

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DENNIS PELLECCIA, CPA

CHAIRMAN, BRAVER, PC



## 1. Why did you decide to go into public accounting?

I liked the fact that I would be able to spend time working with, and learning about, many different companies in many different industries.

## 2. You are also as the former treasurer at the Boys & Girls Club and serve on the board of Medicine Wheel Productions (a public arts organization for disadvantaged youths in South Boston). What have you learned from serving on these charitable organizations?

These organizations provide a safe haven and opportunities to youths, bringing hope where there was none. I have also learned that nonprofits often face the same challenges as for profits — how to expand your donor base, how to develop and attract new board members, etc. Since the primary responsibility of the board is to raise operational funds, board development and expansion is key to the organization's success, and directly impacts the youths they serve. I believe those of us who are more fortunate must step up to help provide opportunities for the less fortunate.

## 3. We hear that you are also a calf roper in your spare time. Explain the roping process to us.

Calf roping takes place in a sanded roping area contained by a fence. The roper rides his highly trained horse into an area next to the calf. The roper nods, and the calf is released and breaks hard and fast. The roper rides to the calf as fast as he can, positions the horse straight behind the calf and then ropes it. The roper then flanks the calf onto his side, ties three of the calf's four legs and signals the time keeper to stop the clock — the fastest time wins.

## 4. How and why did you get into roping? How often do you do it?

I grew up working in a riding stable in West Medford, where I would watch older guys rope calves. It wasn't until I was 40 that I roped my first calf. Some of the guys I watched rope 20 years earlier boarded their horses at the same barn as my wife and me, and they referred me to an indoor roping arena that helps novice ropers get started. I went there every Wednesday and Sunday for two years. I can count on one hand the number of times I missed. I entered my first rodeo a year later, and I practice about twice a week now with my son.

## 5. What do you enjoy about calf roping?

When everything comes together at a rodeo, and I rope the calf and hear the crowd roar with applause, it is an adrenaline rush of major proportions. That's what I enjoy most. It also provides total escape and diversion from stress. You can't be distracted or focus on anything other than roping, or you can get hurt. I have never experienced any other activity that fully consumes me like calf roping.

## 6. Between the organizations you serve, chairing the board of Braver PC and calf roping, you lead a very active life. How do you balance home and work?

Balancing home and work is never easy but the key to my success is having a very understanding wife, who always supported me in everything I have done. My wife is also very active with her own activities, so we value the time that we spend together.

## 7. What advice would you give to someone new to the CPA profession?

I think there is a major misconception about CPAs, that we are only number crunchers and bean counters. While it is important to understand the numbers so that our clients can be advised, long-term, public accounting is all about relationships. If you want to be successful, and you are not so inclined, you better learn how to like people, and how to make people like you.

## 8. If you had to summarize your life in three words, what would they be?

**LIFE IS GOOD!**

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