

meet members



S. James Smith (Jim)

Job: Consultant and former shareholder with MHCS PC in West Des Moines

Hometown: Winterset

Alma mater: Iowa State University

Professional activities: ISCPA past president, former member of ISCPA board of directors, CPE Committee, Legislation Committee, Iowa Education Foundation Advisory Committee, Nominating Committee, Iowa CPA Day at the Capitol Committee, Practice Review Committee and Legislative Leader. Served on Iowa Accountancy Examining Board, and active in community activities: Madison County Development Group board members and treasurer (36 years), chairman of Madison County Historical Society Endowment Committee, Lions Club, Optimist Club, Winterset Cemetery Association board member, Farmers & Merchants State Bank board member.

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: In some form of ag-related business.

I am passionate about: Being organized and completing work projects timely.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? Through ISCPA, I have met and served with many fun and intelligent professionals. I am more aware of the importance and influence of the CPA profession and how it impacts our clients and communities.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? Technology and firm structure.

What is your favorite thing about your job? Personal interaction with clients and coworkers.

Best advice I ever received: From my dad: Don't ask someone to do something you wouldn't do yourself, and you can take pride in doing even small jobs well.

Tell us about some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life. I try to treat everyone with respect and provide quality service to each

client, no matter their size or social status. I most enjoy making complex situations seem simple to clients to reduce their stress level.

Have you had any mentors who helped you along the way? Many! No one grows and succeeds totally on their own.

What influences have helped you in life and in work? My faith is important to me, and I try to let it guide me daily.

How has your background and experience shaped who you are today? I was raised on a farm and learned early to work until the job is complete.

When I have free time, I prefer to: Exercise (jogging and bicycling), watch sports and spend time with family.

Jim and his wife, Linda, live on their family farm near Winterset where they raised two daughters, Kari and Ellen. They now enjoy having three grandchildren.

First job: Miscellaneous farm labor and first steady job was in a meat locker

What I wanted to be when I grew up: Third baseman for NY Yankees

People don't know this about me: I ran a marathon

Favorite food: Pizza

Last book I read: I prefer audiobooks and the last was "Band of Brothers" by Stephen Ambrose

Favorite movie: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Famous person I would most like to meet: Yogi Berra

Secret talent: I like to sing

Favorite band/musician: Anything from the 60s

Best concert: Rock-n-roll concerts at the Iowa State Fair

Place I'd love to live: Where I am, my home farm