MSCPA
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
VOLUME XLV JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

2021 MSCPA Annual Convention

June 23-27, 2021 • Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort • Destin, Florida

We've added an additional day of CPE with classes beginning on Wednesday, June 23.

Our 2021 MSCPA Annual Convention is on! Chairman Annette Pridgen and President/CEO Karen Moody recently visited Sandestin for planning and discussed and witnessed their new safe meeting practices. These changes include room configurations for more social distancing, meal and bar service barriers, staff-served buffets, and other practices.

Sandestin is open and ready to take reservations. Their policies on COVID health and safety standards focus on all touch points for guests and employees—from check-in procedures that limit contact to increased disinfecting of all public areas. Visit the CONVENTION page on our website to find out more about Sandestin's enhanced initiatives.

Book Your Room Now for a Chance to Win a FREE Sandestin Getaway!

Book your room directly with Sandestin using our group code by **May 1** to be automatically entered. Prize includes a free two-night stay at Sandestin. The winner will be selected in a random drawing during Convention.

Sandestin Group Reservations
800-320-8115
Book online: www.sandestin.com\24119C
Group Code: 24119C

2021 ROOM RATE CHART

ACCOMMODATION	DAILY RATE	WEEKLY RATE**
Beachside Studio*	$320.00	$2,016.00
Beachside 1 Bedroom*	$375.00	$2,363.00
Beachside 2 Bedroom*	$510.00	$3,213.00
Beachside 3 Bedroom*	$635.00	$4,001.00
Westwinds 1 Bedroom*	$390.00	$2,457.00
Westwinds 2 Bedroom*	$540.00	$3,402.00
Westwinds 3 Bedroom*	$655.00	$4,127.00
Southside 2 Bedroom	$345.00	$2,174.00
Southside 3 Bedroom	$440.00	$2,772.00
Lakeside 2 Bedroom	$310.00	$1,953.00
Lakeside 3 Bedroom	$400.00	$2,520.00
Beachwalk 2 Bedroom	$325.00	$2,048.00
Beachwalk 3 Bedroom	$415.00	$2,615.00
Bayside 2 Bedroom	$280.00	$1,764.00
Bayside at Sandestin-Guest Room	$185.00	$1,166.00
Bayside at Sandestin-1 Bedroom Suite	$230.00	$1,449.00
Village Studio	$225.00	$1,418.00
Village 1 Bedroom	$250.00	$1,575.00
Village 2 Bedroom	$360.00	$2,268.00
Village 3 Bedroom	$450.00	$2,835.00
Grand Complex Studio	$235.00	$1,481.00
Grand Complex 1 Bedroom	$260.00	$1,638.00
Grand Complex 2 Bedroom	$375.00	$2,363.00
Grand Complex 3 Bedroom	$475.00	$2,993.00
Luau 1 Bedroom	$250.00	$1,575.00
Luau 2 Bedroom*	$360.00	$2,268.00
Luau 3 Bedroom*	$445.00	$2,804.00

*A 5-night minimum is required on Beachfront accommodations and a 4-night minimum is required on Luau 2- and 3-bedroom units.
**Save an additional 10%.

Registration form page 9

IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES ARLIN CARTER
Madison
Died December 24, 2020

MEMORIAL GIFT
to the
Education Foundation
in memory of
CHARLES ARLIN CARTER
Madison
by
Jimmy Davis
Oxford

Why should you book now in our room block?

• **Save on fees.** The resort fees you pay when booking directly with Sandestin are lower that the owner fees and service fees on VRBO and other owner rental sites.

• **Access to guest services representatives.** Sandestin staff is available to handle services and maintenance you may require during your stay which may not be available when booking through VRBO and other owner rental sites.

• **Exclusive amenities.** When you book directly with Sandestin, you have access to resort transportation, beach parking, free access to 4 pools, free bicycle rentals, free fitness center, free kayak and boogie board rentals, and free tennis court time.

• **Get the room type you want.** Your cut-off date for reservations is **May 23,** after which rooms will be sold on a space available basis. There are a limited number of each accommodation type in our room block. Book early to get the room you want!

• **Help MSCPA meet our contract obligations and earn rooms for staff and speakers.** We earn complimentary room nights based on the number of rooms booked if our room contract obligation is met. These rooms help defray the cost of housing the MSCPA staff and our speakers. MSCPA could be subject to penalty if the room block falls short. If you book an accommodation type that is not included in our block listing, ask the reservation department to credit your room to the MSCPA group code 24119C.

• **Deposit is refundable up to 7 days before arrival.** A deposit of one night's room rate is required to secure rooms. Deposit is refundable in the event of individual room cancellation, provided notice is received by Sandestin 7 days prior to scheduled arrival date.

If a room type is unavailable online, please call Sandestin Group Reservation to check for availability. If you have any other trouble with availability, contact Karen Moody at the MSCPA office so that she can contact our group housing representative.

100 MSCPA 1920 2020
CENTENNIAL
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Published by the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants
306 Southampton Row
The Commons
Highland Colony Parkway
Ridgeland, MS 39157

PHONE: (601) 856-4244
FAX: (601) 856-8255

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
memberservices@ms-cpa.org

The CPA Newsletter is the official publication of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants. The Newsletter invites articles of interest to the profession and gives credit to the author; however, it reserves the right to edit articles for correct spelling, wording and punctuation.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official policy of the MSCPA. Advertising is accepted in good faith that the product/services are of value stated.

Welcome New **Members**

John Alagood
Coppell, TX
Senior Care Authority

Noah D. Davis
Meridian
Rea, Shaw, Giffin & Stuart, LLP

Qun Li
Ocean Springs
MS Department of Revenue Gulf Coast

Maci Maness
Hattiesburg
Sanderson Farms, Inc

Loralee A. O'Neal
Madison
Coyote Analytics LLC

Jose G. Salinas
Tupelo
Watkins, Ward and Stafford, PLLC

Jesse Shields
Richland
Lightheart, Sanders & Associates

Leslie H. Sorrell
Madison
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company

Jena M. Taylor
Ridgeland
GranthamPoole PLLC

Megan Tidwell
Madison
UCR Properties, LLC

Nominate an MSCPA Member for **Rising Star Award**

The MSCPA Rising Star Award recognizes an outstanding young CPA in Mississippi who has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and involvement in the MSCPA, the accounting profession and their communities.

Recipients must be age 40 or younger, a current or past member of the Young CPA Network and a MSCPA member who has demonstrated a commitment to the profession by leadership in the Network and MSCPA activities such as committees, local chapters or the Board.

Nominations should be submitted by **April 16, 2021.** Please send nominations addressing the requirements in the criteria to Karen Moody (kmoody@ms-cpa.org). A copy of the nominee's business resume can be included if available.

The Executive Committee will select the recipient who will be recognized during the 2021 Annual Convention awards presentation on Saturday, June 26, 2021 at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin.

Honor an MSCPA Member for Public Service

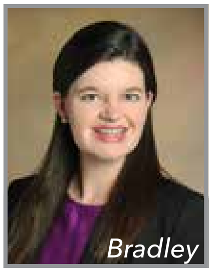
The membership is invited to nominate a member for consideration for the MSCPA 2021 Public Service Award. The winner will be recognized during the 2021 Annual Convention awards presentation on Saturday, June 26, 2021 at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin.

Qualifying activities for the award include MSCPA membership and professional and civic public service achievements. Nominations should be submitted by **March 31, 2021.** Submit a nominee by email to Karen Moody (kmoody@ms-cpa.org) for consideration by the MSCPA Public Service Award Committee. Members serving on the committee this year include Donald McWilliams, Ridgeland; Chris O'Neal, Greenwood; and Laura Cerra, Laurel.

Member News

Bradley Joins USM as Instructor

Julia Bradley has joined the University of Southern Mississippi as a visiting instructor and faculty member. She will teach Introduction to Professional Accountancy and Introduction to Intermediate Accounting on both campuses and will be the faculty advisor for USM's Beta Alpha Psi accounting honor society. Julia will also work closely with student internships and various School of Accountancy events and will continue to serve on the School of Accountancy Advisory Board.



A Hattiesburg native, Julia earned bachelor and master degrees in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and worked as an Audit Manager with Harper, Rains, Knight & Company in Ridgeland for 6 years. She is Chairman of the MSCPA Not-for-Profit Committee and is a member of the MSCPA YCPA Liaison Committee.

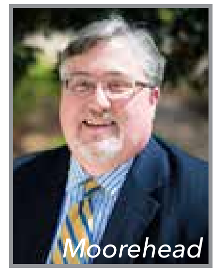
Morehead Chairs Agency Board

A gifted Mississippi College accounting professor with a heart for public service, Billy Morehead has an extensive background in government leadership circles. The Mississippian became a natural fit as the new chair of a state agency board. First named to the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board by then-Gov. Phil Bryant in 2018, Morehead was selected by Gov. Tate Reeves to serve through June 2024. Board members in January elected the MC educator as its new chair.

The Legislature created the five-member board that quietly works behind the scenes in Jackson to promote good government.

"Serving as a member of the PPRB is a tremendous honor," Morehead said. "The Board works to bring integrity to the procurement process in the state." Board members are tasked with ensuring the state follows rules and regulations when acquiring goods and services.

"Members bring decades of combined leadership in government and industry to the Board," the Madison resident says. "We take our roles as public servants very seriously and are honored to provide an additional layer of public service."



Morehead served Mississippi for 27 years before retiring from state duties in 2011. His roles included working as a state auditor, Delta State University professor, and administrator on the Cleveland campus before joining the MC School of Business faculty. "It's a privilege to continue as a public servant as a member of the Public Procurement Review Board."

A Greenville native, Morehead received a national leadership award from the Association of Government Accountants. He served AGA as its national president and treasurer. He is a member and past chair of the MSCPA Governmental Committee and served as MSCPA Treasurer. Billy earned degrees in accounting from Delta State and Millsaps College with a doctorate in international development at the University of Southern Mississippi. Over the years, Dr. Morehead served Mississippi Baptists as a member and chair of its Education Commission.

Pitts Announced as Managing Member of Williams, Pitts & Beard, PLLC

The CPA firm of Williams, Pitts & Beard, PLLC (WPB) recently announced two changes to the company's key management structure.

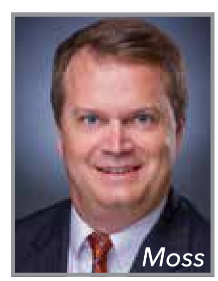
Founder and Managing Member, Danny L. Williams stepped down as managing partner effective December 29, 2020. Williams has been a CPA for 50 years and, in 1983, established a CPA practice on the square in Hernando, MS that subsequently became Williams, Pitts & Beard, PLLC. Mr. Williams will continue to work on a limited basis in the future.

Directly following that announcement, Jerry Pitts has been announced as the Managing Member of the firm. One of four partners of WPB, Mr. Pitts has been a CPA for 34 years and a partner of WPB since 1992. A resident of Hernando, Mr. Pitts and his wife Joy have three adult children.

WPB is one of the largest Certified Public Accountant and business advisory firms in North Mississippi consisting of four partners and a support staff of nineteen. The firm has been helping clients exceed their financial goals since 1983 by providing professional accounting, tax, financial statement and advisory services.

Moss named BancorpSouth Southeast Regional President

BancorpSouth has tapped Joseph Moss as its Southeast Regional President, where he will be responsible for overseeing all banking locations in Alabama, Florida and the southern half of Mississippi. Moss succeeds David Barrentine, who recently retired after 41 years in the banking industry and nearly 20 with BancorpSouth.



Joseph serves on the MSCPA Banking Committee and is a familiar face at our Annual Convention.

Vaughn Named Member at Barlow & Company

Barlow & Company, PLLC has announced the admission of Greg Vaughn, CPA as a member of the firm. Greg graduated from Mississippi College with Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees. He will provide tax, consulting, and accounting and assurance services to nonprofit, governmental, and for profit entities. Greg currently resides in Brandon.

Vaughn

Koerber Company Joins Postlethwaite & Netterville

Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N), a top 100 U.S. public accounting firm and the largest Louisiana-based public accounting firm, is pleased to announce that the professionals of The Koerber Company, P.A., a Hattiesburg, Mississippi firm focused on valuation and litigation support, joined P&N effective January 1, 2021.

The Koerber Company, P.A. was founded in 1997 with a vision to provide exceptional service to attorneys, CPAs, and their clients. This move expands P&N's presence in the Gulf South to include the Hattiesburg office and staff.

"This is an excellent strategic opportunity to build upon the existing success of both firms and expand P&N's Gulf South footprint," says Dan Gardiner, P&N's Managing Director and CEO. "We've enjoyed a long-standing professional relationship with The Koerber Company, which has a great reputation among many of our shared clients."

By joining with P&N, The Koerber Company's professionals will continue to serve clients in Mississippi and throughout the Gulf South with the added support of P&N's well-established tax, accounting, technology, and consulting services.

"We are very excited to join P&N. We share similar values and an emphasis on quality and long-term client relationships," Jim Koerber of The Koerber Company states. "This is a great opportunity for our clients and employees to benefit from the expanded resources of P&N."

Matthews, Cutrer and Lindsay CPAs Announces Its Expansion

The accounting firm of Matthews, Cutrer and Lindsay announced two area accounting firms recently joined the firm through mergers. The Jackson-based firm of Montgomery & Associates joined the firm Nov. 1, 2020 and the Ridgeland-based firm of Lefoldt & Company joined the firm effective Jan 1.

The mergers are a noteworthy benefit for clients and employees of each firm as well as an appealing combination of knowledge base and resources.

"Strategic growth is vital to every business. We carefully select mutually-beneficial opportunities that better serve our clients and the communities where we live and work," said Matt Freeland, MCL managing shareholder. "We enthusiastically welcome the clients and employees of both firms knowing we share a work philosophy and commitment to excellence. This collective experience will benefit our clients and employees alike."

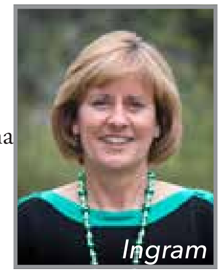
Combined, the firm boasts a group of 11 shareholders and about 50 professionals operating in four offices in Ridgeland, Clinton and Yazoo City. These four locations offer geographically centric access from the capital city area, its surrounding counties and Yazoo County. The firm serves and will continue to serve clients in-state and the nation through collective experience and knowledge bettering financial goals and futures.

MSCPA 100 1920 2020
CENTENNIAL
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Meet Our Members
Legacy Spotlights

As a tribute to the 100th Anniversary of the MSCPA, we want to spotlight members during our year-long Centennial Celebration who are legacies of the profession – MSCPA members whose family is or was also a MSCPA member CPA, accountant, or accounting student. If you or someone you know is a legacy of the profession, please email names and contact information to jtruhett@ms-cpa.org.

Donna M. Ingram, CPA, CFE, CFF


Ingram

Donna received a Bachelor of Accountancy from Michigan State University in 1981 and became a licensed CPA in Mississippi, Louisiana and Michigan. She began her accounting career with BDO Seidman in 1981 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, then joined May & Company in Vicksburg in 1983 as a staff accountant. She became Audit Partner in 1988 and soon ventured into forensic accounting obtaining her CFE in 1992 and CFF in 2008.

While working with May & Company, Donna flew to Anchorage, Alaska when she was 7 months pregnant with her son, John, to do a fraud examination—so far his only trip to Alaska. Alaska had a heat wave in February and the temperature got up to 32 degrees. Alaskans had their windows open and were wearing shorts! John waited until after busy season to be born (April 24). Donna checked into the hospital on April 21 to be induced. When not playing gin with her husband those three days, the office delivered work and she had an office set up around her hospital bed. She practically worked until a couple of hours before he was born.

Donna retired from May & Company in 2006 when her sons were in high school and junior high. With a goal of working no more than 500 hours of forensic accounting and actively volunteering at her sons' school while enjoying their teenage years, Donna started Donna M. Ingram, CPA, PC. Her husband, Paul, an architect, designed a shared office building which they shared for 13 years before downsizing and moving. Donna volunteered more than anticipated and worked more than 500 hours, but thoroughly enjoyed having the flexibility to share in the boy's school activities and sports. She and her husband co-chaired the St. Aloysius athletic booster club and were known as the golf team parents for the 4 years their son, Chris, was on the golf team.

Donna has been very involved with the Society having served as Chairman of the MSCPA Accounting & Auditing Committee and the MSCPA Peer Review Committee. She is also a past-member of the AICPA Peer Review Board and Oversight Task Force and a CFF Champion. In addition to her accounting work, Donna is a CPE instructor and has presented for AICPA and MSCPA on A&A, ethics, and fraud related courses since 1997.

Donna is the past Chair of the Vicksburg-Warren County Economic Development Foundation, and is a past president and current member of the Vicksburg Rotary Club where she was the 2010-2011 District Peace Scholar Chair. She has held various positions with the United Way of West Central Mississippi and is a Past Advisory Member and Finance Chair of Vicksburg Catholic School. Donna is a Current Board member of the River City Rescue Mission and is an elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Presbyterian Church in Vicksburg.

Donna has earned many awards for her accounting, instructor and volunteer work. She was named 1997 Mississippi Business Journal Top 40 Under 40, the 1997 Mississippi Business Journal 50 Leading Business Women, 2012-2013 Outstanding AICPA Instructor, 2004 and 2005 Top 100 Practitioners by CPA Magazine, and received the 2008 United Way of West Central Mississippi Leadership Award.

Donna and her husband, Paul, have been married for 32 years and have two grown sons, John and Chris. John, followed in Donna's career footsteps as an auditor with many of the same types of clients and experiences. Chris, excelled in his high school accounting class and majored in accounting his first year and a half at Ole Miss, but then transferred to the business school at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) to pursue a Professional Golf Management degree. He is now the assistant golf pro at Pasatiempo Golf Course in Santa Cruz, CA. He has said that he is glad he has an accounting and business background because he relies on it regularly in his job.

John Ingram, CPA

John is the son of Donna Ingram. He excelled in his high school accounting class and graduated from Mississippi State University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Accountancy. He works for GranthamPoole PLLC in Ridgeland as a Senior Staff Accountant in the audit department, and is also a member of their Employee Benefits, Nonprofit, and Business Valuation & Litigation Support teams. John is a member of the AICPA and MSCPA and regularly attends our Young CPA Conference and the annual convention. He also shares Donna's interest in fraud and forensics and is preparing to take the CFE exam. He serves on the boards of two nonprofits and is the Treasurer of one, The Or Project, a human trafficking awareness ministry, and he is a member of Grace Baptist Church at Castlewoods, where he teaches youth Bible Drill and adult Sunday school.


Ingram

NEW ONLINE
FALL 2021
MASTER OF TAXATION
MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY
ACCOUNTING DATA ANALYTICS MINOR AVAILABLE
Fall – Apply by August 1
Spring – Apply by November 1
online.msstate.edu/mscpa
Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution.
STATE
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
RICHARD C. ADKERSON
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
AACSB
ACCREDITED
Accounting

Day of Service

In Ocean Springs, Linda Roberts, CPA collected and donated to Lord is My Help Food Kitchen as part of our statewide annual CPA Day(s) of Service. MSCPA would like to extend another big thank you to our members who willingly gave of their time and resources to make an impact in our communities across the state.

MSCPA apologizes for omitting this Ocean Springs firm from our November/December 2020 issue.

MSCPA
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

UPCOMING ETHICS COURSES 2021

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy requires that each CPA must have obtained and report online a minimum four CPE credit hours in Board approved Ethics, Professional Conduct, Public Accountancy Law and Regulations courses triennially - current period: July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022. A minimum of one of these Ethics CPE credit hours must be in the subject of Public Accountancy Law and Regulations.

MSCPA can help you meet the requirement! Watch for CPE updates as more ethics course are added to our online catalog.

Ethics, Rules, and Regulations

Credits: 4 | Member Price: $160

LIVESTREAM

May 10, 2021
Ridgeland

June 23, 2021
Destin

June 30, 2021
Ridgeland

November 5, 2021
Hattiesburg

November 10, 2021
Tupelo

December 13, 2021
Biloxi

December 15, 2021
Ridgeland

MSCPA 2021 Annual Convention Registration

June 23-27, 2021 | Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort | Destin, FL

As a member, is this the first time you have attended MSCPA Annual Convention? _____Yes* _____No

PRIMARY CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

Name ______________________________ Member ID # ______________

Company ______________________________

Address ______________________________

Phone ______________________________ Email ______________________________

_____***MEMBER FIRST TIME ATTENDEE General Registration** **$195**
Includes welcome reception, three breakfasts, two speaker presentations, Friday box lunch, Saturday beach party/volleyball tournament, reception, banquet and special entertainment.

_____**General Registration** **$295**
Includes welcome reception, three breakfasts, two speaker presentations (approved for 2 CPE credits), Friday box lunch, Saturday beach party/volleyball tournament, reception, banquet and special entertainment.

_____**Spouse/Guest Registration** **$160**
Includes welcome reception, three breakfasts, Friday morning cooking demonstration, Friday box lunch, Saturday bingo with prizes, beach party/volleyball tournament, reception, banquet and special entertainment.

Spouse/Guest Name ______________________________

SUBTOTAL

$______________

CPE SEMINARS

______ **Wednesday, June 23 8:30am – 12:00pm | CPE Credit: 4** **$160**
Ethics, Rules, and Regulations, Donna Ingram

______ **Wednesday, June 23 1:00pm – 4:30pm | CPE Credit: 4** **$160**
Unmasking Fraud, Donna Ingram

______ **Thursday, June 24 8:30am – 12:00pm | CPE Credit: 4** **$160**
Post COVID Business Succession, Tax and Retirement Planning: The First Six Months of POTUS, Trip Barnes

______ **Thursday, June 24 1:00pm – 4:30pm | CPE Credit: 4** **$160**
Evaluating Internal Controls – What Could Go Wrong?, Wil Crawford

SUBTOTAL

$______________

ACTIVITIES *Spouses, guests and children welcomed! Cash prizes will be awarded!*

______ **Golf Tournament | Friday, June 25, 2021** **$80 per person**
Includes green fee, cart fee, tournament registration and refreshments. Reservation must be received by May 31, 2020 to guarantee availability. Tee time is offered on a space available basis after cutoff date.
Player(s) and Handicap(s): ______________________________

______ **Deep Sea Fishing | Friday, June 25, 2021** **$50 per person**
Includes fishing license, bait, tackle, fish cleaning and refreshments on board the Destiny. Advance registration recommended. This trip usually sells out!
Participant(s): ______________________________

______ **5K Fun Run | Saturday, June 26, 2021, 6:00am** **FREE**
Participant(s): ______________________________

CHILDREN'S EVENTS (ages 4-12 years old) **FREE**

Thursday Evening: arts, crafts, games and snacks.
______ *Number of children attending*

Friday Morning: lawn and pool party with games and bottle rocket launcher activity.
______ *Number of children attending*

Saturday Evening: carnival with games, arts, crafts, magic show, balloon animals, face painting, and dinner.
______ *Number of children attending*

SUBTOTAL

$______________

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE $______________

TO REGISTER

- **ONLINE** at www.ms-cpa.org/education/annual-convention
- **FAX** a completed registration form with credit card information to MSCPA at 601-856-8255.
- **CALL** Noma Gillis at 601-856-4244 or 800-772-1099.
- **MAIL** your completed registration form with credit card information or a check made payable to: Mississippi Society of CPAs, 306 Southampton Row, Ridgeland, MS 39157

CHECK CARD USING FOR PAYMENT

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AM. EXP. ☐ DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER		CVV
AMOUNT	EXP. DATE	
SIGNATURE		

Cancellations thru June 21, 2021 accepted without penalty. Cancellations/no-shows on the date of the event forfeit the entire registration fee. No refunds or transfer of fees will be made after the date of the event.

Taxpayer Advocate Service: **A resource for tax professionals**

The Taxpayer Advocate Service can help you help your clients. If your client is having a tax problem that you haven't been able to resolve on your own, our Advocates may be able to help. Your client may be eligible for our help if his or her IRS problem is causing financial difficulty or you believe an IRS procedure just isn't working as it should.

What is the Taxpayer Advocate Service?

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service that helps taxpayers and protects taxpayer rights. Our job is to ensure that all taxpayers are treated fairly and that they know and understand their rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes ten basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. Our Taxpayer Rights web page can help you understand what these rights mean to you and your clients and how they apply. These are your client's rights. Know them. Use them.

How can TAS help tax professionals with their clients?

We can help you to help your client. If you have a power of attorney, we will work directly with you and the IRS to get your client's issue resolved. If your client meets TAS's case-acceptance criteria, here is what we will do:

- Listen impartially.
- Assign an advocate who will help you help your client.
- Give you a direct telephone number to reach your advocate.
- Make sure you understand your client's rights and how to protect them.

For example, TAS helped stop a lien filed against a taxpayer who couldn't afford to pay a balance due. For more examples of how TAS assists taxpayers, go to the How We've Helped section on our website. You can also use TAS's website to help your clients. Our website, TaxpayerAdvocate.irs.gov, contains self-help videos and information about several common tax topics you can share with your clients to help answer their questions.

How else does the Taxpayer Advocate Service help taxpayers?

In addition to assisting taxpayers with account-specific problems, TAS works to resolve systemic problems that affect groups of taxpayers. TAS looks at patterns in taxpayer issues to determine whether an IRS process or procedure is causing a problem and, if so, to recommend steps to resolve the problem. For example, more than 4,000 employees of a city received IRS assessment notices because the city sent inaccurate information to the Social Security Administration on Forms W-2. TAS quickly worked with the IRS to correct the mistake. If you are aware of a systemic problem like this, please report it to us at irs.gov/sams. Each year, the National Taxpayer Advocate presents an Annual Report to Congress, identifying at least 20 of the most serious problems facing taxpayers.

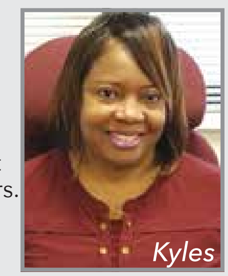
How can you reach us?

We have offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, including several offices in New York State. To find your nearest Local Taxpayer Advocate's office, go to taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/contact-us. Or you can call us at 1-877-777-4778.

Get the latest information about TAS by following us on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

NEW CONTACT:

Cathy Herrington retired from the Taxpayer Advocate Service on December 31, 2020 after working with tax practitioners for 21 years. If you have any questions about the Taxpayer Advocate Service, please contact Acting Local Taxpayer Advocate Tambra Kyles at tambra.kyles@irs.gov or you may call her at 601-292-4920.


Kyles

New MSCPA IRS Communications and Liaison Stakeholder Named

Earline Brown Stennis

- Phone: 504-202-9744
- Email: Earline.Brown@irs.gov

Communications & Liaison (C&L) provides IRS employees and external partners a communications and outreach capability that promotes understanding of the agency's mission and goals, promotes two-way dialogue, builds relationships with the tax professional community, government agencies, businesses and groups outside the tax community. The overriding goal is to help taxpayers understand and meet their tax responsibilities.

Earline is a graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a Master's in Business Administration. Earline began her career with the IRS in October 1988 and has worked as a Taxpayer Service Representative, a Problem Resolution Case Worker, and an assistor on the Tax Practitioner Hotline and a Revenue Agent. Earline is currently a Stakeholder Liaison. As a Stakeholder Liaison, Earline works with outreach and communications. She works closely with industry associations and tax practitioner organizations by providing them information regarding tax law changes, federal tax products and services.

Earline replaces longtime liaison Aaron Steele.

PCA or Succession Plan?

The terms “practice continuation agreement “(PCA) and “succession plan” are often used interchangeably, but are they the same thing?

For a sole practitioner, a PCA could be a contract between you and another CPA or CPA firm (the successor firm) wherein the successor firm agrees to take over your practice in the event of specific triggering events.

A triggering event could be a short or long-term disability, a service disruption (natural disaster or cyberattack), or death.

The triggering event could be your retirement--an event that another firm would address in its succession plan.

For multi-owner firms, a succession plan could stipulate how and when an owner would leave the firm.

Will owners transition from full-time employment to part-time employment before retiring at a certain age?

A multi-owner firm may include guidance for service disruptions in its succession plan, separate PCA, or “best practices” guide.

All CPA firms should have a written plan that adequately addresses the future; the document’s name is up to you.

Planning for the Unexpected: Practice Continuation Agreements

Sawyer is an individual practitioner with one part-time employee who works only during tax season performing data entry.

On March 1, Sawyer was in a car accident and could not work for two months. Sawyer did not have a practice continuation agreement (PCA) for the firm.

Last week, Taylor, who owns a small CPA firm that employs two CPAs and one accountant, had a heart attack and died a week later. Taylor did not have a PCA or succession plan for the firm.

In a firm such as Sawyer’s with a single CPA providing professional services, a PCA would have defined a CPA or CPA firm responsible for providing client services while Sawyer could not work.

A succession plan with practice continuity guidance would have eliminated the issues Taylor’s employees faced during her illness, as well as the difficulties the executor of Taylor’s estate (a local bank trust department) experienced settling the estate, including the CPA firm’s assets.

Although Sawyer’s and Taylor’s situations are fiction, they are examples of events that negatively impact a CPA, the CPA’s family, and the firm’s clients and employees far too often.

The 2020 AICPA Public Company Practice Section (PCPS) Succession Planning Survey shows that just 6% of solo or sole practitioners have a written practice continuation plan agreement with another firm.

The survey also shows that 26% of solo or sole practitioners plan to retire within the next five years.

If your firm does not have a PCA, the AICPA’s *Practice Continuation Agreements: A Practice Survival Kit* is a step-by-step guide to creating an agreement that meets your firm’s needs.

The Board has posted a link to the PDF of the *Survival Kit* on its website, nccpaboard.gov/resources /infoyoucanuse.

Succession planning resources are available to AICPA PCPS members on the AICPA website, **aicpa.org**.

Large-Scale Data Breaches
What You Need to Know

What is a data breach?

A data breach is an incident in which sensitive, protected, or confidential data is compromised when an unauthorized individual views, steals, or uses the information. Data breaches are the intentional or unintentional release or theft of secure information that can affect any organizations. Not every data breach results in identity theft, and not every identity theft incident is tax-related identity theft.

How do I avoid data breaches?

The Don't Take the Bait series focuses on raising awareness of the critical need for tax professionals to increase your computer security and be cautious when reviewing your inbox – specifically the successful email scams dubbed spear phishing that identify themselves as a friend, customer or company. Tax professionals must remember that you have not just an obligation, but a legal requirement under federal law to protect taxpayer information.

Don't Take the Bait Campaign (IRS.gov) (https://www.irs.gov/e-file-providers/dont-take-the-bait)

- Step 1: Avoid Spear Phishing Emails
- Step 2: Be Alert to Account Takeover Tactics
- Step 3: Security Summit Safeguards Help Protect Individuals
- Step 4: Defend against Ransomware
- Step 5: Prevent Remote Access Takeover Attacks
- Step 6: Watch Out for the W-2 Email Scam
- Step 7: Protect e-Services Accounts, EFINs
- Step 8: How to Start Protecting Clients, Businesses from Cybersecurity Threats
- Step 9: Make Data Security an Everyday Priority; Key Steps Can Help
- Step 10: Steps for Tax Pros with Data Incidents; Tips to Help Protect Clients, Taxpayers

How do I report data breaches?

Should you experience a data compromise – whether by cybercriminals, theft or accident – there are certain basic steps you should take immediately. The IRS Taxpayer Protection Program (TPP) will work to minimize the number of taxpayers required to do in-person authentication.

Tax Professionals:

Data Theft Information for Tax Professionals (IRS.gov): This resource provides the basic steps the tax professional should take to resolve data breach issues. (https://www.irs.gov/individuals/data-theft-information-for-tax-professionals)

Contact your local stakeholder liaison (https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/stakeholder-liaison-local-contacts-1) to report client data theft.

The local stakeholder liaison (https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/stakeholder-liaison-local-contacts-1) will notify IRS Criminal Investigation and other appropriate business units on your behalf.

Speed is critical! If reported quickly, the IRS can take steps to protect your clients by blocking fraudulent returns in your clients' names.

Employers and Payroll Service Providers:

Form W-2/SSN Data Theft: Information for Businesses and Payroll Service Providers (https://www.irs.gov/individuals/form-w2-ssn-data-theft-information-for-businesses-and-payroll-service-providers)

Contact the IRS about a Form W-2 loss by emailing dataloss@irs.gov.

If notified quickly after the loss, the IRS may be able to take steps that help protect the employees of the business or payroll service provider from tax-related identity theft.

Additional Resources

- Publication 4557, Safeguarding Taxpayer Data (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4557.pdf)
- Publication 4524, Security Awareness for Taxpayers (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4524.pdf)
- FS-2016-23, July 2016, Tax Professionals: Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself from Identity Theft (https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-professionals-protect-your-clients-protect-yourself-from-identity-theft)


Experiencing
MARCH
MADNESS?
Make This Your
FINAL SEASON!
TAXES
DEDUCTIONS
PENALTIES
APS .NET
ACCOUNTING
·PRACTICE SALES·
THE GLOBAL LEADER IN PRACTICE SALES
DELIVERING RESULTS -
ONE PRACTICE AT A TIME
Lori Newcomer, CPA
& Tim Price, CPA
(888) 553-1040
PNgroup@APS.net
www.APS.net

MSCPA Young CPA Network

facebook.com/msyoungcpas

twitter.com/msyoungcpas

instagram.com/msyoungcpas

Annual Young CPA Conference

Wednesday, April 28, 2020
Livestream Only
Approved for 8 CPE Credits

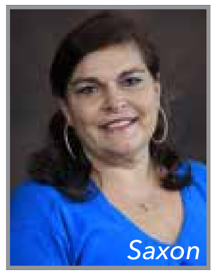
FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Brent McClure, CPA


McClure

Brent McClure owns L. Brent McClure, CPA where he focuses primarily on CFO Services and Advisory. Prior to focusing on this full time, he spent 5 years as a CFO for privately held companies. Before transitioning to a CFO role, Brent spent 14 years in public accounting and consulting roles. His client service experience included emerging growth, middle market, and large multinational companies, both public and privately held. Brent worked with a variety of industries primarily in the service, manufacturing and distribution industry space, but also in construction, technology and other industries. Brent is a licensed CPA in Alabama and Mississippi and is a CGMA. He obtained a MBA from Tulane University and gained a lot of skills and knowledge from growing up in the family grocery store.

Gay Saxon


Saxon

Gay Saxon has been a member of the professional staff at Hinds Community College for 20 years. She is the Director of Training and Professional Development at Hinds. Gay has 30+ years of experience in adult training and has worked with a wide variety of businesses, industries and schools. Gay has created and facilitated numerous training programs that focus on leadership, team building and management development. Gay is a graduate of MGCCC, Delta State University and Jackson State University and has received her Doctorate in Education from Delta State. Gay has been recognized as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women by the Mississippi Business Journal and has received the Life Star Award at Hinds Community College.

Jay White


White

Jay is Chief Information Security Officer for the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. As CISO, he is the director of the Information Security Division whose mission is to provide resources, guidance, and oversight needed for improving the cybersecurity posture of the enterprise network for state government operations. Jay's division is responsible for developing and maintaining the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policy that establishes the minimum security requirements for state agencies, and they manage core and perimeter defense systems for the enterprise state network. They also collaborate with each state agency on strategies for improving the enterprise-wide approach to information security.

| *See www.ms-cpa.org for complete agenda and to register online*

Volunteer or Nominate a Member for MSCPA Young CPA Network Board

The MSCPA Young CPA Network is seeking volunteers and nominations for 2021-2022. Young CPA Network members will elect new members to the Young CPA Network Board of Directors at the Annual Young CPA Conference on April 28, 2021. You are invited to volunteer or send names of suggested candidates to Jack Kaler, Young CPA Network President, at msyoungcpa@ms-cpa.org by April 16, 2021.

Young CPA Conference
April 28, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Business & Industry Management Development Conference
May 11-12, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Accounting & Auditing Conference
May 13, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Technology Conference
May 17-18, 2021
Livestream Only

Governmental Accounting & Auditing Conference
August 19-20, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Banking and Finance Conference
August 24, 2021
Location TBD

Agricultural and Farm Activities Conference
August 26, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Health Care Services Conference
September 24, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Industry Conference
October 22, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Accounting Education Conference
October 29, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Not-for-Profit Conference
November 16, 2021
Hilton-Jackson

Business Valuation & Litigation Services Conference
November 18, 2021
MSCPA Training Center, Ridgeland

Mississippi Tax Institute
December 1-2, 2021
Hilton-Jackson

The full CPE Catalog is available online at **www.ms-cpa.org**.

5 Reasons Cannabis (and CBD/Hemp) is the Best Niche for Accounting Professionals

By Andrew Hunzicker, founder of Dope CFO, a national cannabis accounting/bookkeeping and tax training program.

Legal cannabis and CBD/hemp is sweeping the nation, and there are several potential bills being discussed to make cannabis federally legal in 2021. Whether or not you personally support legalization, 2021 is the year to expand your practice and get in on the ground floor of this huge emerging market. This niche is far and away and the fastest growing niche in both the US and the world.

Here's five reasons why:

1. **Cannabis/CBD Accounting Professionals Make More Money**

   The average "mom and pop" company will often generate 7+ figures revenues, and can afford to pay higher fees. You will help clients with many issues, including lack of banking, cash issues, cobbling together and reconciling cannabis/CBD software to accounting software, multi-entity, consolidations, and inter-company transactions. The industry also requires GAAP inventory accounting for your clients to minimize their tax liability (see 471-11). Couple this complexity with an extreme lack of CPAs, bookkeepers, and accountants in this industry and you have a perfect storm allowing you to charge much higher fees than non-cannabis clients.

2. **Cannabis/CBD/Hemp is the Most Underserved Niche**

   Because cannabis/CBD businesses are still considered illegal, all of the Big 4, and most large accounting firms are not serving this niche. I estimate 90% of existing businesses are using accountants that do not have the knowledge or tools to do the complex GAAP and cost accounting required.

3. **Fastest Growing Industry in the World**

   Cannabis/CBD businesses are now legal in almost 40 states and each year more states are going legal. There are billions of dollars funding these companies annually and the growth rate is extremely high. Inexperienced accounting professionals who aren't advising their clients properly or are treating these businesses like a traditional business are costing their clients lots of money as well as leaving them exposed to potential IRS and state penalties.

4. **By becoming an expert your practice will be easier to manage and clients will start to find you.**

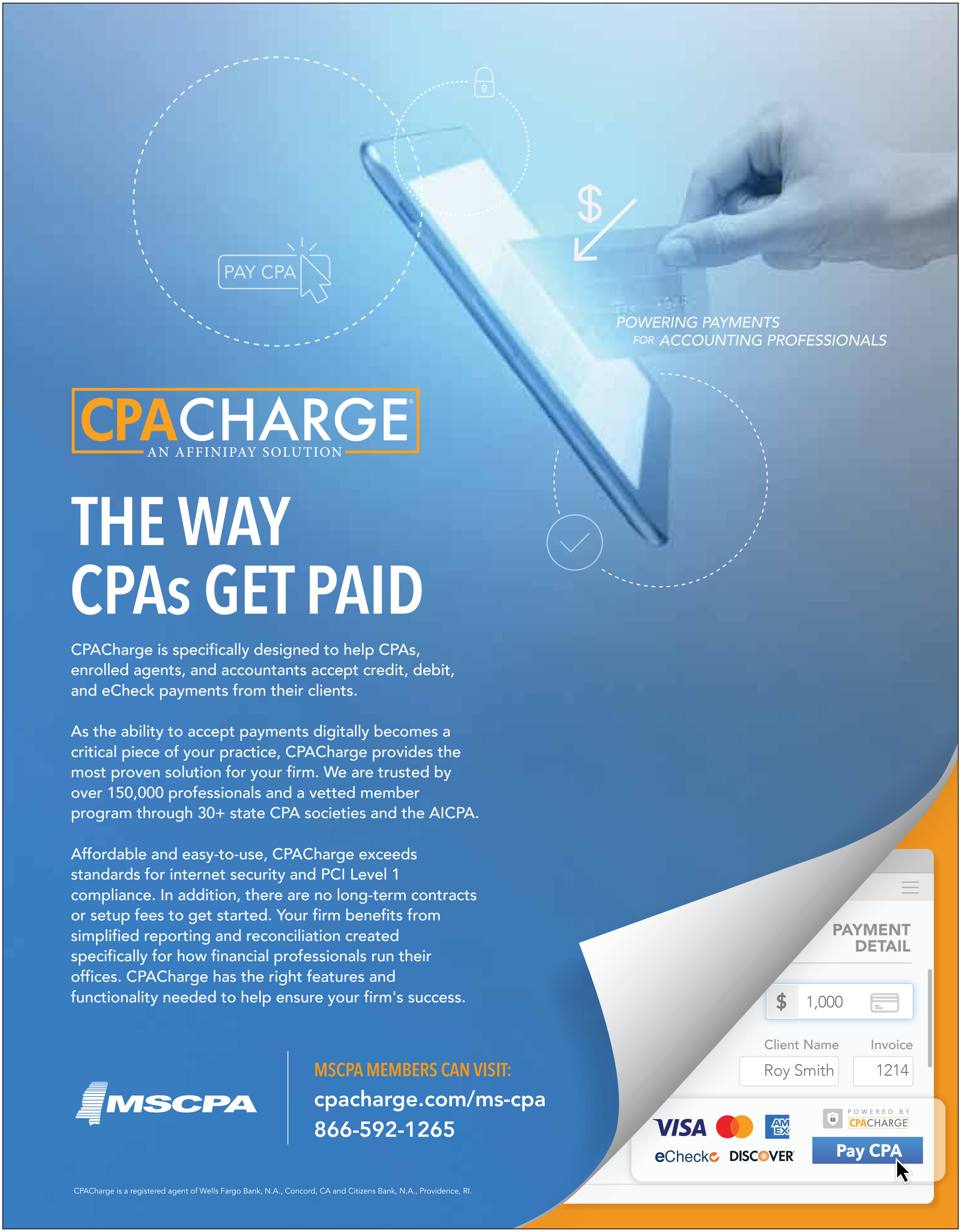
   The work that you do becomes much easier over time when you have systems in place that you can use across similar companies. No more reinventing the wheel every time you work with a new client. You can do better work, more efficiently, which saves you time and makes you more money. It's also much easier to market your services to one single industry and be seen as an expert.

5. **This Niche is Fun & Exciting**

   This industry is simply the most fun: the people you meet, the CEOS, the events. There are all sorts of new things happening every month, so if you are looking for an industry that is innovating and growing with some of the most dynamic and brilliant minds in the country, then the cannabis space is the right one for you.

Cannabis/CBD is not just a niche, it's a national movement with many passionate individuals who truly believe in the medical benefits, the job creation, ending the illegal market, and reducing the opiate crisis.

Andrew Hunzicker has over 30 years of experience in Accounting, Tax, as CFO and Founder of many multi million dollar businesses, as well as Big. 4. He founded Dope CFO, a national cannabis accounting/bookkeeping and tax training program, to help students in all 50 states unlock a new world of clients, empowering them to start their own practices and create a stream of wealth for themselves in the newly developed Cannabis and CBD/Hemp industry.


PAY CPA
$
POWERING PAYMENTS
FOR ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS
CPACHARGE®
AN AFFINIPAY SOLUTION
THE WAY
CPAs GET PAID
CPACharge is specifically designed to help CPAs, enrolled agents, and accountants accept credit, debit, and eCheck payments from their clients.
As the ability to accept payments digitally becomes a critical piece of your practice, CPACharge provides the most proven solution for your firm. We are trusted by over 150,000 professionals and a vetted member program through 30+ state CPA societies and the AICPA.
Affordable and easy-to-use, CPACharge exceeds standards for internet security and PCI Level 1 compliance. In addition, there are no long-term contracts or setup fees to get started. Your firm benefits from simplified reporting and reconciliation created specifically for how financial professionals run their offices. CPACharge has the right features and functionality needed to help ensure your firm's success.
MSCPA
MSCPA MEMBERS CAN VISIT:
cpacharge.com/ms-cpa
866-592-1265
PAYMENT DETAIL
$ 1,000
Client Name
Roy Smith
Invoice
1214
VISA
AM EX
eCheck
DISCOVER
POWERED BY CPACHARGE
Pay CPA
CPACharge is a registered agent of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Concord, CA and Citizens Bank, N.A., Providence, RI.

MSCPA

Mississippi Society of
Certified Public Accountants
and its Education Foundation
306 Southampton Row
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jackson, MS
Permit No. 134

CLASSIFIEDS