

meet **us** members



Neil Schraeder

Job: Principal, Hacker, Nelson & Co., PC in Decorah

Hometown: Woodbine

Alma mater: Iowa State University

Professional/community activities: ISCPA Governmental Committee, treasurer of Decorah Lions Club, member of Decorah Methodist Church

I was inspired to be a CPA because: I like numbers and helping people.

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: Working as an economist.

What message do you have for young people about a career as a CPA? Every day is different, so the profession keeps you interested and active.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? Learned from others in the profession and met some great people. Getting involved really helps you understand the services you can provide.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? Technology and more clients who want instant results.

I am passionate about: Iowa State University sports.

People don't know this about me, but: I love Warner Bros. cartoons.

Best advice I ever received: Hard work never hurt anyone.

Favorite thing about your job: I get to work with nice people.

Some of your philosophies and principles toward work and life: Don't expect anyone to do something you won't do. Every day is a gift, don't waste it. Do not feel sorry for yourself, it's easy to see someone who has it much worse than you.

How has your background and experience shaped who you are today? My siblings and I are first generation college graduates. We all paid our own way. Education is important, but the key is using your knowledge to help others and society.

What influences have helped you in life and in work? My parents sacrificed a lot when we were kids. We learned to pitch in and do our part.

What is your biggest achievement to date? Graduating college in four years with two majors before AP classes were invented.

What is something you are passionate about outside of work? Cancer research because I have lost close family members to it and my wife is a cancer survivor.

Neil and his wife Ruth live in Decorah and have a daughter, Sarah.

First job: Construction for family business

What I wanted to be when I grew up: A baseball player

I never leave home without: My wallet

Current tv show/series obsession: Yellowstone

Favorite food: Pork tenderloin

When I have free time, I prefer to: Read

What three words describe you best? Kind, fun, loyal

Last book I read: "Vacationland" by John Hodgman

Favorite movie: Major League

Favorite line from a film: "Just a bit outside."

Famous person you would most like to meet: Barack Obama

Favorite musician: Tom Petty

Best concert you've been to and where: Bruce Springsteen in Ames

Best vacation: Grand Canyon with family

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