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Visitation Program Greeted Warmly by Members

The AICPA's Member Visitation Program has been running a few months, and so far, it has gotten high marks from the members who have received visits from Team AICPA. According to Jay Rothberg Vice President — Member Services, Team AICPA Members have made more than 120 visits thus far, and the program offers "A good opportunity for the AICPA's members to see that the Institute staff is human, and it provides the staff with a chance to see our members in their actual work environment."

Responses to visits have been overwhelmingly positive, perhaps because these visits have given the Institute, certainly an organization which at times can seem somewhat monolithic and impersonal to members, a human face. Bob Rainier, who has made eight member visits, was well received at each of his meetings. "I was struck by how pleasant an experience it was to meet with these members." He said, "They really appreciated that someone took the time to meet with them. Some of these meetings extended into luncheon dates, and I had some follow-up work to do to answer questions."

Rainier said that he was also struck by the diversity of the kinds of work these CPAs do.

He met with members in industry, including the CFO of Miramax films and the CFO of the largest architectural firm in Washington, DC. He also met with a mid-size accounting firm in Florida and a CPA/Attorney in private practice in New York. He reflected, "These visits really brought home the notion that there are many different ways to make a living as a CPA."

Katharine Coveleski, when reflecting on her visits to two small firms, coined a colorful term for the Member Visitation Program, calling it the Institute's "grassroots feedback program." She said that her first concern when scheduling these visits, "was [that] I wasn't sure how they would respond to an operations person who doesn't have the role of an accountant at the Institute."

Coveleski, too, found that the members responded positively to her; that they appreciated that the Institute cared about small firms enough to send her to talk to them. "At both these small firms, some individuals were very high on the AICPA and were very clear about what they thought the Institute should be doing." And for her, Coveleski said that the visits, "Drove home a sense of who some of our members are. It made them more real to me."



Pat Williams, who also visited small firms, found that while the people she met were pleased to see her, they did not necessarily have the active enthusiasm that the Institute's committee members have for the work of the AICPA. "I got comments from people who would not pick up the phone and call us. They're like the average members, the ones who became members so that they can put it on the letterhead."

Rainier said that the most difficult thing about the visits was getting appointments for them. "It's important to be tenacious in that you may encounter difficulty in getting a time arranged. It takes effort to set up appointments like these."

Rothberg, who headed the program in its initial stages, said that a cross-functional team of individuals who have made visits was being established to make recommendations and decisions on how to improve the program. He added, "Although we have had some real success to date, we must view this initiative as an 'evergreen' one in which we learn and modify from our experiences."

When making an initial contact with members for visits, the

Visitation Program, *continued*

first resource a Team AICPA member should consult is his or her Member Outreach list. If there are no members from the region where he or she will be making a visit on that list, the person to contact for an appropriate address is Project Manager Mike Molaro at extension 6125. If anyone has any questions regarding the program, they can contact Molaro, John Sharbaugh at extension 4257 or Jay Rothberg at extension 3980.

Things You May Not Know About Your Life Insurance Coverage

No one likes to think about life insurance, but it's important to be prepared for every eventuality. The Institute provides group life insurance coverage to all members of Team AICPA, but since most of us don't take time to reflect on this unfortunately necessary benefit, many Team AICPA members don't know some important aspects of their coverage.

Following is information regarding the Institute's group life insurance plan:

- 1) **There are three options for life insurance coverage.** During orientation on his or her first day, each Team AICPA member receives a choice of three options in the Prudential group life insurance plan. All three options are offered free of charge to all team AICPA members. They are:
 - a) to have one's beneficiary receive two times one's annual salary at the time of one's death. The vast majority of Team AICPA choose this kind of coverage.
 - b) to give one's immediate family benefits on a monthly basis, where one's spouse, provided that he or she is under 65 years old, after receiving a year's salary immediately, receives 10% of one's monthly salary or \$2,075, which ever is less, for fifteen years or until he or she turns 65. Under this kind of coverage, a person's children who are still living, unmarried and under 25 years old, receive a total of 5% of their monthly salary or \$1,025, which ever is less.
 - c) to give one's beneficiary two times one's annual salary up to \$50,000. People who choose this kind of coverage generally do so because employer paid group term life

Team AICPA Sound Bytes

The Production PIP Team collected \$30 from their "penalty cup," which, as some know, is often a part of the team meeting environment. They decided to donate this money to the Special Olympics in memory of Pat Verde.



The cafeteria in the Harborside Office is open 7:45 am-3:45 pm. Cafeteria workers ask Team AICPA members to please be understanding if they cannot interrupt their set-up or clean-up duties to serve them before 7:45 in the morning or after 3:45 in the afternoon.



In order to improve turnaround on interoffice hand delivery packages, the New York and New Jersey offices will now use the help of the Institute's receptionists. Distribution Services and Facilities Management ask that those in the New York office sending hand delivery packages to Harborside specify on which floor the addressee works.



News & views would like to apologize to Edie Yaffe of the Internal Audit/Quality Assurance Team. We forgot to mention that she recently celebrated her 7th anniversary with the Institute.

insurance in excess of \$50,000 is subject to Social Security (FICA) tax and is also included in employees' gross income on their W-2 forms. It may also be subject to Federal, state and city taxes.

- 2) **Switching from one kind of group life insurance coverage to another is easy in most cases.** To switch from either the first or the second options mentioned above to another kind of coverage, all that is necessary is a statement in writing addressed to Benefits Administrator Chris Miller stating what change is requested and on what date the change should be made effective. However, if a person is covered under the third option and later wishes to increase his or her life insurance, he or she must submit a statement of insurability, which is a long questionnaire available from Human Resources, to Prudential for their review and approval prior to the requested increase becoming effective. Prudential may require some individuals

continued on next page

Life Insurance Coverage, *continued*

making such a request to be examined by a doctor, and they retain the right to decline requests based on medical information.

- 3) **If a person leaves Team AICPA, he or she has the right to continue equal coverage at his or her own expense.** Most people don't know that the law allows them to remain covered at their own expense by the same terms as their group life insurance if they leave their jobs. If a person leaves Team AICPA for any reason, within 31 days of his or her termination of employment, he or she has the right to purchase individual life insurance of equal coverage without taking a medical exam.
- 4) **A person who discovers that he or she is terminally ill can receive benefits early.** The group insurance that the Institute provides to Team AICPA has a living benefit option, which allows a person who discovers that he or she has six months or less to live can receive half of their life insurance benefits up to \$50,000 before they die. For some

people, this allows them to deal with unfinished business in a dignified manner.

- 5) **It is important to let the AICPA know of beneficiary changes.** Because life insurance is linked to unpleasant events in our lives, it is easy to forget to inform the right people when something happens, such as a marriage, a birth, or another relationship change, which alters who we would like to receive our life insurance benefits. If a change has not formally been requested in the name of a Team AICPA member's beneficiary, Prudential is required to award all benefits to the person originally named as the appropriate recipient. Change of life insurance beneficiary forms are available from the Human Resources team.

Anyone with questions regarding life insurance coverage should speak with Benefits Administrator Chris Miller, who can be reached at extension 3354.

What's for Lunch?

Calling all Gourmets: Do you know a place Team AICPA should avoid? Have you discovered any great bargains for good food near the Institute? *News & views* needs your palette and your discerning criticism of restaurants within easy walking distance of the Institute's offices, and we'll even buy your burger. Here's what you would need to do: First, speak with Anne Rothkopf at extension 3357 to verify this publication's current needs. Then, once you've gotten the go-ahead, buy yourself a meal at a reasonably-priced lunch place (\$15 or less total per person), and write a two-paragraph article describing the quality of the food, restaurant ambience, and style and professionalism of service. Give the total experience a letter grade, list specialties of the establishment, and tell us the location. Upon receipt of your restaurant review, we will reimburse you for the lunch you described in your article. **You will become a published food critic and bask in the all fame that this publication can afford you.** And you thought there was no such thing as a free lunch!



An Important Business Travel Advisory — Checking Out Checkout Policies

by Maura Middleton — Meetings and Travel Team

Editor's Note: *The Meetings and Travel Team asks that staff aides to AICPA committees share this information with members.*

A new trend in the hotel industry is to charge a fee for early check-outs. At check-in you are asked your departure date. If that date changes during your stay, and you do not alert the front desk, you can be charged a penalty of \$50 or more for leaving the hotel early. Charges may not be incurred if you give the hotel anywhere from 24–48 hours' notice of an early check out or if there are extenuating circumstances causing you to leave early. This trend is still young but growing. Hyatt Hotels and Westin Hotels have implemented this policy system-wide. Wyndham Hotels and Hilton Hotels are implementing the policy at select properties. For further information please check with the hotel when making reservations.



A new face at the AICPA



Mary J. Shantz looks up from her work for a moment. She is a new Vice President at the Institute and is a member of the Professional Publications Team.

Guy Provenzano's Oscar Quiz

As promised, here is the Academy Award Quiz promised to us by Mr. Guy Provenzano. He wrote it, he will grade it, and here are the rules:

- 1** All entries should be in writing (not via cc:mail) and sent to Guy Provenzano of the CPE Support Services Team.
- 2** No entries will be accepted after Friday, March 8th, at 5:00 pm.
- 3** In the event of a tie, a drawing supervised by the Internal Audit Team among the winners will be held to determine who gets the Oscar-related prize.

That understood, take that tuxedo out of the mothballs, stretch out those debutante gloves, call Swifty Lazar, and get ready to answer these questions:

- 1** There have been a few performers who have won an Oscar two years in a row in the same category. Who was the first to do so? For which films?
- 2** In the 40's, one actor was nominated both for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor for the same performance. Name the actor and the movie.
- 3** Name the first African American, the first Asian, and the first Puerto Rican to win Oscars for their on-screen performances.
- 4** Katherine Hepburn has been nominated for a record 12 Oscars, all in the Best Actress category. Name the four films and the years for which she won.
- 5** In two different decades, two sisters were nominated against each other for Oscars in the same category. Who are the four women so nominated? Who, if any, among them won? For which films?
- 6** This movie was nominated for a record 14 Oscars, and won 6. Name the movie and the 6 Oscars it received.
- 7** This actor is the only person to have won 3 Oscars in 5 years, all in the Best Supporting Actor category. Name the actor and his winning films.
- 8** There are at least two movies for which the entire casts have been nominated for Oscars. Name the two films, the casts who were nominated and who if any among them won.

- 9** Who was the first winner of the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award? What year was it first presented?
- 10** To date, this is the only actor to have won an Oscar posthumously for an on-screen performance. Name the actor, the movie, and the year he won for.

Team AICPA Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Team AICPA members who recently celebrated various anniversaries with the Institute:

Dorothy Smith	Accounts Receivable	25th
Gerry Cicalese	Internal Audit/Quality Control	16th
Joan Anderson	CPE Accounting	11th
Leonard Mai	Finance Analysis & Budget	11th
Jessica Sacco	State Society & Regulatory Affairs	11th
Shirley Senior	Technical Publications	10th
Mary Browne	Order	8th
Al Goll	Accounting Standards	8th
Evelyn Laino	Facilities Management–New Jersey	8th
Janey Luallen	Practice Monitoring	8th
Vincent Sarno	CPE Production	8th
Beverly Butler	State Society & Regulatory Affairs	6th
Dave Handrich	PCPS/MAP	5th
Liz Koch	PCPS/MAP	5th
Gary Santos	Printing Services	5th