

MEET OUR MEMBERS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JAN TOWNE

FIRM/COMPANY: Riverview Financial Group, PC in Keosauqua

POSITION: Principal

ALMA MATER: Iowa Wesleyan College

SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT: ISCPA Taxation Committee, serving as chair for three years, Legislation Committee, board of directors, ISCPA board chair, and volunteered on several other committees. Jan is currently serving on two AICPA committees.

What was your path to becoming a CPA? I just celebrated 30 years of being a CPA. My route was not typical, but I loved every minute. I got married right out of high school and was a stay-at-home mom for eight years before I decided to go to college and get my degree as a non-traditional student. I started on an accounting path and never wavered from that goal. I went to school part-time at the University of Wisconsin until we relocated to Mt Pleasant. I took a couple years off to get my family moved and settled and then finished my degree at Southeastern Community College and Iowa Wesleyan College. I graduated in 1993, the same year my oldest daughter graduated from high school.

Tell us about your family: I currently live in Mt. Pleasant with my husband of nearly 50 years. We have raised three kids, two daughters that both live in Iowa and our son who is a CPA in Texas. We have 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, with our sixth on the way. We love to travel and plan to do more as we transition into retirement.

How has your accounting career evolved? My first job was with a public accounting firm in Fairfield and later managed their office in Keosauqua. I worked with that firm for 17 years until we parted ways, and I purchased the Keosauqua office. I created Riverview Financial Group in 2009. We have grown from a staff of two to a robust eight-member team. We offer bookkeeping and accounting services plus a full range of financial planning, including

investments, retirement and estate planning (no auditing though, I never liked that part of accounting).

How did you first get involved with ISCPA? Once I earned my CPA, I immediately became involved with the Iowa Society. I served for several years on the Taxation Committee, including a few years as chair. I also served on the Legislation Committee and always truly enjoyed being an advocate for the profession. My committee involvement led to the opportunity to serve on the board, including several years on the executive committee and a year as chair. I am currently serving on two AICPA committees working to promote the CPA profession and creating and reviewing material for the CPA exam.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? In my 30 years, the profession has certainly seen many changes. Technology has played a huge part in that, mostly in good ways, taking many routine and tedious tasks and automating them. The role of the Society has also changed. We are no longer the primary source for continuing education in Iowa with so many newcomers entering the market, but the need to stay engaged with members will never change. The Society continues to give us the opportunity to network with our peers as well as advocate on the state and national level for our profession. Personal involvement will never grow old or become outdated. I will be forever grateful for all that this profession and the Society has provided to me and pray that they continue to flourish.

First job: Ward secretary at our local hospital when I was 16.

What I hope to do more of when I retire: Read non-accounting/ tax articles and publications.

What I wanted to be when I grew up: I thought I would go into the medical field, possibly even become a doctor, until I learned that I had to be good at science. Not my favorite subject!

Favorite sports to watch: Football, particularly the Hawkeyes and Packers.

TV show I'm currently hooked on: The Chosen.

Favorite vacation spot: Any beach, anywhere. Especially in January!