



## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2006

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### UPDATES!

#### US Master Tax Guides:

The US Master Tax Guides are in and were passed out at the December 7 General Membership Meeting. If you did not receive yours at the seminar, you can pick them up at the following locations:

LOCATION	FIRM	ADDRESS
Mission	Gil Quintanilla, CPA	1810 E. Griffin Parkway, Mission TX 78572-3222
McAllen	Long Chilton, LLP	4100 N 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, McAllen TX 78504-4194
Weslaco	Gonzalez, & Arrambide	415 S. International Blvd, Weslaco TX 78596-9112
Harlingen	Chidester, Marlow & Hamby LLP	2202 Treasure Hills Blvd, Harlingen TX 78550-8554
Brownsville	Gomez, Fragoso & Associates	1200 Central Blvd Ste I, Brownsville TX 78523

#### Office Closed:

The Chapter office will be closed December 12 through December 27. If you need to send material in to the office, please do so by mail. Nobody will be available to tend to the fax in case of jams or malfunctions.

#### Masterminds Competition:

We still need two "judge" volunteers and three scholarship sponsors for the *Masterminds Competition* that will tape on Newschannel 5 around February 26, 2007. As a reminder, the show will consist of three segments where the judges ask the students approximately 100 questions. The winners will be awarded scholarships. During various times of the show, the schools will be afforded the time to speak about their campuses, and the judges and their credentials will be introduced. Scholarship sponsors will be mentioned when the winners of the competition receive their award.

This is a great opportunity to help the students and community as well as receive recognition and free advertising for you or your firm on television! Don't wait to volunteer to be a judge or sponsor. When these slots are full, your opportunity will be gone!

If you would like to volunteer as a judge, contribute questions for these students to answer, or know of someone who could help with these requests, send your information to [director@rgvcpa.org](mailto:director@rgvcpa.org).

#### Becker CPA Review Course:

We all know that it's pricey to enroll in a CPA review course. It's pricey enough that most businesses don't offer to pay for it for employees and pricey enough that most accounting students don't take it. Consequently, there are fewer CPAs in the Valley even though the RGV is consistently in the top ten fastest growing Metropolises in America. We are now paying a price for this imbalance. More and more these new companies that are coming to our home are keeping their accountants that reside and work north of us. Think of the opportunities these businesses are missing because they don't have a local CPA who knows the area, the people, and the environment in which we live.

To help combat this problem and the growing shortage of local CPAs, we, as your local chapter of the TSCPA, have arranged to have a live Becker CPA Review Course here in the Valley that will be available starting January 27, 2007 at the STC Pecan Campus in McAllen. There hasn't been one here for years. Add the distance and price of traveling to San Antonio constantly to the price of the course itself and it's almost guaranteed that nobody is going to commute to San Antonio to take the course. We already have close to 20 students ready to enroll in the January course!

How many of us would even be CPAs if we didn't have the benefit of a CPA review course? Let's make an investment in our future and help young want-to-be accountants become accountants. To help individuals pay the tuition fee of \$2,570.00 (including books) for the CPA review course there are a couple of options available to them:

- TSCPA student members are eligible for a \$250 voucher that can be applied to the cost of the course
- Our "Viva Las Vegas Casino Gala" on January 20, 2007 at the Harlingen Country Club will provide scholarships for the CPA review course.
- The "Masterminds Competition" will give us an opportunity to solicit donations from the public for the CPA review course scholarships.
- Becker will arrange student loans.

We can't do this without your help. The Becker CPA Review Course has the highest pass rate in the nation. Please spread the word about our fundraiser – it's open to public, sure to be a lot of fun, and will benefit our Valley, our students, and our existing and new businesses! Become a sponsor! Purchase tickets as stocking stuffers! Forms are available in this newsletter to order your tickets, now!

**“Viva Las Vegas” Casino Gala:**

To raise scholarships to help pay for this course the Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accounts will host the “Viva Las Vegas” Casino Gala at Harlingen Country Club in Harlingen, Texas on Saturday, January 20, 2007.

The casino gala will take place from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and is open to all people in the community. The evening will feature a buffet dinner followed by a silent auction and an evening of dancing and gambling activities such as Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and the popular Texas Hold'em. The proceeds from this casino night will benefit the students of the University of Texas Pan American and the University of Texas at Brownsville as well as other CPA candidates.

The RGV Chapter of the TSCPA's goal is to raise the funds necessary to award a minimum of 15 full scholarships to the live Becker CPA review course our chapter is bringing to the Rio Grande Valley.

As an official sponsor of the “Viva Las Vegas Casino Gala”, your banner or sign will be displayed during the evening. In addition, your logo will be on the posters, flyers, advertisements, event program and press releases for this event. Furthermore, the various Club levels come with a number of event tickets, chips and name recognition throughout the evening.

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**CASINO NIGHT SPONSOR  
& TICKET FORM**

SATURDAY –JANUARY 20, 2007  
HARLINGEN COUNTRY CLUB

Type or print. Photocopies are accepted.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPONSOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INVENTORY	SIGN ME UP FOR:	# ORDERED	FEE EACH
5 Available	<b>DIAMOND CLUB</b> -8 tickets*, extra casino chips, name/logo in press releases & promo materials if committed by 12/20/2006, name in program, name recognition throughout the evening		\$ 5,000.00
5 Available	<b>PLATINUM CLUB</b> -4 tickets*, extra casino chips, name in program, name recognition throughout the evening.		\$ 2,500.00
5 Available	<b>GOLD SPONSOR</b> -3 tickets*, extra casino chips, name in program, name recognition throughout the evening.		\$ 1,000.00
Various	<b>SILVER CLUB</b> -2 tickets*, extra casino chips, name in program, name recognition throughout the evening.		\$ 500.00
3 Available	<b>COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP</b> -Name recognition on Newschannel 5 Special Edition Masterminds Accounting Competition		\$ 2,000.00
200 Available	<b>CASINO NIGHT TICKET</b> <i>Casino night tickets include buffet dinner, 2 open bar tickets, casino chips, dancing and silent auction.</i>		\$50.00 per person

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ruth S. Gonzalez  
956-447-9009

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:** RGV Chapter of the TSCPA Education Foundation  
**MAIL TO:** c/o Gonzalez & Arrambide  
 415 S International Blvd  
 Weslaco, TX 78596-9112

**FAX ORDER TO:** (956) 447-9339



Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the TSCPA  
 Education Foundation  
 1616 E. Griffin Parkway PMB 142  
 Mission, Texas 78572-3180

PAID  
 Non Profit  
 Bulk Rate  
 Permit No. 39  
 Mission  
 Texas 78572

If you can donate merchandise or services for the silent auction, please send in the following form.

**MERCHANDISE/ SERVICES DONATION FORM**

DONOR:	
ADDRESS:	
Phone	E-mail
Item Donated	Fair Market Value
Description	

Items may be dropped off at the office of:

Ruth Gonzalez  
 Gonzalez & Arrambide  
 415 S International Blvd  
 Weslaco, TX 78596-9112

Or phone (956) 447-9009 to arrange for a pick up.