

President's Message

Can you believe that December is here and so is the snow and cold too? Christmas and New Years is right around the corner; and for many of you that means another busy season will begin. It is an extremely busy time of year but I hope that all of you take the time to enjoy the holidays and your family and friends.

I also want to thank everyone that attended our Public Relations Dinner and Educational Seminar last month. The turnout was wonderful and the basket raffle was a great success. Through your donations and the hard work of our basket raffle committee we were able to raise a great deal of money for the ASWA scholarship fund. Once again, a big thank you to everyone that helped out with the Public Relations dinner and the basket raffle committee.

Our organization is very fortunate to have such a large membership that spans all of Omaha and the surrounding areas. With that said, I would like to express on behalf of the Board our deepest sympathies for the families and friends of the victims from the Westroads shooting. This was such a tragic event and we understand that it has affected so many in the Omaha community.

Our next event is the annual tax update to be held on December 19th at Champions Club. I am diligently working on the CPE credits with the state and hope to have those out if not at

the meeting; then shortly there after. The menu is set perfectly for one of those infamous cold and blustery Nebraska days.

I wish you all the best and a very happy holiday season.

Kerry Clark
President 2007 – 2008



December Lunch Meeting

- Speaker:** Leonard Sommer, Hancock & Dana
Topic: Tax Update
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Menu: Soup & Salad Buffet
Date: Wednesday December 19th
Cost: \$10.00
Location: Champions Run
13800 Eagle Run Drive
Reservations: RSVP to Deborah Juhlin at djuhlin@hemphillstaffing.com or 334-4841 Ext. 241 by noon on Friday December 14th

2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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April (Secretary): anerz@firstcomp.com

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Sarah (Communications Director): sarahcarse@hotmail.com
Stephanie (Membership Director): slaustin@kpmg.com

Member Profiles

Christi Olsen

Member Since: February 1991
Graduated from: University of Nebraska - Omaha
Company: Darst & Associates PC
Position: CPA - Shareholder
Birthday: August 29th
Hobbies: Golfing/Snow Skiing/Scrapbooking
Spouse/Kids/Pets: Chris/Eric - 4 yrs old
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Our first trip to Walt Disney World
Favorite Ice Cream: Peppermint Stick
Favorite Movie: Legends of the Fall

Cindy Otten

Member For: 3 years
Graduated from: University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Company: AG Edwards
Position: Financial Advisor
Birthday: December 26, 1963
Hobbies: Work Out, Water Ski, Crafts, and Volleyball
Kids/Pets: Thomas, 16 and Michael, 14. Dog (Bauer) shiz/poodle
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Getting more organized in my new home
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chip
Favorite Movie: Rat Race or Pirates of the Caribbean

Julie Mantz

Member For: 4 years
Graduated from: Dana College
Company: Nationwide Transportation, Inc.
Position: Assistant Controller
Birthday: September 22nd
Hobbies: Reading, Gardening, and Cooking
Spouse/Kids/Pets: Husband - Mike, Son - Nick, Step-sons Jason & Daniel, Pet - Quincy (Llisa Apso)
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Family vacation at Walt Disney World
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate
Favorite Movie: Medicine Man, The Whole Nine Yards



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Local Website: www.aswaomaha.org

National Website: www.aswa.org

Article

Accounting and Finance Salaries on the Rise

Swelling workloads due to robust business expansion, recurring compliance mandates and talent shortages continue to drive up demand for highly skilled accounting and finance professionals, according to the recently released *2008 Salary Guide* from Robert Half International.

The intense competition for top job candidates has prompted many companies to offer more lucrative compensation packages. In fact, starting salaries for accounting and finance professionals are expected to increase an average of 4.3 percent in the coming year, according to the annual guide. Employers also are offering the best applicants signing bonuses, incentive compensation, tuition reimbursement and extra vacation days.

Following are the in-demand positions projected to see the largest gains in 2008:

In the corporate accounting world, entry-level financial, budget, treasury and cost analysts at large companies (organizations with more than \$250 million in sales) should enjoy the biggest boost in base pay, with the average starting salary projected to rise 6.9 percent, to between \$38,250 and \$47,500 annually. Internal audit managers at large companies are forecast to receive starting compensation between \$81,500 and \$109,500, a 6.7 percent increase over last year's projections.

In public accounting, average starting salaries for senior managers and directors at midsize firms (\$25 million to \$250 million in sales) are projected to increase 7.7 percent, to between

\$88,250 and \$129,250. At small firms (up to \$25 million in sales), professionals with one to three years of experience also can expect a 7.7 percent increase, to a range of \$44,750 to \$53,250.

In financial services, hedge fund accountants can anticipate a 6.5 percent increase, to between \$46,250 and \$64,500.

In banking, commercial lenders with more than five years of experience should see starting salaries rise to between \$82,000 and \$107,500, a 4.7 percent increase.

** Note: The salary ranges cited are national averages.*

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 and the Asia-Pacific region, and offers online job search services at



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