

This past year, I took the opportunity to review the firm's mission statement as we all should periodically. The focus of our firm's mission statement is to “strive to complete client satisfaction.” I felt we were currently meeting this statement. However, I grew concerned about my ability to continue to meet this goal on a long-term basis and about my commitment to my employees. I realized I must provide for the perpetuity of the firm. In an estate planning session with one of my elderly clients, I heard him make a memorable quote, "If I die..." Well, I may not be quite as optimistic as this client. So, in addition to providing for the future of the firm, I also wanted to reward two younger staff members who have been an important part of the firm's growth. Thus, effective July 1, 2008 the firm will embark on a new chapter, with the transition of the practice to Kotzan CPA and Associates, P.C. Brenda A. Pawlowski and Kimberly A. Dorchak will join me as shareholders.

Brenda A. Pawlowski, CPA was born, raised, and still resides in Northern Cambria County. Brenda graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and a minor in Mathematics. She began her career with a local public accounting firm in downtown Johnstown in 1991, and subsequently joined the firm of Dennis P. Kotzan, CPA in 1995. She developed extensive experience in government and non-profit accounting and auditing, as well as individual taxation. Brenda remained with the firm for 8 years before departing for the healthcare industry. She served as the Finance Director for a local healthcare organization for 4 1/2 years. Brenda returned to public accounting and to the firm of Dennis P. Kotzan, CPA in October 2007, adding her knowledge of physician practices to her previous public accounting experience.

Kimberly A. Dorchak, CPA, CGFM, is a native of the Johnstown area. Kim graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business with concentrations in both Accounting and Finance. Following graduation, Kim began her public accounting career with the national accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, LLP, working from their Pittsburgh office and obtained her CPA license in 1999. Kim subsequently relocated back to her hometown of Johnstown to continue her public accounting career with the firm of Dennis P. Kotzan, CPA. Kim has developed extensive experience in accounting and auditing as well as individual taxation. However, she specializes in government and not-for-profit accounting and auditing, earning the designation of Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) in September 2007.

Considering their abilities and backgrounds, I felt they were the perfect solution to meeting the long-term goals of our mission statement.

They, along with me, will continue to provide the same personalized service. The impact to you, the client, should be minimal with this organizational change. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 814-269-4912.