



Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants

## Thank you to the ARCPA Day of Service Volunteers

The ARCPA Day of Service on Friday, November 17 allowed CPAs, their colleagues, staff, and accounting students around the state to participate in a public service activity. Approximately 200 people participated as volunteers this year, and reached many organizations and communities listed below. Any college or university student clubs or groups wishing to participate or collaborate with a CPA firm for next year's event can contact Robin Harris at Arkansas Society of CPAs by email rharris@arcpa.org.

Arkansas Children's Hospital Arkansas Food Bank ASU Mountain Home - The Sheid **Bethlehem House** Bread of Life Ministries Cross Life Church (Russ Bus) Curry's Community Outreach Ministry Family Network Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Lakeside School's ACE (All Created Equal) Food pantry Northwest Arkansas Food Bank Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMCH) Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Trinity Assembly of God Food Pantry UA Fort Smith Dave Stevens Lion Pride Student Food Pantry Women and Childrens First Shelter

Little Rock Little Rock Mountain Home Conway Fayetteville Russellville Prescott Fayetteville Jonesboro Hot Springs Bentonville Conway, Fayette El Dorado & Wa Little Rock Fort Smith



Conway, Fayetteville, Fort Smith & Little Rock El Dorado & Warren Little Rock Fort Smith Little Rock

Beta Alpha Psi students from the Arkansas chapters completed a service project for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMCH). Members from the Beta Alpha Psi chapters partnered with Landmark CPAs to compile snack and care packages for families staying at Ronald McDonald House locations across the state. Dr. Thomas Hayes, faculty advisor, noted the importance of giving back to the community. "I look forward to this service project each year. It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to help others, and I love that we get to partner with Landmark to help those in need in our community. This project has quickly become one of my favorite traditions."

In addition, UCA Beta Alpha Psi students created 100 activity bags for patients at Arkansas Childrens' Hospital. Each bag contained a box of crayons, coloring sheets, stickers, and a handmade card.









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## Meet the Member



#### Meet the Member

#### Crystal Willis, CPA

Crystal Willis is an individual practitioner and the owner of South Arkansas CPA Services, PLLC, in El Dorado Arkansas. Her firm offers tax preparation, tax planning, small business accounting, strategic business planning, payroll and QuickBooks services, set up and training to clients. Her firm specializes in helping organizations streamline their accounting processes and completing all necessary tax filings. The firm focuses on helping small to medium sized businesses and individuals achieve their accounting and financial goals.

Crystal has been in public accounting for over ten years. Before becoming a CPA, Willis served in the United States Air Force. Once out of the service, she opted to use the Montgomery GI Bill to attend to college online through the University of Phoenix. As a single mother at that time with three children and a knack for accounting, she started on her career path. Crystal passed the CPA Exam and received her CPA license in May 2012.



In her spare time, she serves as the treasurer for her local Girl Scout Troop, Habitat for Humanity, and the South Arkansas Art Center. She also enjoys reading, doing crafts, camping, and spending time with her husband and children.

The best advice she ever received was to "be objective and look at things from other peoples' point of view" Willis has been a member of ARCPA since 2012 and we appreciate her determination and leadership skills she brings to the profession.

#### ARCPA President and Staff

Chair Rocky Goodman

Executive Director / CEO Marsha A. Moffitt

Director of Finance and

Technology

Zhengyu "Lee" Li

**Director of Education** 

Stephanie Tanner

Director of Public Relations and Communications Robin E. Harris

Director of Membership and Marketing Whitney Mayo

Education Assistant Jordyn Major

#### DeGray Chapter Student Event

Members of the ARCPA DeGray Chapter met in Hot Springs on November 14, 2023 for their quarterly meeting and annual student night. Each year, the Chapter hosts students from area colleges for a pizza dinner and cash scholarship giveaway. 26 students from Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) in Arkadelphia and National Park College (NPC) in Hot Springs attended this year's event.

Chapter leaders collected approximately \$3,000 from chapter members and area businesses for the cash gifts. Several members also shared their career path stories as encouragement for the students to become a CPA. "It is very rewarding to meet these bright students and encourage them to go the distance and become a licensed CPA," said Marsha Moffitt, ARCPA Executive Director and CEO.

During the event, ARCPA Board Chair Rocky Goodman encouraged accounting students to get their CPA, noting that a CPA license can help them command a job over candidates who do not have a CPA license. Harris Felton, with Hogan Taylor, LLP, spoke to students; Harris recently passed the CPA Exam and is currently working on his experience requirement to become licensed. DeGray Chapter member Jerry Dodd shared experiences about his 40+ year career as a CPA. DeGray Chapter Treasurer Jerry Edgin also shared how his CPA license helped to advance his career within one company, starting out as Controller, becoming a CFO, and now he serves as CEO. DeGray Chapter member Joe Patrico told students how his career path has led him to work in the banking industry.

ARCPA has ten chapters across the state. Students are encouraged to join their local chapter to become involved and network with CPAs in their area. For more information about attending chapter events in your area, contact Marsha Moffitt at mmoffitt@arcpa,org or Robin Harris at rharris@arcpa.org.



OBU and NPC students with ARCPA Executive Director Marsha Moffitt (left) and ARCPA Board Chair Rocky Goodman and OBU Accounting Instructor Dr. Any Almand (right)

#### Connect With ARCPA on Social Media



www.facebook.com/arcpafans/



https//twitter.com/ ARsocietyofcpas



www.linkedin.com/company/ arcpa

Google

Review us on Google Arkansas Society of CPAs

#### Student Conferences Discounts

Student members may attend ARCPA conferences for just \$15! (we're not kidding!) Meet and network with professionals and prospective future employers at any of these ARCPA events for \$15 each:

- End of Busy Season CPE & Fish Fry
- Industry Commerce & Banking Conference
- Equip Conference
- Fraud Conference
- Agriculture Conference

• AR Federal Tax Institute Call ARCPA to register: (501) 664-8739 or (800) 482-8739.

#### **Becker CPA Review**

Arkansas Society of CPAs associate or student members can receive a discount on the Becker Professional CPA Review for the full 4part review course. Save \$300 off of the full 4-part review of either Live, Online, or self study review course format. Becker CPA Review classes correspond with the exam testing windows that you select.

# **Becker**

For more information on this member service, or to access ARCPA preferred pricing with Becker, ARCPA members should visit the partner page <u>https://</u> www.becker.com/arcpaPP.

#### CPA Review Courses

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#### **Surgent CPA Review**

Surgent CPA Review can help students prepare for the CPA Exam-during or after their undergraduate or graduate education. The 100% online course utilizes a state-of-the-art adaptive learning platform that shortens study time and improves retention allowing students to prepare and pass faster! Enrollment includes access to 350+ 20 minute-or-less video lectures, a test bank of over 7,700 multiple-choice questions, over 400 simulations, customized study guides, and unlimited practice exams.

#### **Wiley CPA Review**

As an ARCPA member, you are entitled to a 20% discount on all Wiley CPAexcel products, including the popular Wiley CPAexcel Platinum Course featuring Bite-sized Lessons and 12,000 AICPA CPA Exam practice questions.

## Surgent CPA Review

ARCPA members receive a 35% discount on the Surgent CPA exam review course! These state-of-the-art online lectures provide a customized study program, access that doesn't expire, and a pass guarantee with every course. Studying with Surgent means less stress for you—and a faster path to passing the CPA Exam. Learn more: www.surgentcpareview.com/ partners/arkansas-society-of-cpas/

# WILEY

To redeem the 20% discount, visit <u>www.wileycpaexcel.com</u> or call 888-884-5669 to order. Enter code ASCPA at checkout.

### **UWorld Roger CPA Review**

ARCPA members save 20% off the Unlimited access course! Prepare to pass the CPA Exam with exceptional course materials that make difficult concepts easy to understand. Proven with a 91% pass rate, we proudly serve the accounting profession's top educators, employers and professional organizations to ensure success for future CPAs.



Learn more, at <u>https://</u> accounting.uworld.com/cpareview/lp/partnerorganizations/ Become A Student Member Today! Membership is Free

Join Arkansas Society of CPAs (ARCPA) for free. Apply Online: https://www.arcpa.org/join

## ARCPA Offering Mock CPA Exam Hosted by Surgent

#### Mock CPA Exam Tuesday, February 13, 2024 1:00 p.m. CST

Are you truly ready to pass the CPA Exam? Have you studied enough? Are you focusing on the right material? There is only one way to find out, give it a try! **Take the Surgent Mock Exam on <u>Tuesday</u>, February 13, 2024.** 

Students and non-certified Associate members are invited to participate in a live 4-hour mock CPA Exam (virtual) workshop hosted by the Arkansas Society of CPAs and Surgent CPA Review. This unique opportunity will allow you to experience what it is like to sit for any CPA Exam section as you immerse yourself in questions pulled from the actual CPA Exam Blueprints. Plus, you will receive your own personalized ReadySCORE (an accurate measurement of your actual exam score) as well as a detailed report showing your areas of strength and weakness for that section.

The event is free, but advanced registration is required; the information provided will be sent to Surgent to set up your simulation on Surgent's software. Don't go into exam day unprepared. Find out if you are ready - sign up today! This will be a virtual event.

To Register:

www.arcpa.org/become-a-cpa/mock-cpa-exam



For questions, contact Robin Harris at ARCPA (501) 664-8739, or email rharris@arcpa.org

### UCA BAP Students Charity Bowling Fundraiser

The 9th Annual UCA Fear the Strike Charity Bowling Fundraiser was held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at Conway Family Bowl. UCA accounting students and accounting professionals from multiple firms had the opportunity to network, eat pizza, and bowl to win \$1,000 for their favorite charity. Team FORVIS won the tournament this year for their charity Easterseals of Arkansas.





#### **Arkansas Society of CPAs**

11300 Executive Center Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72211 501.664.8739 800.482.8739 in Arkansas Fax: 501.664.8320 Email: rharris@arcpa.org

Visit us on the web!