



AICPA Client Success Story

EXPANDING BENEFITS

for dedicated firm staff.

Robert C. Alario
Certified Public Accountants, PC

KAREN SPINELLI, CPA
Shareholder &
Vice President



AICPA RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Firm adds to positive, progressive work culture by offering staff valuable retirement program option

Karen Spinelli, CPA and Shareholder and Vice President of Corporate and Audit services at the firm of Robert C. Alario, CPAs, PC, is a big advocate of consistently improving the work culture. Always looking for ways to augment the professional experience at the firm, she played a major role in implementing the AICPA's firm-based retirement program to offer staff benefits above and beyond what was already in place.

"We want our firm to be a great place to work," explained Spinelli. "We are proud to offer our employees a sound retirement program, so when it comes time for retirement, they have more than a gold watch."

The AICPA Firm-based retirement program was a great fit for Spinelli and her partner in terms of being able to support an environment focused on the future of their employees. Speaking for the collective group of firm partners, Spinelli explained the **top three reasons why they are so satisfied with the program**:

"First, it's a great way to retain qualified staff and reward them for their long-term dedication to the firm. Second, we want to offer more than trinkets for years of loyal service; we want staff to have a sound financial foundation in place as they move into retirement. And third, the program is so easy to manage; for example, our staff can request loans from their 401(k) online without any in-house administrative channels to go through. It's all very seamless—for everyone," said Spinelli.

Everything under one umbrella

Firm leaders were also happy with the ease of getting started on the retirement program, and the convenience of having everything under a single umbrella.

"Everything is handled for us, including record keeping, calculations, and broad plan administration. Even better, we have a single point of contact [POC] to answer our questions quickly and solve issues should they arise."

Through the AICPA's retirement program, Spinelli and her team were able to avoid some of the administrative tasks they previously had to manage themselves.

"With our previous retirement plan, we were responsible for entering all monthly data. We had to login to a less-than-intuitive website and enter information on items like pension compensation for individuals. This meant a lot of back-end work. And remembering to do it every month was frustrating as well, especially during the busy tax season."

Because all plan processing is handled by the firm's POC, the result since implementation has been immense time and cost savings for the firm.



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AICPA Client Success Story: AICPA Retirement Program

The firm is also provided with a secure portal to access information whenever needed. Portals are offered through the plan's website and is incredibly intuitive. Because the firm's payroll is also handled by the same entity that administers the retirement program (through AICPA), the portal offers a panoramic view of all the firm's data—within a single screen.

"We have one point of access to view all of our payroll and plan data," stated Spinelli. "We love this."

Taking client service one huge step further, the firm's POC also sends reminders when needed. For example, when Form 5500 is due for filing.

"I'll get an email from our plan representative when the date is approaching to file 5500's. This is great customer service!" Spinelli went on to say, "Errors are also quick to get fixed. If we identify a mistake that was made perhaps when the employee was hired, our plan rep makes sure it gets fixed quickly—usually within a day."

Final words

Karen Spinelli had all good things to say about her firm's experience with the AICPA firm-based retirement program. From initial implementation to on-going administration, it's been a pretty smooth ride. The retirement program fit their needs in terms of providing a stable financial situation for their staff and eliminating administrative burden.

"We had great support throughout initial setup of the program. There was a lot of communication back and forth, and our rep was clear on how he was going to help us implement the new process and get investments transferred over. This was very helpful because we knew what to expect and had support at each phase of transition."

At the end of the day, it's all about the staff, Spinelli explained. "We are just happy to be able to offer our people such a great plan!"

Contact us today!

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Learn more at:

aicpa.org/Retirement



Robert C. Alario
Certified Public Accountants, PC
Traditional Values...Contemporary Service

STATS AT A GLANCE

Firm Profile

Full-service CPA firm

Locations

Leominster, MA
Worcester, MA

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– Karen Spinelli, CPA
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