



SUPERSTARS IN BUSINESS WINNER

THE BUMPERS & COMPANY APPROACH

A story of legacy and transformation

BY TYLER MICIK | PHOTOS BY NICK WALLACE PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR 97 YEARS, Bumpers & Company has been serving the community as a full-service CPA and consulting firm by providing accounting, auditing, tax and management advisory services to businesses, professional, nonprofit and individual clients.

The firm's story began in 1922 with its founder Alfred H. Coe, CPA, who was the eleventh CPA to be licensed in Delaware. From there, the firm saw many Managing Partners that led in their own way, including renaming the company each time.

That is until Wesley Bumpers, CPA took the reins during the 70s. As

the firm moved into the 80s, the leadership team decided to maintain the same name in perpetuity, in order to establish and cement their identity and brand as a firm.

Yet the values exhibited by previous Managing Partners still served an important purpose. They formed the foundation for the firm's current reputation and success. Those values are: 1) a diligence in one's work and profession, 2) an extremely strong commitment of service to clients, and 3) the desire to achieve excellence and success for clients as well as the firm.

"Something we hear from new clients is how amazed they are with our



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availability and responsiveness,” said Kook. “Our firm takes great pride in responding to all calls or emails within 24-48 hours and does not charge for every conversation or question.”

This is because developing a strong relationship with the client is number one to the Bumpers team. “It’s been part of the Bumpers & Company approach for many years to engage with clients all year long, not just at tax time.”

Focused on your future; Present for your success. Beyond how this phrase represents their mission and client focus, it also embodies how the partners choose to lead and cultivate the firm’s culture. In an industry focused on what has happened in the past, Bumpers & Company is focused on the future and embracing transformation.

Presently, the average partner age is 38 – well below the national average of 55 for firms of similar size. The firm is focused on developing its staff into future leaders of the industry. Moreover, the makeup of the firm is more diverse than ever. Ten years ago, only 20 percent of the accounting team was female, but now that number is up to 50 percent. Today the firm is proud to have a multicultural staff that is more representative of the community around them.

While Bumpers & Company has kept the same values it was once founded on, it looks quite different than it did nearly 100 years ago. “The Bumpers story is one of both legacy and transformation, balancing the two to take the best practices that made the firm successful, with the innovative path to sustaining and growing our business into the future,” reflected Kook. ■



Tyler Micik interned for the State Chamber in the fall of 2019. He is a second year graduate student at the University of Delaware majoring in communications.

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DELAWARE STATE
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
183RD ANNUAL DINNER



The State Chamber is offering complimentary round-trip rides on Delaware Express to the Chase Center on the Riverfront for the 183rd Annual Dinner.*



Includes a Dogfish Head happy hour on the ride up!

Pick-ups and drop-offs will be in Kent & Sussex counties
 *Must be pre-registered to attend the 183rd Annual Dinner

\$275/person for DSCC Members
 \$350/person for Future Members

Contact Helana Rodriguez at hrodriguez@dsc.com for more information

