

meet **our** members



David Lester

Job: Vice president, accounting with City State Bank in Norwalk

Hometown: Norwalk

Alma mater: Iowa State University

Professional/community activities: Member of ISCPA's Legislation Committee and the Financial Institutions Committee; Norwalk city council member; committee chair scouts BSA Troop 30 and Troop 301; Easterseals Iowa Foundation Board

of Trustees; Norwalk Lions Club; past president of Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce; past president Easterseals Iowa Board of Directors; Norwalk Christian Church board member and past president; treasurer Norwalk Soccer Club; treasurer and founding member Apex Soccer Academy

I was inspired to become a CPA thanks to my college cost accounting professor, Jim Kurtenbach.

Your message for young people considering a career as a CPA: There are so many opportunities in accounting. The field of accounting trains you to think critically and presents the opportunity to become a part of senior management. Accountants are so much more than just taxes and numbers.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? Technology has become so important for all accountants to use in our jobs. When I started in public accounting, our workpapers were handwritten on four column or 12 column paper. Within the first two years, all our handwritten papers were moved over to Excel worksheets. The technology keeps changing and I try keeping up with the technology through CPE I have taken with ISCPA, as they have added technology pieces throughout their events.

Tell us about some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life: Work isn't the most important thing in your life. Spend time with your families. Spend time doing what you enjoy as well. Take your vacation spending time doing what you enjoy with those you enjoy being with.

When I have free time: I prefer to be outside - hiking, fishing, hunting, and even just sitting in a chair with my feet up. I love camping, and you'll find me outside as much as possible.

What influences or inspirations have helped you in life and in work? My mom and dad.

What is something important to you or that you are passionate about outside of work? Easterseals Iowa. I was a board member, treasurer, and board chair over nine years with them and now am part of the Easterseals Iowa Foundation Board of Trustees. Easterseals Iowa helps people and families of people with disabilities from birth to death, not just kids, but adults too. I love visiting Camp Sunnyside during the summer and hearing the campers sing songs and talk about camp. I love visiting with families who have shared what a night or weekend of respite for their loved one has done for them as well, not just the opportunity for the camper to climb the rock wall, ride horses, swim, etc.

Favorite vacation spot: The mountains backpacking and hiking, boundary waters canoeing, and Northeast Iowa trout fishing.

What I wanted to be when I grew up: A garbageman

People don't know this about me, but: I am a certified pyrotechnician and on July 4 you will find me shooting off the Norwalk fireworks show.

First job as a teen: Cleaning up the shop at Eagle Sign Company

David and his wife Amy live in Norwalk with their two children, Alec and Alison, and a dog, Lexi.

Committee opportunities to feed your passion

Veducation **O**industry **L**advocacy **U**awareness **N**business **T**service **E**ER **E**networking

www.iacpa.org/membership/volunteer