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Presidents' Column

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The Woman C. P. A.

JOINT BI-MONTHLY BULLETIN
of the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants
and the American Society of Women Accountants

VOLUME 5—COPY 10

APRIL 1943

The Presidents' Column

By MARY C. GILDEA, C. P. A.

One is apt to think of Australia as a country which is entirely occupied with war and fighting. But recently we received an inquiry from a firm of accountants in Australia about the purposes and organization of our society. They stated that women in increasing numbers were entering the accounting profession in Australia and they believed that an organization similar to ours would be of value to them. To us that inquiry was not only interesting but also instructive.

Occasionally there are people who seem to think that in the rush and work of war-time they do not have time to devote to professional society meetings or to the work of professional societies. We believe this is a grave mistake. Certainly there has never been a time when professional societies could be more useful to an accountant than at the present.

The individual accountant can study the increasing number of new regulations by himself but it is only in the exceptional case that that method cannot be improved by comparison of ideas with those of others interested in the same problems. There is, therefore, a need both for meetings where such matters can be discussed informally and for publications where reports of research into such problems can be set forth.

With more women entering the accounting field because of the war incentive, we feel that our organization has much to gain and much to offer from the affiliation of ally, those of us who may be classified as such women with the organization. Natural pioneers of women in the accounting field feel a certain responsibility for the success of other women accountants. We want

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By GRACE A. DIMMER, C. P. A.

One of the original purposes in organizing the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants was to "promote the interest of women in the accountancy profession." To accomplish this purpose, auxiliary chapters were formed whose membership consisted of women engaged in the practice of accountancy and teachers and students of accounting. Their ambitions do not necessarily need to be the ultimate attainment of a C. P. A. certificate, but an active interest in accountancy is required.

Nine chapters have been organized to date and the results of the technical meetings and contact with others interested in the same work have been gratifying both to the membership and the original organizers of the plan.

One of the greatest problems confronting women accountants was the absence of opportunity to secure public practice with the accounting forms. Due to the war and also the efforts of women to prove themselves capable and worthy, this obstacle has been removed entirely and it can safely be said that any qualified woman can enter the accounting field on the same basis as a man if she chooses to do so.

At the annual conventions, plans are made to further the interest of women accountants and help solve the problems peculiar to women. At the September, 1942, meeting it was decided to send a questionnaire to our members so that a record could be made of their various abilities and training. This information of course is to be confidential and not used by anyone without permission of the particular member. The society has had many inquiries for women accountants, and when this data is

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THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN

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to teach them any lessons which we may have learned from our experiences and, in turn, we want to have our ideas refreshed by new viewpoints. Such exchange of ideas cannot help but make us all more alert and more valuable to our clients and to our employers.

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compiled it will be very useful in determining whether or not any of our members would be qualified or interested in any positions offered. This questionnaire is being prepared and will reach the members within a short time.

Due to the war conditions it probably will not be possible to hold a convention during the year 1943, but the directors will, if at all possible, meet during the summer and, as it will not be possible for the membership to get together to discuss a program for the year 1944, the directors would like suggestions from the members as to how this society can better further the interests of women in accounting. Please send your suggestions to Miss Josephine Kroll, Secretary, 2717 Potomac Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Anna Grace Francis, C.P.A. has left Chicago for Washington to work for the Office of Price Administration.

Juanita Briggie has joined the WAACs. She is well equipped to handle her assignment for she has been private secretary to the County Superintendent of Schools, is an accountant, has a private flyer's license, and not so long ago, completed a meteorological course at Gonzaga.

* * * *

Probably the first nun to receive a C.P.A. is Sister Mary Hilary O'Brien, the only woman numbered among the fifty-five successful candidates in the November Illinois examinations.

* * * *

Trouble in Balancing

"There are three things which even those awe-inspiring individuals known as certified public accountants must have trouble in balancing. The bank's balance seldom agrees with the individual's bookkeeping; the Christmas card income and outgo never coincide, and the government's reports of percentage upturns in the cost of food do not even faintly resemble the sums one hands over the grocery counter."

—Indianapolis Star