

# South Chapter President's Letter

## February 2008

Dear Fellow CPA,

The purpose of this email is to:

1. Ask for your involvement in the ICPAS-South Chapter.
2. Inform you about some initiatives.
3. Report back to you about the Survey results and the Leadership Strategy Meeting

**On January 31<sup>st</sup>** we had a chapter leadership strategy. Even though the weather was terrible we had an excellent turnout and good participation. The leadership reviewed the survey and we reached a consensus on the following points regarding the free form comments that were listed on the survey.

1. Relationship Issues are Key:
  - a. Have to avoid Cliquish behavior
    - i. If tables are reserved , 2 spots should be left for guests
  - b. First Timers have to feel welcomed
    - i. Greeters/Ambassadors need to be involved
    - ii. Membership Committee has to be actively involved
  - c. Chapter Membership database need to be built
2. Topics have been too public accounting oriented not private, corporate or general interest.
  - a. Don't want to be too specific (i.e. Cost accounting) or limiting
  - b. Need to be general topic oriented – example topics:
    - i. Retirement/Estate planning elements (not sales oriented)
    - ii. Relationship issues in the work place
    - iii. Controllership – Hot Topics
3. Rude and boisterous Behavior at chapter meetings
  - a. The situation has improved over the last few years but still needs further improvement
  - b. Statesmen of the Chapter need to be involved on a personal basis
  - c. An announcement will be made before the Speaker's presentation
    - i. Show respect to Speaker
    - ii. Turn off Cell phones
    - iii. If you want to talk to others go to the cash bar and talk and drink.

*The general feeling was that this first leadership strategy meeting was a good start. The next step is to open it up to the chapter membership therefore we are calling a special brainstorming strategy meeting **on April 17<sup>th</sup>** with a Moderator at Beggars Pizza.*

**Our next meeting is February 21st at Mama Versuvio's in Palos Heights.** [www.icpasouth.org/080214.html](http://www.icpasouth.org/080214.html). I am very excited about this meeting because our own Tom Kosinski will be the speaker and his topic is very timely. This should be of interest to everyone, even non-tax professionals because Tom will address the new Tax Rebate that all the politicians are talking about and other issues. The points that Tom will cover in his presentation are:

- The AMT issues – the patch, refundable credits, and the impact of investment advisory fees.
- The new tax preparer penalty details and concerns. (Circular 230)
- The proposed rebate and its implications on CPA's lives. How to plan, work with it and explain to clients.
- The new guidance about fees subject to the 2% AGI deduction on Trust Returns.

**The March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting** Speaker will be Ivan Baker, the Tinley Park Director of Economic Development. Ivan and Tinley Park have done a tremendous job of bring and growing businesses in Tinley Park and this should be a great session for our chapter. Please invite business acquaintances because this will be of interest to anyone in the business or political world.

Some initiatives that you should know about:

- The Chapter launched a chapter website at [www.ICPASouth.org](http://www.ICPASouth.org) – Please use it for the most timely and accurate information concerning the Chicago South Chapter
- The Chapter conducted CPE-Saturday on November 10<sup>th</sup> Trinity Christian College. After expenses the chapter was able to award a \$1,500 business program scholarship check to TCC.
- The Brain Trust has evolved into active monthly Practitioners Sessions.
- The Wednesday morning networking opportunity meeting has grown to two sessions each month.

**Please check out the website [www.ICPASouth.org](http://www.ICPASouth.org) for more information.**

I urge you to make no small plans, get involved with the Chapter and help us accomplish great things! **The Chapter is here to serve you!** We need your involvement and input to be successful. I am proud to be a CPA and need your help in raising the CPA brand in the market place.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

Paul E. Dillman, CPA