

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
2009 FALL MEETING OF COUNCIL/ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING
INFORMATION FOR ASCPA MEMBERS**

The AICPA 2009 Fall Meeting of Council/Annual Members' Meeting met in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 18th through October 20, 2009. Representing the ASCPA at this Council meeting were Steve Moore and Bill Carr (AICPA Council), Brian Barksdale (Chair of the ASCPA Council), Lamar Reeves (Chair Elect of the ASCPA Council) and Jeannine Birmingham (President/CEO of the ASCPA). The following is a summary of the substantive issues addressed during the Council meeting.

Robert Harris elected Chairman of AICPA Board

Robert Harris, CPA/CFF, managing director of Harris, Cotherman, Jones, Price and Associates, CPAs from Vero Beach, Florida, became the new Chairman of the AICPA Board of Directors for a one year term on October 20, 2009. He takes over the responsibilities and leadership from Ernie Almonte who completed his term as Chairman of the AICPA Board of Directors. Robert (Bob) has as his top priorities for the coming year, the globalization of business and its impact on the profession; accounting for sustainability; advocacy concerning the re-regulation of financial services; and encouraging a greater member involvement in the profession, especially among young CPAs.

Efforts on Regulatory Reform Highlighted

The AICPA Washington-DC, staff reported on the AICPA's advocacy efforts. These include working with Congress to gain the recognition of the advice and council CPAs provide to Americans under the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency. In addition, the AICPA generally supports new Public Company Accounting Oversight Board registration for broker-dealer auditors, but has offered language that would better target broker-dealers with custody or clearing functions. The Washington team of the AICPA also reviewed actions to exempt CPAs from the Federal Trade Commissions "Red Flags" Rule and discuss efforts to support mobile workforce proposals that would enhance and simplify state income tax compliance.

Tax Policy Actions Discussed

The AICPA is also finding ways to help its members more effectively implement the confidentiality provisions under the Internal Revenue Code Section 7216. Continued efforts are being made to work with lawmakers to ban tax strategy patents. The Institute also has made efforts to raise awareness of issues related to penalty reform. Regarding estate tax issues, the Institute supports the continuation of a stepped-up basis at date of death that is part of the Obama administration's proposal and has made recommendations on portability, indexing, conformity and special use valuations.

Private Company Financial Reporting Committee Gives Update

Judy O'Dell, Chair of the Private Company Financial Reporting Committee (PCFRC), spoke to Council about the activities and experiences of the PCFRC since its formation almost three year ago. A few of the issues that the Committee has addressed and is dealing with includes the recognition that private company financial statement users have needs that differ from those of public companies. After the presentation by Judy O'Dell, the Council was asked to discuss in a round table format these issues. The results was an overwhelming support by Council to encourage the PCFRC and the AICPA to continue its efforts to accomplish the objective of having appropriate separate standards for private companies.

The Prince of Wales Addresses Council on Accountability on Accounting for Sustainability

The Prince of Wales spoke to Council members (through a video presentation) about accounting for sustainability. This is an international effort to examine the environment and social cost of doing business when measuring the performance of an organization. The AICPA is taking the lead to put CPAs at the forefront of efforts in the United States with its initiative to focus on helping CPAs provide the advice, tools and information that companies will need to report on their "triple bottom line" (social, environment and economic).

AICPA Survey: CPAs' Progress Toward IFRS Slowed as SEC Quite on Proposed Road Map

According to the AICPA's latest IFRS Survey, CPA's delayed taking steps to prepare for adoption of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) while the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) set aside of its review of U.S. plans for IFRS adoption so it could focus on the financial crisis. The Survey shows a 65% majority of CPAs said they want the SEC to address its plans for adoption by the end of the year. Even though familiarity with IFRS among CPAs did not advance much during 2009, 50.6% said they expect they will need relevant IFRS knowledge within the next one to three years. Eight percent said they need more knowledge now. Fifty-three percent supports IFRS use by U.S. public companies. Of those, 14.1% support an SEC mandate of IFRS, and 39.5% support mandated use of IFRS, but only after U.S. and international standards are further converged. SEC Chairwoman Mary Schapiro said recently, "the SEC would refocus on its proposed "road map" for IFRS adoption later this fall."

Completely New AICPA Web Site to Launch Next Year

Council members heard a report on the planned release of a next generation AICPA web site. It is scheduled to debut after the end of the 2010 tax season. The new site will reflect insights gained from member research, user data and today's best practices. Watch for further details on the new site as the launch date approaches.

Outstanding Service to Profession Recognized

William Ezzell, a former AICPA Chair and National Managing Partner, legislative and regulatory relations, of Deloitte, LLP, was awarded the AICPA Gold Medal for distinguished service, which is the highest award granted by the AICPA.

Robert Denham, an attorney and a public member of the AICPA Professional Ethics Executive Committee, received the AICPA Medal of Honor, the highest honor given to an individual who is not a CPA, but whose work has had a significant impact on the profession.

There were several "business issues" of Council that were presented during the course of the meeting, but the points summarized above are those deemed to be of primary interest to the ASCPA members.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Moore
Bill Carr

October 26, 2009