



# Mesa East Valley IN TOUCH

July 2015

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[www.mesaeastvalleyafwa.org](http://www.mesaeastvalleyafwa.org)

## President's Corner by Deanna Shantel

Welcome to the 2015-16 year of our chapter! In a national organization like ours, active for over 75 years, we find ourselves ever evolving with the interests and needs of our membership. This year, our chapter's focus is on the true wealth of our organization-you. As a member, you bring a richness of experience, fresh ideas, diverse backgrounds and ambitious professional goals. As a group, our synergy creates a depth of resources for each of us to draw upon.

This year we have been faced with the closure of our regular meeting space which has served us well for many years. While the memories remain, I see this necessary change as a wonderful opportunity to serve our members. I'd like to thank those of you who shared your thoughts in our recent survey as we have incorporated your input into our strategic plan for the year. We will continue to survey members throughout the year as we offer a variety of activities, so please take a moment to add your voice.

This year you can look forward to a continuation of CPE programming, community service activities and networking events. In addition we have a few new items designed to facilitate connections amongst members.

First, we will be matching our venues to our programs adding context to our content. From large meeting spaces to local industry, our programs will not only offer the CPE that many of our members rely on, but also a stronger interconnection with our local community businesses.

Second, we will begin building our skills in mentoring from both sides of the relationship. Through quarterly brunches we will begin offering opportunities for you to connect with other members both as a mentor and a mentee. We will offer tools to assist you with your mentoring goals as well as facilitate discussions.

Thirds, each newsletter will have a feature article about a member. I encourage you to use this resource as another way to get to know each other. Our membership includes incredible women like our charter member Dorothy Ashley, featured this month, experienced professionals who serve on our national boards, new members in recruiting and banking, and recent graduates all bringing something unique to the group.

As a new year of promoting and advancing the education, career development and leadership of our membership begins, I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dobson Restaurant featuring Marilyn Manning for our HR CPE program. Until then, my virtual door is always open. Please feel free to connect with me, share your thoughts or let me know what I can do for you.



### Inside this issue:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| President Corner                | 1 |
| July Meeting Details            | 2 |
| Announcements                   | 3 |
| Upcoming events and information | 4 |
| Member Focus                    | 5 |

## July Guest Speaker

### **Marilyn Manning**

Marilyn Manning is the Client Human Resource Director at AmCheck, a national provider of payroll and human resource technology, consulting and insurance services. In her position with AmCheck, she advises clients of best HR practices in all areas of human resource management, including employee handbooks, wage and hour compliance, unemployment claims, workers' compensation and pre-employment. Ms. Manning received her Certified Professional certification from The Society for Human Resource Management in 2000 and is a member of the National Chapter of The Society for Human Resource Management.



## July Meeting Details Tuesday, July 28, 2015

### *Employee Handbooks: Friend or Foe*

**LOCATION: New Location!!**

Dobson Restaurant  
2155 S Dobson Rd, Mesa, AZ 85202  
(Baseline and Dobson)

**DINNER:** Choice of one: Portabella Mushroom, Grilled Chicken Sandwich, or Cheeseburger

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. Networking  
6:00 p.m. Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Speaker

**COST:** \$26 member / \$32 guest / \$20 student

**RSVP online at:**

**<http://mesaeastvalleyafwa.org/meetings.html>**

You can also contact our membership director  
Barbara Gonzales at [barbara.gonzalez@southmountaincc.edu](mailto:barbara.gonzalez@southmountaincc.edu)

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES:** If you would like to cancel a reservation, please contact Barbara at the above email. Per chapter rules, if you register and do not attend or do not cancel by the Monday prior to the meeting, you will be charged the cost of the dinner.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **Monthly 50/50 Drawing:** If you can't win the Lottery, try the 50/50 drawing for better odds (tickets \$2 each or 6 for \$10).
- **Community Service:**
  - Financial Literacy Program:** Our chapter is working to help others learn the financial skills that will help them manage their money and be successful in life. This program uses the FDIC Money Smart Program. If you are interested in helping, please contact Deanna Schantel at [dschantel@cox.net](mailto:dschantel@cox.net)
- **AFWA National Conference: Save the Date!**
  - October 26-28, 2015: Pittsburgh, PA
  - Visit the website at [www.afwa.org](http://www.afwa.org) for updates as the year goes on.
- **Mesa East Valley's Annual—Save the Date!**
  - Empowering Today's Accountant Seminar**
  - Friday, August 28



Please keep in mind the AFWA Foundation and the Paula Zanni Fund for your tax deductible donations throughout the year. Paula was a very active member of the Mesa East Valley Chapter.

[Donate to the Paula Zanni Memorial Fund](#) - Paula Zanni was a positive role model and friend to so many of her colleagues in the Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance. The Paula Zanni Memorial Scholarship will be an annual scholarship awarded to a student pursuing a degree in accounting with preference going to applicants from Arizona and New York. (*Learn more about [Paula Zanni](#)*).

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**To donate or find out more about the AFWA Foundation, please visit their website:**

**[www.afwa.org/foundation](http://www.afwa.org/foundation)**

# Upcoming Meetings

## AFWA Mesa Chapter—Upcoming Meetings and Events:

**Tuesday, July 28:** Employee Handbooks: Friend or Foe

**Where: Dobson Restaurant**

**Tuesday, Aug. 11 :** Economic Update with Annie Groth

**Where: Bass Pro Shop**



**Annie Groth** brings over 25 years of experience to every client meeting. Annie is the founder of The MAXIMIZATION Team, Inc. leading individuals to their financial truth. Some highlights of Anne's accomplishments include: author and lobbyist of Arizona House Bill #2324, which protects cash values inside of life insurance and annuities from creditors; member of the National Association of Professional Women; first woman to be nominated by NAIFA for Financial Advisor of the Year for Arizona 2004; awarded "Outstanding Community Service" 2005; guest financial advisor for the Arizona Republic; speaker and guest blogger for SCORE; presenter for AAAME; keynote speaker for Diamond Days Dallas, Texas; speaker at the national conference of e-Women; speaker and contributor to "Motherhood Redefined"; published in The Glow Project Magazine & Phoenix Woman Magazine; awarded "New Associate of the Year" 2008; created the local radio program, "Are You Kidding Me? Money, Lies and Financial Entertainers;" top woman financial representative at Dollarhide Financial 2008 & 2009; panelist for ABC 15 investigative reports; and she has spoken to the US Bankruptcy Court.

Friday, Aug. 28: Empowering Today's Accountant Seminar

## AFWA Phoenix Chapter ([www.phoenix-afwa.org](http://www.phoenix-afwa.org)):

**-August meeting:** Thursday, Aug. 20th, 5:00 pm: Topic: Stepping Into Your Power

### ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth:

One of our members, Brenda Masters, is involved with Collaborating for a Cause. Please see the information below and contact her if you are interested in finding out more about this organization.

Collaborating for a Cause is a networking group comprised of nonprofit finance and development professionals. The group conducts monthly meetings aimed at providing networking opportunities and expert led best practice learning experiences for our members. The atmosphere is lively and friendly, yet structured and efficient.

For information on upcoming events and ways to get involved, please contact Brenda or Danielle:

[Brenda@icanaz.org](mailto:Brenda@icanaz.org) or [Danielle@icanaz.org](mailto:Danielle@icanaz.org)

**Be Sure to Save the Date for the AFWA Annual Conference!**



## Member Focus: Dorothy Ashley, Charter Member

Charter member, Dorothy Ashley has a rich history in her career as well as with the AFWA Mesa East Valley Chapter. Born in Iowa, she moved to Phoenix at 8 years old due to her father's health. At the time, many moved to the southwest on the recommendation of doctors for the dry climate and lack of pollution. Dorothy recalls acclimating to the cultural differences as well, like when her family waited in line in hopes of attaining one of the limited housing options in a better school district. Without phones, they stood in front of the house with other hopefuls waiting to state their case for why they would be the best tenants. Dorothy's parents were selected to rent the house because they agreed to milk the landlady's cow and share the milk with her family.

After attending Longfellow, Madison and Creighton elementary schools around the Phoenix area, Dorothy graduated from North Phoenix High School. As assistant to the office manager in a small insurance agency in her first job out of high school, her responsibilities included filing, billing and what she calls "steno type duties."

Before attending college, Dorothy had various jobs such as an insurance rate clerk, stenographer, bookkeeper, and payroll clerk. Later in life she attended college while raising her family and working part time at a real estate agency as a bookkeeper. She attended Arizona State University and obtained a BS in Accounting. While at ASU she joined AFWA (at that time ASWA) 32 years ago. She became a charter member of Mesa East Valley Chapter and her first office held was vice president. After graduation she worked for the State of Arizona, Department of Administration, General Accounting Office for 15 years during which she earned her CPA certificate.



When asked about being a woman in the accounting field over the course of her career, she responded,

*"I did have difficulty being a woman at the State because it was difficult getting promotions which dealt with supervising. The feeling was that only men could supervise and not women. Fortunately the glass ceiling started cracking."*

Dorothy felt her greatest achievement in life or career was a difficult question to answer. With three wonderful adult children, she says she is a proud parent. Like many women with families, she worked and attended college while raising her children with her husband. She earned her degree and passed the CPA exam, a significant accomplishment for anyone with or without a growing family. Dorothy says,

*"Life has not been easy for me but I am very grateful for my good health and close relationship with my family. I consider AFWA my second family and attend every meeting (29 years perfect attendance) and have been fortunate to go to 13 annual meetings in the past... AFWA has helped me become stronger and be more outgoing. I encourage everyone to come every month, take an officer position, and attend an annual meeting. You will not regret it. I come back every month, year after year because of the networking among our members and the feeling I am never alone."*

Of course, she also earns CPE during meetings and believes it is important when you join AFWA to not just attend the monthly meetings, but also to get involved. She's taken her own advice and been a vital member of the board including serving as President in 1989/1990. By participating in our chapter she says "you actually receive more than you give. There is always something more to learn."

Dorothy sometimes refers to herself as 'retired'. She still works as an accountant part-time for Doris and Company CPAs and volunteers for Vita every Saturday during tax season. She says her real passion is volunteering for the Mesa Arts Center as an usher and helper during the festivals. Although there are fewer activities in the summer at the Center, she finds ways to stay involved and recently volunteered for a commencement service. Dorothy is an example to us all of how to achieve success through perseverance, grace and becoming involved with likeminded women.

*I look forward to learning and sharing each of your stories. As you look back on all you have accomplished and forward on all that you will; persevere, show grace under pressure and reach out to the women of AFWA who support you through it all.-Deanna Schantel*