

President's Message

Can you believe that October is already here and the leaves will soon begin changing? We had a great turnout for our member-student night. I would like to give a big thank you to Maureen McCrudden for organizing the evening and Chris Carlson for lining up such a wonderful group of ladies for our panel.

This month Dan Sedor will be with us to talk about Personal Branding. And the Public Relations Dinner and Educational Seminar is on November 14th at Champions Run. I am very excited about our speaker for the dinner, MaryKay Mueller. She is from Omaha and is a nationally known motivational speaker. The lineup for the educational seminar is taking shape and looks to be great. Invitations will be ready at the October meeting for the dinner along with registration for the seminar. I hope that all of you can make it to both the October luncheon and November dinner.

Our chapter brochures are finished and were available at the Member-student night in September. If you were not able to attend the meeting or did not get one, we will have them at the October meeting. We want to make sure that all ASWA events get on your calendar!! Thank you to Cindy Alharithy for getting these ready and printed so quickly.

Just a couple of reminders for all members. If you bring a guest to a meeting and it is their first time attending, you will receive 5 points (this of course

is retroactive to the August meeting). Also, we have an incentive program for members to encourage guests and students to join. For each new member a member sponsors on the new members application, that member will receive a \$10 gift card in June at the officer installation and awards dinner. If you have any questions regarding these items, please contact me.

I hope to see you all at our October 17th at the luncheon. Don't forget that Race For the Cure is October 7th !!

Kerry Clark
President 2007 – 2008



October Lunch Meeting

Speaker: Dan Sedor
Topic: Personal Branding
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Date: Wednesday October 17th
Cost: \$10.00
Menu: Italian Theme
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 October 12th

2007/2008 OMAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BASKET RAFFLE DONATIONS

The basket raffle committee is soliciting donations for the public relations dinner in November. The basket raffle is our chapter's primary way of raising money for our scholarship fund. Last year we raised approximately \$2,500 due to the generous donations of our members and other businesses in the community. The donations included: gift certificates, football tickets, an iPod shuffle, a hot air balloon ride, and many other fun items just to give you some ideas. If you sell products such as Arbonne, MaryKay, Pampered Chef or other products, this is a great way to advertise and they make great basket gifts! We are also looking for any empty baskets that can be donated.

If you or someone you know would like to make a donation to this great cause please contact either Ruth Schneider (RSchneider@insearch-inc.com) or Sarah Carse (Sarah.carse@tdameritrade.com). Donations are due by Friday, October 26th.



To Stephanie Setlak on her new position as controller at Clarkson College. Her new email address is ssetlak@cox.net.

Member Profiles

Anne Fuhrman

Member For: 23 years
Graduated from: Buena Vista University, following 2 years at Kansas State
Company: Fuhrman, Smolsky & Furey, PC
Position: Shareholder
Birthday: August 14
Hobbies: Boating, Travel

Spouse/Kids/Pets: Husband Terry, Stepson Kyle, Grandkids Sydney, Brady & Tyler, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel - Digby

Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Road trip to Colorado with Betty Dudzik to visit Barbara Oliver (former ASWA member)
Favorite Ice Cream: Bunny Tracks
Favorite Movie: Top Gun, Something About Mary

Betty Dudzik

Member Since: a lifer--1987 or 1988?
Graduated from: Metro (AAS) & UNL (BSBA)
Company: Husker Glass, Inc. (plus others in our RedGlaze Group)
Position: VP of Acctg. & Admin. but it also varies by company!
Birthday: August 28th
Hobbies: working out, football, concerts, food & wine
Spouse/Kids/Pets: No spouse, no kids, beau Mike & a cat named Al
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: Whirlwind summer of SEVERAL very dear, long-time friends back to visit in Omaha! 6 weeks of back-to-back fun!
Favorite Ice Cream: Ben & Jerry's Phish Food
Favorite Movie: Young Frankenstein always makes me laugh!

Brook Craig

Member Since: 2004
Graduated from: Hastings College
Company: Kiewit Corporation
Position: Business Manager
Birthday: December 17
Hobbies: Scuba Diving, Horseback riding, Skiing
Spouse/Pets: Spouse: Jason Craig Pets: Chloe and Harlie
Most Exciting Event of the past Year: My hubby and I went to Florida to do nothing. It was Awesome!
Favorite Ice Cream: Vanilla
Favorite Movie: The Notebook

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Chris (Program Director): ccarlson@aureusgroup.com
Sarah (Communications Director): sarahcarse@hotmail.com
Stephanie (Membership Director): slaustin@kpmg.com

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

Annette Swartz

Member Since: July 2000

Graduated from: Wayne State College,
Wayne, NE

Company: Lutz & Company, P.C.

Position: Accounting and Audit Manager

Birthday: December 27

Hobbies: Reading

Spouse/Kids/Pets: Spouse-Gary; Kids-Twins
- Justin and Jill Pet-Beagle Dog-Copper

Most Exciting Event of the past Year:

Watching Kids play high school sports

Favorite Ice Cream: Summers Dream from
Schwan's

Favorite Movie: Pretty Woman

Article

Building an Effective Employee Orientation Program

In a recent survey by our company, one-third of workers said their companies provided them no formal orientation program when they came on board. Failing to provide this initial training, however, could be a missed opportunity for both employer and employee. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents who *did* go through an orientation said the program effectively prepared them for success with their new firm.

Following are tips for establishing orientation initiatives that both educate and build strong bonds with your newest accounting team members:

Remember the basics. Ease a new hire's first-day jitters by personally greeting the individual and giving him or her a tour of the office, while offering introductions to key colleagues. Also, be sure to provide an up-to-date employee handbook and telephone directory.

Keep your message consistent. The information conveyed during orientation sessions should closely mirror the ideas expressed during the recruitment process.

Pick up where the job interview left off by reinforcing your firm's mission and core values. Also, review job duties, set expectations, explain reporting lines and describe current accounting projects.

Create an agenda. A well-organized orientation roadmap tells newcomers exactly what they can expect and shows them how your organization conducts business. An agenda enables you to adhere to a schedule and sends the message your company values its employees and wants them to begin contributing as soon as possible.

Make it a team effort. You don't have to take the entire job of helping new staff acclimate to your workplace on your own shoulders. In fact, it's a good idea to include others in the process. While you can address issues related to the accounting department, a human resources practitioner can better cover the intricacies of company policies and how to enroll in your benefits plan. A motivational appearance by a company executive will add credibility and weight to group orientation sessions.

Avoid data dumping. Throwing too much information at employees too quickly can be overwhelming. Give people ample opportunity to absorb what they're learning by spacing out the process over several weeks. What team members are experiencing on the job offers a context for orientation and training.

It takes time and resources to develop a top-notch orientation program. But the benefits make it well worth the effort because your new accountants will learn and thrive from day one.

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, Australia and New Zealand, and offers online job search services at www.accountemps.com.

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