November 12, 2003	Controllership
December 10, 2003	Annual Tax Update

For additional information on these satellite broadcasts, contact the TSCPA at 1-800-428-0272, Kay Woods Crider at 972-687-8695 or email Kay Woods at KCrider@tscpa.net

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The nominating committee has recommended the following slate of officers for the 2003-2004 year. Chapter officers will be elected at the annual general membership meeting to be held at noon on Friday, November 22, 2002 at the Best Western Palmarie in Weslaco, Texas. Nominations will be accepted from the floor if anyone wishes to present additional names for consideration. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting at lunch whether or not they are attending the CPE course being held the same day.

President	Carol Ann Schmitt
President-elect	Lise Shepherd
Vice-President	Steven (Matt) Hamby
Treasurer	Kay Fitzgerald
Secretary	Ruth Gonzalez
Director	Antonio Villeda
Director	Norma Morales

MEMBER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Every TSCPA member who recruits a new member can look forward to a gift! And both benefit from the strength of a statewide organization that is working for them. The best recruiters for TSCPA are its members.

To make recruitment easy, there are online resources to explain the benefits of TSCPA membership, plus a convenient form to purchase membership online. (First-time members can join for just \$119.) Go to the Become A Member page on the TSCPA Web site, at www.tscpa.org, to get more information.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants has established a program to provide scholarship assistance to undergraduate students who plan to become Certified Public Accountants and enter the accounting profession. For the 2002 – 2003 academic years, two scholarships of \$1,000 are available for full time students in their junior or senior year of college, and two scholarships of \$500 are available for part time students in their junior or senior year of college. Students at the University of Texas - Pan American, and the University of Texas – Brownsville, are eligible to apply. In addition, new for this year, the scholarship is open to Rio Grande Valley high school graduates attending their junior or senior year at a college outside the Valley. Requirements for the scholarship include:

- 1) Junior or Senior accounting major (must be at least a junior for Fall '02 - Spring '03 school year).
- 2) Must have **completed** at least 12 hours of accounting courses before Fall '02.
- 3) Overall GPA: 3.2
- 4) Accounting GPA: 3.5
- 5) Two letters of recommendation, one of which is required to be written by an accounting professor.
- 6) An official transcript.

The application deadline is November 15, 2002. Applications have been made available to both schools and can also be obtained on our web site or by contacting the Chapter office

TEXAS SOCIETY OF CPAs ENDORSES CANDIDATES

The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants Political Action Committee (TSCPA CPA-PAC) recently announced the endorsement of candidates for the general election to be held Tuesday, Nov. 5.

TSCPA is proud to endorse the following:

- Judge Greg Abbott, candidate for Attorney General;
- Chief Justice Tom Phillips, candidate for Supreme Court Chief Justice;
- Judge Mike Schneider, candidate for Supreme Court Place 1;
- Judge Dale Wainwright, candidate for Supreme Court Place 2;
- Judge Wallace Jefferson, candidate for Supreme Court Place 3; and
- Judge Margaret Mirabal, candidate for Supreme Court Place 4.

In its backing of both Democrats and Republicans, TSCPA continues its nonpartisan focus on assisting those candidates who acknowledge and support the protection of the public interest through the maintaining of high moral, ethical and professional standards for the accounting profession.

TSCPA Chairman Stan Winters said, "CPAs from all across the state and from every area of accounting practice gave careful thought and consideration to which candidates TSCPA would endorse. The leaders chosen possess and project the high standards of integrity and honesty that TSCPA and its members hold dear."

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Chief Justice Tom Phillips is a national leader in judicial matters. He was elected by his peers to serve as President of the National Conference of Chief Justices from 1997-98. From 1989-96, he served as a member of the Committee on Federal-State Relations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He seeks re-election as Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, a position he has held since 1987.

Appointed by then-Gov. Bush to the Texas Supreme Court in 1997, Judge Mike Schneider is a former high school teacher. He was honored as Trial Judge of the Year in 1995 and Appellate Judge of the Year in 2001 by the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists - the only judge in the history of the two awards, whose contributions have been recognized at both the trial and appellate levels. He seeks re-election to Place 1.

As a trial judge, Judge Dale Wainwright has presided over more than 5-dozen civil trials, ruled on more than 3,000 contested motions and resolved over 3,000 lawsuits involving complex and challenging legal issues. Appellate courts have reversed none of his rulings. Wainwright presides over the 334th District Court in Harris County, and is a candidate for election to the Texas Supreme Court, Place 2.

On May 10, 2001, Wallace Jefferson made Texas history as the first African American Justice on the Texas Supreme Court. He received the prestigious San Antonio Bar Association President's Award after serving as president in 1998-1999. In 1997, he was named the Outstanding Young Lawyer by the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, and was named as a "40 Under 40 Rising Star," in 1996, by the San Antonio Business Journal. He seeks re-election to Place 3.

Now in her 14th year as a justice on the First Court of Appeals, Judge Margaret Mirabal was elected in 1988 and re-elected in 1990 and 1996. She has earned the respect and admiration of the legal community, and is consistently highly rated for her judicial service. Mirabal seeks re-election to Supreme Court Place 4.

The prestigious, non-partisan TSCPA endorsements are given to only a few legislative candidates throughout the state.