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MEMBER PROFILE - MAY 2002

Marilyn S. Scheiner

When asked what she does, C.P.A. Marilyn Scheiner talks about such issues as individual and business income tax, tax planning, and the various tax implications of clients' business decisions. "However," she points out, "on the non-technical side, I do a great deal of handholding, calming down, even some marriage counseling as part of helping people with the psychological and emotional aspects of handing money." Because many people are afraid to make business decisions without talking to someone, Marilyn says, "I should have taken a minor in psychology!" Of course, after many years of experience, Marilyn has learned a lot.

When she graduated from George Washington University in 1965, there were very few women in accounting. Marilyn later returned to G.W. And finished her M.B.A. with a concentration in Accounting in 1979. She started her career by working with a firm when she was just out of school, retiring when her son was born and later working from her home office. She taught accounting at Montgomery College for 26 years, retiring in December to work full time at her accounting office in downtown Rockville that she opened five years ago.

Marilyn, who especially enjoys problem-solving and puzzles of all kinds, is quick to note that accounting work is a great deal like puzzles. "Tax law and case law and talking with people brings answers. No two clients are alike and nothing is simple," says Marilyn, who likes the variety and the problem-solving associated with her work, as well as the "closure" possible at the end of the year, which "makes you feel as if you have accomplished something."

Marilyn's clients are small businesses, independent consultants, busy professionals and single women. "The variety of people makes the work interesting," she says. Noting that women are more prevalent in accounting now, Marilyn believes that this is an appropriate field for women because they can structure their own schedules, either "filling up hours or limiting hours, as necessary."

A WBO member for approximately three years, Marilyn enjoys talking to other professional, successful women who have the same kinds of problems and time pressures that she has. "It's nice to know that your issues are not unique," she says.

When she is not solving clients' tax problems, Marilyn likes to spend time with her grandkids, ages 6 and 4. "Lately I play a lot of 'Connect Four' and 'Chutes and Ladders.' I also enjoy reading, water aerobics, and relaxing."