

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*I love the month of October. It's a month when the leaves on trees turn the most amazing colors and you can wear jeans and a sweatshirt to the park. I also must admit that Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. I love carving pumpkins, cooking pumpkin seeds, and handing out candy to all the neighborhood children. My wish is for each of you to take a moment for yourself this month, a moment away from your extremely busy schedule, to enjoy one of the many things this month has to offer.*

*I would like to take a moment to thank the seven individuals that attended the National Conference on September 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Our chapter was represented by me, Elaine Clark, Kristen VanFoeken, Betty Dudzik, Christi Olsen, Sue Blake, and LaTonya Bennett. Our chapter also donated a gift basket to the ASWA Educational Foundation which included a Peggy Karr – Painted Tulips 11'' Fluted Bowl, \$100 gift certificate to Omaha Steaks, and a bag of Baker's Chocolates.*

*Congratulations to our Omaha Chapter are in order for winning the Presidents' Communication Awards for Best Large Chapter Newsletter and Best Web Site for the 2005 – 2006 year. Special thanks go out to Annette Wells for her great job on the bulletin last year and to Stephanie Setlak for her great job coordinating with Lutz Creative in producing a fantastic website.*

*On an individual level, I would like to congratulate Kristen VanFoeken for being elected President of the Chapter Presidents' Council for the 2006 – 2007 year. Kristen is doing an amazing job representing our local chapter at a national level.*

*If you look at the national recognition our local chapter receives, it isn't hard to conclude that we have a truly remarkable local chapter. We have extraordinary women that find time in their busy schedules to make a commitment to our organization. Again, I would like to thank everyone who has decided to take an active role in our organization this year, whether you are serving on the board or on a committee position, thank you for making our chapter a success.*

*I look forward to seeing you at our October lunch meeting!*

**Shelly Kapustka**  
*President 2006 – 2007*



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# CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Kyle & Kim Steffen on the birth of their baby girl. Brooklyn Kim Steffen was born on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 8:51 a.m. weighing in at 8 lbs and 5 oz.

Congratulations to Kerry Clark on her new position as Assistant Controller at Harry A. Koch Company.

## October Meeting

**Speaker:** Brett Frevert

**Topic:** Developing Ethanol Plants in Nebraska

**Date:** October 18, 2006

**Time:** 11:30 am

**Menu:** salad, meatloaf and potatoes

**Cost:** \$10

**Location:** Champions Run Club

13800 Eagle Run Drive

Omaha, NE 68164

**RSVP:** Debbie Zadina at 496-9100 or [dzadina@fzacpa.com](mailto:dzadina@fzacpa.com) by NOON, Friday October 13, 2006

## September Speaker Recap

What do skinny jeans, pencil skirts, and belts have in common? Thanks to our speaker, Beth Rehr from Younkers, we now all know that those are the hot fashions for fall! Beth displayed how mixing and matching key pieces of your wardrobe you can stay modern for work and play. Thanks to all of you who brought guests or invited students, the meeting was a success.

## National Recruiting Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals that recruited at least two new members during the 2005 – 2006 year. These individuals were

recognized nationally as Recruiting Counts Club Members:

Rhinestone Recruiter (2-4 Members Recruited)

- Chris Carlson
- Kristen VanFoeken

Sapphire Recruiter (5-7 Members Recruited)

- Shelly Kapustka

**Note:** The ASWA National Board has announced the 2006-2007 Membership Campaign & Recruiting Counts Contest. Please see the Recruiting Club Counts bulletin attachment for additional information.

## Upcoming Meetings:

The Public Relations dinner date has been set; mark your calendars for November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The 2006 -2007 theme is "Connecting with Our Community."

## NEW – BASKET RAFFLE - EACH ONE REACH ONE CAMPAIGN...

## **TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More**

To those of you who toyed with the idea of partaking in an ASWA committee, but who haven't had the time, this is your opportunity to quench the fires of guilt, and to enjoy participation without the pain of time constraints. We are asking each one to provide just one name of a business contact whom the basket raffle committee could contact in soliciting donations for basket raffle items. As an additional incentive, if your contact donates to our endeavor, you will receive a free raffle ticket for a chance to win a basket!

We are also in need of empty baskets. Some donators provide complete baskets, but many do not. Individual donated items are assembled into baskets by the raffle committee. If you have a

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basket, or a desire to artfully put together baskets, please let us know. Your help is welcome!

Contact Ruth Schneider at [rschneider@insearch-inc.com](mailto:rschneider@insearch-inc.com), 964-1200 Ext. 203, or Angela Tompsett at [atompsett@woodmen.com](mailto:atompsett@woodmen.com), 661-8349, with your contact's information and to inform us of your basket situation. This is a team effort. As a team, we can accomplish anything!

### Member Points:

If you are a member who has attended either a Regional or National Conference (or both) please inform Annette Swartz at [aswartz@lutzcpa.com](mailto:aswartz@lutzcpa.com) ASAP to ensure our records are kept up-to-date.

### Younkers Community Day Sale

If you are interested in helping ASWA raise money, we are selling Younkers Community Day coupons. The coupon booklets cost \$5, and in turn you get a \$10 off coupon, and eight 20% off coupons. All of the money raised goes back to ASWA. We will have more coupon books available at the next meeting, or contact Annette Wells if you want booklets today.

### Article

## Check-Up Time: How is the Health of Your Department?

As flu season draws near, many people will visit the doctor to ensure they are in good health. As an accounting manager, you should take a similar approach and regularly check the overall health of your department to ensure your team remains productive and motivated. Consider the following tips:

- **Ask around.** Find out how people feel about their roles and if there are any adjustments they'd like made to their positions, such as taking on additional responsibilities. Working with staff to incorporate appropriate changes demonstrates you value their feedback.

- **Say thank you.** Recognize your team for their hard work and accomplishments. For employees, few things can be as demoralizing as thinking their efforts are not appreciated.
- **Encourage teambuilding.** When the time is right, plan functions where your department can get together outside of the office. Birthday celebrations and off-site lunches are just a couple examples of events that can help people build rapport and strengthen their relationships with their colleagues.
- **Provide the necessary resources.** A number of facets of the accounting function have become more complex due to recent regulations. At the same time, many professionals are taking on increased workloads as their business look to expand operations. Ensure your personnel have the time and tools they need to succeed. Offer access to any relevant training that will help them in their roles, such as a seminar on recent legislative reforms or a course on a new financial software application your firm is using. If you sense your staff are overworked, consider bringing in additional full-time and interim hires, as needed.
- **Watch for red flags.** When people are unhappy, burned out or looking to leave, there typically are a number of common warning signs. Individuals in these situations often appear distracted, work fewer hours and miss deadlines, for example. If you notice these signals emanating from a top performer, reach out to find out how the person is feeling and what steps you can take to resolve any issues.

*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 330 offices throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and offers online job search services at [www.accountemps.com](http://www.accountemps.com). For more information, call the Omaha office at (402) 384-8300.*

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# Member Profiles



## Anne Fuhrman

Member Since: 1984  
Graduated from: Buena Vista University (1st 2 years of college at Kansas State University)  
Company: Fuhrman, Smolsky & Furey, PC  
Position: Shareholder  
Birthday: August 14  
Hobbies: Boating  
Spouse/kids/pets: Husband - Terry Williams, Step-Children - Kyle (30) Monica (deceased), Step-Grandkids - Sydney (7) Brady (6), Dog - Digby  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: "Milestone" Birthday, Having granddaughter from Florida visit us for a week in June (without her parents)  
Favorite Ice Cream: Bunny Tracks  
Favorite Movies: Top Gun, While You Were Sleeping

## Annette Swartz

Member Since: July 2000  
Graduated from: Wayne State College in 1985  
Company: Lutz & Company, P.C.  
Position: Audit and Accounting Manager  
Birthday: December 27  
Hobbies: Attending kids sports events  
Spouse/kids/pets: Spouse-Gary, Kids- Twins Justin and Jill, Pet - Copper - our Beagle dog  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Watching my daughter play volleyball at the U.S. Volleyball Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia this past summer  
Favorite Ice Cream: Rocky Road  
Favorite Movie: Pretty Woman

## Chris Carlson

Member For: 12 years  
Graduated from: UNO – MBA  
Company: Aureus Group  
Position: Regional Manager  
Birthday: November 10  
Hobbies: Golfing, Cooking,  
Spouse/kids/pets: Dan / 2 Siberian Huskies (Parker & Ruby)  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Building a new house that my husband designed  
Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate Chip  
Favorite Movie: Beautiful Mind

## Betty Dudzik

Member Since: 1987 or 88  
Graduated from: UNL for BS/BA and Metro Tech for AAS  
Company: Husker Glass, Inc.  
Position: Vice President & Treasurer, Shareholder  
Birthday: August 28  
Hobbies: wine, food, fitness, kickboxing  
Spouse/kids/pets: Roommate--Cat named Al  
Most Exciting Events of the past Year: Los Cabos trip in March 06  
Favorite Ice Cream: Phish Food--Ben & Jerry's or DQ Peanut Buster parfait  
Favorite Movies: When Harry Met Sally, Young Frankenstein, DR. Zhivago, Last of the Mohicans

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