

President's Message

As we begin to establish chapter goals for the 2007-2008 year, I look forward to seeing everyone as we kick-off the year with a barbecue. This is going to be a great!

Last year we saw really focused on our members and I hope to continue on with this throughout this year. We will be focus again on having technical/educational lunch meetings and have evening meetings focused on lighter topics and networking. We have so many new members among us and I hope this gives everyone a chance to meet new friends and colleagues.

On that note, I am happy to announce that we have finalized committee chairs and the speaker schedule for the 2007-2008 ASWA year. Thank you to everyone who has decided to take an active role on a committee. There are still plenty of ways to get involved in our chapter; you can volunteer in any area that interests you. If you see a committee that you would like to become involved in I encourage you to contact the committee chair. I believe it is what you put into something that you get out.

Don't forget that the National Conference is being held in October this year at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort the 24th to the 28th. More information will be coming out on this

in messages from National office. If you are interested in going and representing our chapter as a delegate please contact me.

I hope to see you all at our August 15th kick-off meeting. The meeting has been set to allow plenty of networking time, so please feel free to bring a guest and introduce them to your fellow ASWA members.

Kerry Clark
President 2007 – 2008



August Wine Tasting

Menu: BBQ chicken and hamburgers
Speaker: Bob Bolden, WineStyles owner
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Date: Wednesday August 15th
Location: Champion Run's pool
13800 Eagle Run Drive
Reservations: RSVP to Deborah Juhlin at djuhlin@hemphillstaffing.com
by noon on Friday August 10th

2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kerry (President): tkclark1@cox.net
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Stephanie (Vice President): ssetlak@lutzcpa.com
Debbie (Treasurer): dzadina@fzacpa.com
April (Secretary): anarz@firstcomp.com

Shelly (Past President): mkapustka@deloitte.com
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Sarah (Communications Director): sarahcarse@hotmail.com
Stephanie (Membership Director): slaustin@kpmg.com

Local Website: www.aswaomaha.org

National Website: www.aswa.org

**STUDENT/NEW MEMBER NIGHT SPONSORS
& DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Anyone or any company that is interested in helping to sponsor our Student/New Member night on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, please contact Maureen at maurencmccrudden@hotmail.com or by phone at (402) 415-5687. Financial donations for the evening's festivities as well as items/donations for door prizes are greatly appreciated.

Article

**Creating an Employee-Friendly
Work Environment**

If you were put in charge of your company, what would your first order of business be? That was the question posed to senior executives in a recent Robert Half International survey, and "improve the work environment" received the largest response. Following are some tips on building a positive, employee-focused culture that can increase the satisfaction of your accounting staff and aid your retention efforts:

Let employees be all they can be. Allow your team to take ownership of assignments and put a personal stamp on their work. Encourage entrepreneurial thinking and offer autonomy when appropriate. People often do a better, more thorough job when they're fully accountable for their own actions and decisions.

Improve office 'feng shui.' Take a close look at your employees' workspaces and strive to create a welcoming and comfortable environment that's conducive to productivity. This might include, for example, enhancing

the lighting quality or upgrading office furniture so that it's more ergonomic.

Promote work/life balance. Flexibility is important for today's employees. Many individuals need time for activities such as taking professional-development classes or caring for their children or parents. Offering flexible work hours, telecommuting options, on-site childcare services, tuition reimbursement and other perks can enable people to better balance their various work and personal obligations.

Show your gratitude. Sometimes the simplest and most easy-to-implement ideas are the most effective. For instance, remembering to always say "thank you" for a job well done is an excellent motivator. And don't wait until annual-review time to praise an employee for stellar work on an assignment. Prompt recognition boosts morale and tells staff you are paying attention to their efforts and value their contributions.

Be a good corporate citizen. Show you care about your community by giving your employees the opportunity to engage in volunteer work. You also might consider establishing a matching-gifts program or encouraging employee involvement in local nonprofit organizations with possible company sponsorship. Reinforcing your organization's core values inspires employee loyalty.

Accountemps is the world's first and largest temporary staffing service specializing in the placement of accounting, finance and bookkeeping professionals. The company has more than 350 offices throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and offers online job search services at www.accountemps.com.

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MEMBER PROFILES

Meet some of your 2007-2008 board members

April D. Nerz

Board Position: Secretary
Member Since: October 2005
Graduated from: UNO
Company: Aspen Holdings/FirstComp Insurance
Position: Staff Auditor
Birthday: May 8, 1980
Hobbies: tennis, book club
Spouse/Pets: Chris/ Buster and Jazz (dogs)
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Got married last summer in Jamaica
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint chocolate chip
Favorite Movie: Little Miss Sunshine

Stephanie Setlak

Board Position: Vice President
Member Since: 2004
Graduated from: Creighton University and UNO
Company: Lutz & Company
Position: Senior Accountant
Birthday: September 27th
Hobbies: Knitting, reading, shopping, hanging out with friends, traveling
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Going to Paris, Napa Valley and Washington DC
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate Therapy by Ben & Jerry's
Favorite Movie: Steel Magnolias, The Wedding Date, Hope Floats

Stephanie Austin

Board Position: Membership Director
Member For: 1 year
Graduated from: UNO
Company: KPMG, LLP
Position: Tax Associate
Birthday: January 27, 1984
Hobbies: Traveling, going back to MN to visit the family and friends, cooking and entertaining, going to movies, a good book

Pets: Great Pyreneese puppy named Peyton
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Getting my puppy
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate
Favorite Movie: Ocean's 11, 12 & 13

Debbie Zadina

Board Position: Treasurer
Member For: 2 years
Graduated from: UNL - Undergrad; Creighton - MBA
Company: Frankel Zacharia
Position: Audit Senior
Birthday: November 18, 1977
Hobbies: Eating, Running, Theatre
Pets: Two cats - Milton and Tyrone
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Getting a new car
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chip
Favorite Movie: Little Miss Sunshine

Kristen R Lembke

Board Position: President Elect
Member For: 2 years
Graduated from: Creighton University
Company: Frankel Zacharia
Position: Audit Senior
Birthday: December 3rd
Hobbies: The outdoors, golf, reading, spending time with family and friends
Pets: A dog named Libby
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Passing the CPA exam
Favorite Ice Cream: chocolate chip cookie dough
Favorite Movie: Multiplicity

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