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Editor's Notes: Service

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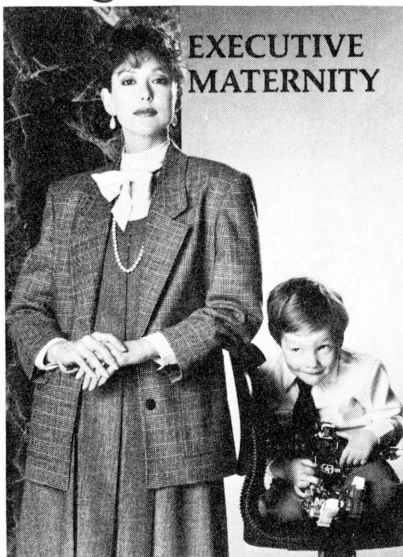
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Editor's Notes Service

Some things you just never forget.

In November 1955, I had just finished taking the CPA examination. Mr. Louis A. Miazza, secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy at that time, stopped me as I was leaving the examination room. Mr. Miazza knew me even though he didn't know many of the fifty-odd candidates sitting for the exam. Mr. Miazza told me he wanted to tell me goodbye because he felt certain I had passed the examination. Then he added, "I know you will be of service to the profession."

SERVICE! At the age of 23, I certainly was not interested in being of service to the profession. I wondered why he couldn't have told me that he knew I would make lots of money or would get an excellent job or would become a partner in a CPA firm? (At this point in my life, my ambition was to have my name in gold letters on the door of a CPA firm.)

But how wise Mr. Miazza was.

Two months later, I received my certificate. Shortly thereafter there were invitations to join the Mississippi Society of CPAs, the AICPA, and AWSCPA. I joined all three.

Professional service generally occurs through participation in professional organizations. Unlike most individuals, my professional service began at the national level rather than the local level. In just three short years, I was **servicing** on the National Board of AWSCPA.

Webster defines **service** as "conduct contributing to the advantage of another or others" and **servant** as "one who exerts himself for the benefit of another." Those are pretty strong words. But that's what service is all about. The trouble is not with the meaning of the words but with the nature of individuals. We get the **service** of a position confused with the **honor** of the position. We like the way it sounds to say that we are a committee chairman, an officer, or a director, but we really don't think about the time or effort necessary to perform the service.

When you are asked to serve — or volunteer to serve — an organiza-

tion, what are your first thoughts? Do you think about the prestige of the position? Or do you think about the service to the position? Do you say "yes" without even asking about the service expected? Are you prepared for the sacrifices necessitated by the service?

Let's use **The Woman CPA** as a vehicle to illustrate service to an organization and to the accounting profession. Simply stated, to publish is to serve. Our predecessors recognized this 48 volumes ago. What is so unique about publication is that it is the one thing that continues to exist long after individuals, officers, directors, and organizations are gone. The service that is done yesterday and today continues to benefit generation after generation. Volumes of **The Woman CPA** are housed in libraries throughout the United States.

To publish **The Woman CPA**, some forty members of ASWA and AWSCPA are involved directly — and many more indirectly. The hours of service performed by these individuals would surprise those of you who have never been involved with the activities of **The Woman CPA**; and each year, the time requirements of the staff positions increase as the number of submitted manuscripts increases.

The Woman CPA is **your** magazine. It doesn't belong to the editor, the associate editors, the editorial review board, the business manager, the treasurer, or the national boards. It belongs to you! Why not offer to serve on the staff? Why not submit articles? Why not write letters to the editor? Why not tell the two national boards what you would like to read in the journal? Why not offer constructive criticism? Anyone can **serve** the profession in at least one of these ways.

Service, yes. Honor and prestige, no. Here's your chance to serve your organization and your profession. Speak up! Let the national boards know what you want to see put in print for posterity. Ω

Lillian C. Parrish