

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and it was time to make those New Year's resolutions again.

Remember the scholarship deadline is this month. The application is available on the website. Please make sure to pass that along to any students you know who would be interested. The deadline is Monday, January 16th.

We have the mid-year goals meeting on January 11th. This meeting is important to evaluating the goals we set as a chapter at the beginning of the year. We also want to use this evening to continue to improve our committee descriptions and we want YOUR input! Please attend if you are currently on a committee, if you are new to our chapter or just want a refresher course to see what committee you would like to be involved with.

Soon we will be forming our nominating committee to select next year's officers and board members. So this is also a good chance to start thinking about what capacity you would like to serve in next year, either as a board member or a committee chair. The success of our chapter depends on your involvement.

Don't forget National's Recruiting Counts club. Each time you recruit a new member your name will be entered into the Grand Prize Drawing. There are other prize levels as well. Check out the information on National's website.

Our January meeting is a tax update. Our speaker will be Mary Anne Ramge from KPMG. I hope that everyone can attend.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT THE MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEYS ARE DUE SUNDAY, January 8, 2006. PLEASE TAKE 10-15 MINTUES TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

Good Luck with those New Year's Resolutions!

Kristen Van Foeken
President 2005-2006



Mid-Year Goals Meeting

We will be having a mid-year goals and committee status meeting on January 11th, 2006. The meeting will begin at 6 pm. We will be providing pizza & pop for dinner. If you have any questions please contact Shelly Kapustka mkapustka@deloitte.com

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 2006 Dinner Meeting

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Cost: \$15 (members and guests)
Menu: Cornish Hens w/Wild
Mushroom Risotto and
Cheesecake
Speaker: Mary Anne Ramage, CPA
Topic: Tax Update
Location: Champions Run
13800 Eagle Run Drive
Omaha, NE 68164
Reservations:
Terri Fuqua
tfuqua@fzacpa.com or
496-9100, by noon Friday,
January 13, 2006

January Speaker Bio

At the January meeting, Mary Anne Ramage looks forward to bringing us up to date on the new tax laws that will affect us and the businesses we work for. In 1976, Mary Anne graduated from FSU with her degree in accounting. Mary Anne has nearly 30 years of experience in public and private accounting. Her current position at KPMG, LLP as a senior tax manager requires her to stay abreast of the new tax laws. Mary Anne has been an active member of ASWA for 23 years.

December Speaker Recap

William Stevens shared with us how he found his niche in public accounting. William opened his own firm in 1993, and planned to just prepare returns and provide other CPA advice. He soon found out the "other" advice he would be giving would become a full time job. William specializes preparing offers and comprises with the IRS. He helps taxpayers in their dealing with IRS when their debt is in excess of \$250,000. He walked through the laws surrounding IRS offers and compromise, and how the process has changed over the years. Thanks William for sharing your expertise with us!



Are you still keeping
to your New Year's
Resolution?

Your Career Action Plan for the New Year

People make New Year's resolutions with the best intentions, but they often fail for lack of a solid action plan. If you've resolved for 2006 to move your career forward into a new industry, occupation or level of responsibility, increase your chances of success with this three-part action plan focused on results.

1. Know your career objective
2. Update your resume and cover letters
3. Update your network and networking skills

1. Know your career objective

Knowing your career objective may sound obvious and easy. If, however, you are dissatisfied with your current position, it can be difficult to sort out the good from the bad. You may not fully understand the target of your dissatisfaction: Is it your job or your employer; your company's culture or your supervisor? Analyzing what you want in a job is a good start in determining the best new job for you.

If you are uncertain what type of position to focus on, start by identifying the transferable skills you enjoy(ed) using in your current or past positions. A professional career coach can be helpful in sorting out what you want to keep and, more importantly, what you want to avoid in your next position.

2. Update your resume and cover letters

If it has been a while since your last job search, your resume may no longer reflect your current career direction. Don't forget the most important elements of a strong resume: solid achievements that illustrate your transferable skills, and key words and phrases to capture employers' attention and interest.

Cover letters can make the difference between a warm reception or a cold shoulder. While it's true that not all resume screeners read cover letters, those who do are never impressed-and are often put off by cover letters that sound phony or

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

mass-produced. If you are uncertain of your resume writing skills, a professional resume writer can transform your so-so resume & cover letters into true selling tools.

3. Update your network and networking skills

A good job-search network consists of all those persons who can provide information about future or current career opportunities. You say you don't have a network? You probably do, but you just haven't thought about people who could fit this category. Start by identifying groups of people that you are in contact with on a regular basis, such as professional associations, church, college alumni groups, and neighborhood associations. Then identify the individuals within those groups with whom you feel comfortable and who could help you learn of job leads.

Many of my resume and coaching clients lament their poor networking skills. I always tell them not to worry; they are in good company because most people feel inadequate when it comes to networking. Before you dismiss the value of a strong network, remember: In securing all-important job interviews, it's very often not what you know but who you know. There are many resources available for learning how to build and utilize a network to your job-search advantage: books, online articles, workshops, and career coaches trained in the most effective networking techniques.

Once you've put your job-search action plan into practice, you'll be on your way to a better job and a better life.

Deborah Walker, CCMC
Career Coach ~ Resume Writer
Find more job-search tips and resume samples at: www.AlphaAdvantage.com
<<http://www.alphaadvantage.com/>>
Email: Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com



NEW YEAR'S TIP: To burn a couple extra calories, try parking further from the door when you go shopping

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

MEMBER PROFILE

Deyna Rouse

Member for: 5 years
Graduated from: Creighton University
Company: Lutz & Company, PC
Position: Tax Senior
Birthday: June 11
Hobbies: Reading, crocheting, running
Spouse/kids/pets: Derrick/Truman - age 3/Buddy - a Sheltie mix
Most Exciting Events of the past Year:
Helping my husband start his own business/Row 26 at Paul McCartney!
Favorite Ice Cream: Butter pecan
Favorite Movie: That Thing You Do! Or Caddyshack...probably a toss-up

Christi Olsen

Member for: 14-15 years?
Graduated from: University of Nebraska at Omaha
Company: Darst & Associates, PC - Certified Public Accountants
Position: Shareholder/Manager
Birthday: August 29
Hobbies: Scrap booking, Movies, Golf
Spouse/kids/pets: Husband - Chris Olsen/Son - Eric Olsen/Pets - None
Most Exciting Events of the past year: Being ASWA National President, Trip to 'Great Wolf Lodge' with Family, Eric's 2nd Birthday, My 40th Birthday, Went to a NASCAR race with Chris in Arizona, became a Great Aunt in July to Andrew Herbert Jackson!
Favorite Ice Cream: Peppermint
Favorite Movie: Legends of the Fall

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

Annette Swartz

Member Since: That's debatable. When I joined in July 2000, somehow my application didn't get to nationals so I had to reapply. Nationals say I joined in June 2001 and the Omaha chapter says I joined in July 2000. It was quite a mess at the time as I remember.

Graduated from: Wayne State College, Wayne, NE

Company: Lutz & Company, P.C.

Position: Accounting & Audit Manager

Birthday: December 27

Spouse: Gary

Kids: 15 year old Twins-Justin and Jill

Pet: Beagle dog-Copper

Most Exciting Events of the past year:

Visiting New York City this past summer and moving in to a new home in January 2005

Favorite Ice Cream: Schwan's Summers Dream

Favorite Movie: Pretty Woman

Chris Carlson

Member for: 11 Years

Graduated from: UNO - EMBA, 2005

Company: Aureus Group

Position: Regional Manager

Birthday: 11/10

Hobbies: cooking, shark fishing, volleyball

Spouse/kids/pets: Dan is my husband, Parker and Ruby are my Siberian Huskies, no kids

Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Hong Kong trip

Favorite Ice Cream: home made vanilla

Favorite Movie: Office Space



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