

President's Message

What an exciting month we have had!

The ASWA/AWSCPA Joint National Conference held November 10-12 in Chicago was a great experience! Attending the national ASWA conference was a first for me, and I found it to be a very valuable time of networking and CPE. I would encourage all of our members to try to attend at least once in the future. It truly is an experience you must try for yourself. We had nine members attend, including, of course, Christi Olsen, our national ASWA President. Our chapter received a membership award for netting 10 new members over the course of last year, gaining 31 new members!! We had the highest number of net new members of any ASWA chapter, which is something to be proud of. Kristen Van Foeken received a certificate of recognition for sponsoring a number of new members. After the awards banquet on Friday night, there was a live auction and raffle benefiting the ASWA Educational Foundation. Our chapter donated a basket including an Omaha Steaks gift certificate, two bottles of Nebraska wine, Baker's chocolates from Nebraska, and four Mikasa wine glasses.

Our annual Public Relations Dinner and Educational Seminar was held November 17 at the Omaha Country Club. The seminar brought 23 attendees representing a combined 42 sessions, while the dinner brought approximately

100 attendees. Preliminary calculations indicate the basket raffle fundraiser for our scholarship program brought in approximately \$2,300. Once all of the accounting has been completed for the day's events, we will share the final numbers with you. I thank all of you who donated or secured donations for this great cause. I especially want to thank Kim Mead for her hard work in planning and organizing the educational seminar. Special thanks also to Virginia Klug, Linda Aust, Betty Dudzik, and Deyna Rouse for their hard work in planning and organizing the dinner and its events, and Jessica Ward and Keeley Lammers for organization of the Basket Raffle. I also want to thank the many helpers the day of the events. Without all of you, we could not have had such a successful day.

Don't forget—Special Olympics gift-wrapping at the Westroads is coming up December 14-16. Linda Aust has filled all the time slots, but if you would like to be considered as an alternate in case an opening becomes available, please contact Linda directly.

With Thanksgiving just past, I do want to say that I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such an enthusiastic group of ASWA members. Our big events so far this year have been successful thanks to many members' hard work and diligent planning.

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and wish you a blessed Christmas season!

Kelly Martinson
President 2004-2005

December 2004 Meeting

Dinner: December 15, 2004
Time: 11:30-11:50 Registration, buffet
11:50 Business meeting - speaker
Menu: Soup and Salad buffet
Cost: \$10.00 per member
\$11.50 per guest
Location: Champions Run
13800 Eagle Run Dr
Omaha, NE 68164
Topic: Resounding Leadership
Speaker: Carol Horner, Synchronicity Training & Development Inc.
Reservations: Tricia Riggins
triggins@fzacpa.com or 963-4315
by NOON, Friday December 10, 2004

**Note: If you register to attend, but are then unable to make it you will be billed for the cost of the meal.

December Speaker Profile

November Speaker Recap

For our September Membership Drive and Student Night meeting, we enjoyed an lunch with Tony Sorentino Silverstone Group. The topic was "Health Savings Accounts" and Mr. Sorentino presented the There were many questions regarding what is a qualified medical expense and if the health savings accounts are to-good-to be true.

Sewing Skills Needed

Those of you who attended the Public Relations Dinner no doubt noticed that we have a new banner with the current ASWA logo and colors. Since we received another membership award at the National Conference, we have three patches that need to be sewn on the new banner. Please contact Kelly Martinson at 827-2054 if you are willing and able to handle this sewing project.

Article

Amy Derksen from Accountemps submitted the following article.

Maximizing the Productivity of Your Temporary Staff

The use of project professionals is integral to a company's ability to remain competitive in today's accounting environment. They allow you to staff strategically to accommodate workload peaks and valleys, turning your biggest fixed cost – labor – into a variable expense. And, by bringing in temporary professionals on an as-needed basis, you can maintain productivity and avoid burnout among your full-time staff. But in order to reap maximum benefits from interim help, you must take a proactive approach to ensuring they are as productive as possible.

Following are a few suggestions to maximize the contributions of project employees:

- **Define your objectives.** Provide your staffing firm with a clear description of project goals to ensure temporary employees possess the skills and experience

necessary to complete their assignments.

- **Provide an orientation.** Make project professionals feel welcome on their first day. Review project objectives and ensure they know to whom they should report and how their work will be evaluated.
- **Communicate frequently.** Check in with the employee regularly to make sure he or she has a clear sense of direction on assigned projects, and give feedback on what the person is doing right or wrong. Just as you would praise an internal employee, let the project worker know when he or she is doing a good job.
- **Create a team-oriented culture.** It's also beneficial to let project employees know how their jobs relate to the overall goals of the department. Invite temporary staff members to regular group meetings, parties and events to help them feel like part of the team.
- **Assign an advisor.** Consider pairing the individual with a mentor — an experienced staff member who can answer specific questions and provide guidance. Offer training where needed, and encourage the temporary employee to take initiative and think creatively with his or her projects.

Experienced Tax Preparer Needed

For February 1 - March 31, Full time or Part time, very flexible-Your choice of hours

Janet Redick 572-6639

