

Executive Board nominees hail from across Ohio

Written on May 17, 2018

OSCPA is adding three new faces to its executive board that, along with a new chair elect, promise to bring a broad perspective from around the State of Ohio.

The Nominating Committee unanimously recommended **Don Mellott, Jr., CPA**, of Cincinnati as OSCPAs 2018-2019 chair-elect candidate. If approved by the membership, he will serve as chair for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Two new nominees for director hail from the opposite edges of Ohio: **Ebonie Jackson, CPA**, is from Toledo; and **Jessie Wright, CPA, CGMA, CVA**, is from Canfield. The third new director nominee, **Chris Igodan, Jr., CPA**, is from Columbus.

Igodan, Jackson and Wright will serve three-year terms from 2018 to 2021.

The Nominating Committee also recommended that current Board Member **Owen Wyss, CPA**, continue as Vice Chair, Finance until 2019. **John Venturella, CPA, J.D.**, will become Chair of the Executive Board and **Sandra Richtermeyer, CPA, Ph.D.**, will become past chair.

Meet the chair elect and new Executive Board members:

Chair-Elect



Donald L. Mellott, Jr., CPA

*Managing Partner, Mellott & Mellott
PLL*



Don Mellott, Jr. represents the third generation in the Mellott family firm that celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2016. A graduate of Miami University, he joined the firm in 1984 and became managing Partner in 1998. Mellott is immediate past President, DFK/USA, a worldwide association of independent accounting firms; vice president and former treasurer, Cincinnati Parks Foundation; former treasurer and current board member for the Center for Addiction Treatment; and treasurer for the Catholic Inner-City Schools Education Fund. He is a former member of OSCPAs Public Accountants Ethics Committee. He is a six-year member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and in 2017 was named Big Brother of the Year. Mellott has been married to his wife, Kim, for more than three decades and they have four children: Andrew, Patrick, Michael and Sarah. Mellott's father, Donald Sr. who died in April, was a past OSCPAs Executive Board Chair.

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

(Nominated for three-year terms)



Chris Igodan, Jr., CPA

Vice President-Investments Controller, Nationwide Insurance

Igodan leads Nationwide's Investment Controllershship team that oversees all investments accounting, including investment reporting; supporting analysis and accounting internal controls; monitoring investment risks; and ensuring compliance with regulations and accounting standards. He joined Nationwide in 2010 and has held various roles with increasing responsibility within the Controllershship department. He previously spent time on the Financial Reporting team managing the Nationwide Financial audited GAAP & statutory financial statements, and the Nationwide Financial Controllershship team leading life insurance and broker dealer accounting operations. He also was previously part of the Investment Controllershship team leading the Investment Advisory, Derivatives & Commercial Mortgage Loans teams. Before joining Nationwide, Igodan was an auditor at PwC and served clients primarily in the financial services industry. Additionally, he is a member of The Ohio CPA Foundation Board of Trustees and the Vice President of the Columbus Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants.



Ebonie Jackson, CPA

Associate Director of Administrative Services, Lucas County Children Services

Jackson serves as the chief financial adviser to the executive director and other children services associate directors while supervising the fiscal, IT, human resources, training & development, clerical, and supportive services organizations of LCCS. Before taking on this role, she was CFO at another county agency, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority. She also served as controller at Backyard Products. She started her career in Toledo as an employee of Owens Corning. There, Jackson held many roles including financial leader, global financial standards implementation leader, plant controller and senior internal audit. Before that, she was a Senior Associate in KPMG's Washington, D.C. practice, where she led financial statement and compliance audits across several industries. Jackson received her B.S. in Accounting and MBA from Florida A&M University. Over her professional career Jackson has facilitated conference workshops and strategic planning sessions for many organizations including the AICPA, the National Association of Black Accountants, Bowie State University and Jarvis Christian University. She also is a member of the inaugural Class of the AICPA's Leadership Academy, has served as a member of the AICPA Governing Council, served as a presenter at the AICPA E.D.G.E. Conference and is a former member of the AICPA Life Insurance/Disability Plans Committee. She now serves as a member of the AICPA's Nominating Committee and National Accreditation Council.



Jessie Wright, CPA, CGMA, CVA

Supervisor, Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic, CPAs and Strategic Advisors, Canfield.

Wright's work specializes in employee benefit plan audits and business valuations. Previously, she worked as a senior accountant in the manufacturing industry. A graduate of Youngstown State University, she now serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Williamson College of Business Administration there. Wright served as chair of OSCPA's Young CPA program in Youngstown for two years, and then as the statewide chair of the Society's Young CPA Leadership Board for two additional years. She also was a member of the 2017 Class of the AICPA Leadership Academy.

Continuing Board Members

▶ **Libby Cullins, CPA, M.B.A.**

Vice President and Controller, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

▶ **Michael J. Elliott, CPA**

Principal, DittrickCPA

▶ **Crystal Faulkner, CPA, CExP, MAFF**

Partner & Market Leader, MCM CPAs & Advisors

▶ **Darlene E. Finzer, CPA, QKA, CSA**

Principal, Director of Benefit Plan Audit Services, Rea & Associates, Inc.

▶ **Lori Kaiser, CPA**

CEO, Kaiser Consulting LLC

▶ **Jamie Menges, CPA, CFP®**

Partner, PDS Planning

▶ **Russell J. Meyer, CPA, CMA**

CFO, White Castle System, Inc.

▶ **Paul Nungester, CPA, CGMA**

Senior Vice President and Controller, Welltower Inc.