

## President's Message

In the preparation of kicking off another new year, I have spent a lot of time trying to find a way to return the focus back to our members and what you're looking to get out of your membership. As a result we have a great line-up of speakers for this coming year, including a variety of lunch and dinner meetings covering various topics from a tax update to goal setting to personal and professional growth.

In the member surveys that were sent out in the spring, a lot of feedback was received regarding the desire for more networking at the meetings. In response, the Board has come up with some changes for the meetings in order to ensure that everyone is getting to meet the other members and to make our guests feel more welcome. Additionally, the lunch meetings will once again be technical and will qualify for CPE, while the dinner meetings are geared more towards professional and personal development. If you have any ideas regarding meetings I'm open to suggestions so please feel free to let me know what you're thinking!

I am happy to announce that we have finalized the speaker schedule for the 2008-2009 ASWA year. I hope to have the brochure completed for distribution at the August meeting so please remember to pick one up. Also, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has decided to take an active role on a committee. There are still opportunities available to get involved in our chapter so please contact any member of the board if you're interested in helping out in any capacity.

Don't forget that the National Conference is being held in October this year at the Fairmont

Dallas from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on the National website at [www.aswa.org](http://www.aswa.org). 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 20<sup>th</sup> kick-off meeting. The August meeting is a social event that includes a three course tasting menu prepared by the Executive Chef at Sunset Valley Country Club, who recently returned to Omaha after living and working in California's wine country for the last several years. I hope to see you all there and please bring a guest as this is going to be a great event!

**Kristen Lembke**  
*President 2008 – 2009*



## AUGUST MEETING

**Time:** 5:30pm  
**Event:** Wine Tasting  
**Menu:** Three Course Tasting Menu  
**Date:** August 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Cost:** \$35.00  
**Location:** Sunset Valley Country Club  
9300 Arbor Street  
**Reservations:** Theresa Liebgott at  
[TLiebgott@aureusgroup.com](mailto:TLiebgott@aureusgroup.com)  
by noon on Wednesday  
August 13<sup>th</sup>

### 2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): [klembe@zacpa.com](mailto:klembe@zacpa.com)  
Annette (President Elect): [awells@koskicpa.com](mailto:awells@koskicpa.com)  
Erica (Vice President): [emeents@deloitte.com](mailto:emeents@deloitte.com)  
Debbie (Treasurer): [dzadina@titechinc.com](mailto:dzadina@titechinc.com)  
April (Secretary): [anarz@firstcomp.com](mailto:anarz@firstcomp.com)

Kerry (Past President): [tkclark1@cox.net](mailto:tkclark1@cox.net)  
Chris (Program Director): [ccarlson@aureusgroup.com](mailto:ccarlson@aureusgroup.com)  
Erica (Communications Director): [eschlickbernd@deloitte.com](mailto:eschlickbernd@deloitte.com)  
Theresa (Membership Director): [liebgott@aureusgroup.com](mailto:liebgott@aureusgroup.com)

Local Website: [www.aswaomaha.org](http://www.aswaomaha.org)

National Website: [www.aswa.org](http://www.aswa.org)



## SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – Race for the Cure

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> – ASWA National Conference

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Public Relations Dinner

### Article

## International Insights: The Benefits of Thinking Globally

Understanding international business practices has never been more important for accounting professionals than it is today. In a recent nationwide survey of executives by Robert Half International, 61 percent of respondents said their organizations are doing more international business today than five years ago. Following are two key ways that managers and their teams can gain a more global perspective:

**Be familiar with international reporting standards.** The growing convergence of financial reporting standards requires professionals to be proficient with international usage. The generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) used in the U.S. for filing financial reports coexists with the international financial reporting standards (IFRS), which have been adopted by the countries of the European Union and other major nations around the world.

International committees are working to reduce the differences between the two, and foreign companies listed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission may soon be able to file financial reports using IFRS instead of reconciling their reports with GAAP. In addition, it's beneficial to have at least a working knowledge of how U.S. corporate governance requirements affect foreign subsidiaries of U.S.-based firms.

**Boost your cultural literacy.** Being knowledgeable of and sensitive to cultural differences and customs will help you immensely — regardless of whether you're a globetrotting frequent flier or you're part of an international work team. Strive to learn the professional protocol and cultural nuances of the countries in which your firm does business.

Consult international etiquette books or country-specific guides. (For instance, did you know that exchanging business cards in Japan is a formal process and it's considered rude if you don't carefully study a contact's card when you receive it?) When doing your research, pay particular attention to proper greetings, gestures to avoid, and the appropriate use of first names, last names and honorific titles. And even if your job doesn't require you to be multilingual, foster goodwill and build rapport with your foreign colleagues and customers by learning a phrase or two in their language.

*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 360 offices worldwide and offers online job search services at [www.accountemps.com](http://www.accountemps.com).*

#### 2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): [klembke@zacpa.com](mailto:klembke@zacpa.com)  
Annette (President Elect): [awells@koskicpa.com](mailto:awells@koskicpa.com)  
Erica (Vice President): [emeents@deloitte.com](mailto:emeents@deloitte.com)  
Debbie (Treasurer): [dzadina@titechinc.com](mailto:dzadina@titechinc.com)  
April (Secretary): [anerz@firstcomp.com](mailto:anerz@firstcomp.com)

Kerry (Past President): [tkclark1@cox.net](mailto:tkclark1@cox.net)  
Chris (Program Director): [ccarlson@aureusgroup.com](mailto:ccarlson@aureusgroup.com)  
Erica (Communications Director): [eschlickbernd@deloitte.com](mailto:eschlickbernd@deloitte.com)  
Theresa (Membership Director): [tliebgott@aureusgroup.com](mailto:tliebgott@aureusgroup.com)

Local Website: [www.aswaomaha.org](http://www.aswaomaha.org)

National Website: [www.aswa.org](http://www.aswa.org)

## MEMBER PROFILES – MEET SOME BOARDMEMBERS

### *Kristen Lembke*

Board Position: President  
Member For: 3 1/2 years  
Graduated From: Creighton University  
Company: Frankel Zacharia, LLC  
Position: Audit Supervisor  
Birthday: December 3rd  
Hobbies: Golf, sand volleyball, reading, spending time with family and friends  
Pets: Libby, my dog  
Most Exciting Event of the Past Year: My little sister getting married and my new nephew being born in the same week  
Favorite Ice Cream: Oreos  
Favorite Movie: Empire Records

### *Annette Wells*

Board Position: President Elect  
Member For: 3 years  
Graduated From: Doane College  
Company: Koski Professional Group  
Position: CPA  
Birthday: January 7th  
Hobbies: Sewing, Reading, Renovating our house  
Spouse/Kids/Pets: Husband: Travis, Son: Cornelius, Pet: Ginger  
Most Exciting Event of the Past Year: Enjoying our summer full of friends and family weddings!  
Favorite Ice Cream: McDonalds Cone  
Favorite Movie: Miss Congeniality, or Cars (we watch that a lot now!)

### *Erica Meents*

Board Position: Vice President  
Member For: 2-3 years  
Graduated From: UNL  
Company: Deloitte  
Position: Senior Tax Consultant  
Birthday: May 26th  
Hobbies: reading, traveling, sports  
Most Exciting Event of the Past Year: Cubs games- of course ☺ and the birth of my second niece!

Favorite Ice Cream: Sherbet  
Favorite Movie: Like is Beautiful- it is an amazing movie! Even on your worst days it makes you realize that your life is really, really good!

### *Deborah Zadina*

Board Position: Treasurer  
Member For: 2-3 years  
Graduated From: UNL - undergrad; Creighton - grad  
Company: TTI Technologies and Frankel Zacharia - it's complicated :)  
Position: Controller/Audit Supervisor  
Birthday: November 18, 1977  
Hobbies: Theatre, golf  
Spouse/Kids/Pets: My boyfriend, Steve. He's somewhere between a spouse, kid and a pet. :)  
Most Exciting Event of the Past Year: Switching jobs (twice) and buying a house  
Favorite Ice Cream: Cake Batter from Cold Stone  
Favorite Movie: The Lion King

### *April Nerz*

Board Position: Secretary  
Member Since: October 2005  
Graduated From: UNO  
Company: FirstComp Insurance  
Position: Supplier Management Analyst  
Birthday: May 8th  
Hobbies: Tennis, Jazzercise, reading, and I'm trying out gardening  
Spouse/Pets: Chris/2 dogs, Buster and Jazz  
Most Exciting Event of the Past Year: My sister-in-law (and fellow ASWA member) Sarah Carse had my beautiful baby niece, Joci. Also my husband and I went on nice, long, relaxing old-fashioned road trip to Vegas and back.  
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint chocolate chip  
Favorite Movie: So many...this week it's the new Batman movie.

#### 2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): [klembke@zacpa.com](mailto:klembke@zacpa.com)  
Annette (President Elect): [awells@koskicpa.com](mailto:awells@koskicpa.com)  
Erica (Vice President): [emeents@deloitte.com](mailto:emeents@deloitte.com)  
Debbie (Treasurer): [dzadina@titechinc.com](mailto:dzadina@titechinc.com)  
April (Secretary): [anertz@firstcomp.com](mailto:anertz@firstcomp.com)

Kerry (Past President): [tkclark1@cox.net](mailto:tkclark1@cox.net)  
Chris (Program Director): [ccarlson@aureusgroup.com](mailto:ccarlson@aureusgroup.com)  
Erica (Communications Director): [eschlickbernd@deloitte.com](mailto:eschlickbernd@deloitte.com)  
Theresa (Membership Director): [tliebgtt@aureusgroup.com](mailto:tliebgtt@aureusgroup.com)

Local Website: [www.aswaomaha.org](http://www.aswaomaha.org)

National Website: [www.aswa.org](http://www.aswa.org)