

President's Message

I hope that everyone's year is off to a great start! I know that many of us are in the middle of our busiest time of year. We have a very timely topic for our upcoming meeting this month – it is a lunch meeting. I hope that you can find some time out to make it! Our speaker is going to be Vanessa Bauer from ACI Worldwide. She is going to help us learn some workplace relaxation techniques.

We have moved our scholarship deadline back to February 17th, so please let people know that it is NOT too late to submit an application! Please submit applications to **Beverly Carlson**.

The nominating committee is working on getting our slate of officer for next year. If you have any questions please contact Kelly, Lori or Shelly. Along with the Nominating Committee, Shelly is working on get committee chairs and members set up, so please be thinking about where you want to serve next year.

There was a change in the dates for the Joint National Conference next year. Remember that that conference will be in Las Vegas. The dates are now September 18th through the 20th. For

additional information please visit the national website:
http://www.awscpa.org/2006conference/meeting_details.htm.

At the January meeting, we discussed a bylaws change to be voted on at the March meeting. If you were not at the meeting, the proposed changes are attached. Please review and let anyone from the board know if you have questions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting this month. Remember lunch meetings start at 11:30.

Kristen Van Foeken
President 2005-2006



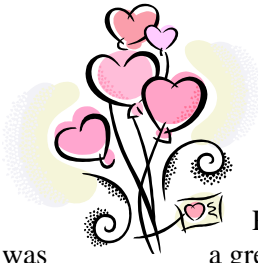
February 2006 Lunch Meeting

Time: 11:30 a.m.
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Cost: \$10 (members and guests)
Menu: Soups & Salads
Speaker: Vanessa Bauer, ACI Worldwide
Topic: Workplace Relaxation Techniques
Location: Champions Run
13800 Eagle Run Drive
Omaha, NE 68164
Reservations:
Terri Fuqua
tfuqua@fzacpa.com or
496-9100, by noon Friday,
February 10, 2006

2005 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): kvanfoeken@kpmg.com
Shelly (President Elect): mkapustka@deloitte.com
LaTonya (Vice President): lbennett106@cox.net
Kerry (Secretary): kclark@sigs.com
Stephanie (Director): ssetlak@lutzcpa.com

Kelly (Past President): kmartinson@lutzcpa.com
Paula (Treasurer): peastman6923@yahoo.com
Caryn (Director): ckirkebak@hotmail.com
Tricia (Director): triggins@fzacpa.com



January Speaker Recap

Thank you Mary Anne Ramage! This meeting was a great opportunity which got us up to speed on the tax changes for your 2005 taxes. Remember, the key to good tax planning is to start early!

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is currently working on setting the slate of officers for the next year. The slate will be presented in next month's bulletin, and voted on at the March meeting. If you have an interest in serving, please contact one of these committee members: Shelly Kapustka, Kelly Martinson or Lori Pirsch.

Article

Working With Diverse Groups and Teams

Today's dynamic business climate demands that financial professionals are able to work well with diverse groups of people. Shifting demographics are reshaping the makeup of accounting departments, and compliance projects and expansion initiatives are requiring inter-functional - and even international - collaboration.

Accounting managers are not immune to these trends; they must learn to effectively communicate and interact with colleagues from a variety of backgrounds. Following are some tips for accomplishing this feat:

* Set common goals but appreciate differences. Whether leading a cross-departmental team or launching a new project, start by establishing the group's objectives. As the project progresses,

encourage people to offer differing viewpoints to stimulate brainstorming and innovative ideas. This will demonstrate your belief that everyone is a valuable contributor and that all voices will be heard.

* Customize your style. Recognize that, in managing people, one size doesn't fit all. Take the time to discover the preferred work styles of your team members and what each can offer. Find out what "makes them tick" and place them in a position to succeed by offering the necessary tools and assistance.

* Don't buy into stereotypes. When working with colleagues, making assumptions about people based on superficial attributes usually leads to errors of judgment and misunderstandings. Put aside your preconceptions and make the effort to learn more about each individual's background and experiences, and try to form a fair opinion of the strengths and weaknesses each person possesses.

* Create learning opportunities. Provide employees an open forum to discuss their projects and needs. For instance, when working with international staff on an initiative, give them a chance to discuss the unique challenges they face within their locales and the types of resources and support they'll require from colleagues.

The ability to lead a diverse work group - from your own employees to project team members in different countries - is an increasingly in-demand skill for accounting managers. This need will only grow in importance as workforce demographics evolve and the level of international business expands. When managing people from different backgrounds, keep in mind that showing the proper respect and giving others the individual attention they deserve will go a long way toward achieving success.

2005 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): kvanfoeken@kpmg.com
Shelly (President Elect): mkapustka@deloitte.com
LaTonya (Vice President): lbennett106@cox.net
Kerry (Secretary): kclark@sigs.com
Stephanie (Director): ssetlak@lutzcpa.com

Kelly (Past President): kmartinson@lutzcpa.com
Paula (Treasurer): peastman6923@yahoo.com
Caryn (Director): ckirkebak@hotmail.com
Tricia (Director): triggins@fzacpa.com

Local Website: www.aswaomaha.org
National Website: www.aswa.org

Member Profiles

Sue Blake

Member for: 11 years
Graduated from: Dana College
Company: Alegent Health
Position: Physician Services Coordinator
(Controller for Alegent Health Clinic)
Birthday: August 4 (I'm not telling you what year!)
Hobbies: Gardening, Quilting, Rubber Stamping
Spouse/kids/pets: Engaged to Allen Soll; 2 sons, 1 son of my heart, 1 grandson
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: getting engaged!
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate Rhumba
Favorite Movie: Jeremiah Johnson (old, very, very old!)

Sara Snyder

Member for: 3 Years
Graduated from: UNO
Company: First National of Nebraska
Position: Internal Audit
Birthday: March 26th
Hobbies: Shopping, Walking, Reading, Spending time with family
Spouse/kids/pets: Dan / Lauryn - 8 months / Kyra (Golden Retriever)
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: The birth of our daughter Lauryn, she is such a joy.
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate Chip
Cookie Dough
Favorite Movie: Grease



Kristen Lembke

Member for: Less than 1 year
Graduated from: Creighton
Company: Frankel, Zacharia, Arnold
Position: Audit staff
Birthday: December 3rd
Hobbies: Reading, anything outside
Spouse/kids/pets: Dog named Libby
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Cruise in the Caribbean
Favorite Ice Cream: Cookies 'n Cream
Favorite Movie: Family Stone

Jaime M. Beckman

Member for: 1.5 years
Graduated from: Midland Lutheran College, Fremont NE
Company: Orizon CPA's, LLC (formerly Graeve Garrelts Denham & Bruce, LLC, effective 1/1/06)
Position: Senior Accountant
Birthday: 5/12/79
Hobbies: watching and playing any sport, HUGE movie buff!
Spouse/kids/pets: husband, Jeff, works @ YMCA in Fremont as a Youth Program Director; dog, Pace, cocker-mix
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Promotion @ work, all of the updates and remodeling of my house
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chip
Favorite Movie: Top Gun



2005 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen (President): kvanfoeken@kpmg.com
Shelly (President Elect): mkapustka@deloitte.com
LaTonya (Vice President): lbennett106@cox.net
Kerry (Secretary): kclark@sigs.com
Stephanie (Director): ssetlak@lutzcpa.com

Kelly (Past President): kmartinson@lutzcpa.com
Paula (Treasurer): peastman6923@yahoo.com
Caryn (Director): ckirkebak@hotmail.com
Tricia (Director): triggins@fzacpa.com

Local Website: www.aswaomaha.org
National Website: www.aswa.org