



American Society of Women Accountants

THE VOUCHER

PRESIDENT: Rachel Speth
(913) 928-7038
Email: rachel.speth@kiewit.com

EDITOR: Jessica Galati
(816) 508-4103
Email: jessica.galati@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP: Tammy Lawson
Email: tlawson@hntb.com

www.aswa-kc.com (Kansas City Chapter)
www.aswa.org (National Organization)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI CHAPTER #30

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November 2009

November Meeting

Bankruptcy

The headlines continue to shout out economic news. Recently a large financial group who had accepted Federal bailout funds announced they were filing bankruptcy. In general, what does bankruptcy mean in today's business atmosphere? What is the impact of the growing number of them on doing business? Attendees will learn the answers to these and other questions at the meeting November 17th from our two guest leaders, Paul Hoffmann and Sharon Stolte, from Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP. They will present to us "Bankruptcy: A Powerful Alternative for People and Businesses".

Mr. Paul Hoffmann, a partner in the firm, has represented firms from all types of industries as they moved through the bankruptcy and workout processes during the past 25 years. His focuses at the firm are bankruptcy and creditor's rights, commercial lending, business litigation, and mergers and acquisition. One of his many notable actions was helping Dickinson Theatres, Inc. emerge from bankruptcy in less than four months. A graduate of University of Nebraska-Omaha, he obtained his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1982. Beyond his practice he serves as Adjunct Professor of Secured Transactions at the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law. Since 2006 he has been listed as a Super Lawyer by the Missouri and Kansas Bar Associations. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City and frequently provides articles and speeches to interested groups.

Ms. Sharon Stolte, also a partner in the firm, has represented debtors in many industries during her twenty years of law practice. Her areas of expertise are bankruptcy and creditor's rights, real estate litigation, and construction litigation. Ms. Stolte also serves as general counsel for construction firms and has represented financial institutions with matters relating to consumer

and commercial restructuring of troubled credit lines. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Ms. Stolte received her law degree from the University of Kansas in 1989. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Kansas and Missouri Bar associations, the Johnson County (KS) Bar Association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Association, and the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar. She contributes regularly to the legal field through articles and presentations, most recently to the Missouri Practice Series, Mechanics Lien chapter.

Since bankruptcy is regularly appearing as a discussion topic in the business media, this presentation will definitely provide each attendee with timely information. Do invite guests and colleagues to join us on November 17th at the Marriott. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Aneita Remus, Program Committee Chairman

When: Tuesday, November 17th, 2009

5:30 PM	Social
6:00 PM	Dinner
6:45 PM	Speaker

Cost: Members	\$30.00
Non members	\$33.00
First time guests	\$15.00

Where: Marriott Country Club Plaza
4445 Main Street (Main & 45th Street)
Kansas City, MO 64112

Menu: Pork Scaloppini with Thyme Bordelaise Sauce and Braised Carrots, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Selection of Dessert

Special dietary requests should be made with reservation.

Reservations:

For reservations, please contact Jessica Galati at (816) 508-4103 or by e-mail, jessica.galati@hotmail.com
Reservations are due by **noon Friday, November 13th**.

Note: All standing reservations have been cancelled. In addition, any cancelled reservations must also be received by Friday, November 13th. Any cancellations received after this time will be billed for the meeting.

Officer's Message

WOW! It's been quite a while since I've written an Officer's Message. As I wondered what to write about, the words "baby steps" kept coming to mind. I know it seems like an odd topic, but it's one of my mantras I repeat when faced with a huge project or considering doing something new. Baby steps not only apply to individuals, but also to groups.

Serving on the board this year, I've watched baby steps being taken in many ways to continue the success of the chapter. This is the first year we're offering two meetings that include two hours of CPE. Krista Johnson offered to host the first informal ASWA lunch. The Nominating Committee is going to be getting an earlier start this year. I'd like to encourage you to serve and contribute your own baby steps.

When I was approached about being Chapter President, I hesitated before saying yes. I went through a lot of questions in my mind and felt a lot of emotions that generally occur when considering something out of my comfort zone. While it felt like a huge leap when I said yes, I realize it was all small baby steps that lead me to a wonderful experience.

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, I want to take this time to say a huge thank you to Mary Jo McCann and Virginia Huntington for taking baby steps that resulted in the founding of the Kansas City Chapter. The impact they made on many lives is immeasurable thanks to their passion and dedication to the organization. We are forever grateful.

Great things can be accomplished with baby steps. Take yours.

Pam Fraley
Vice President

Monthly Question

A new tradition began last year by our President, Rachel Speth. By asking an "icebreaker" question at the beginning of each meeting, we learned a little more about our fellow ASWA members. We plan on continuing this fun activity, but are now giving you an opportunity to prepare your answers. So, do your homework and come prepared to share a bit about yourself at the next meeting! But do not stress too much, this is meant to be a fun, quick way to learn about others.....no essays required.

If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go?

Holiday Charity

It's never too early to start planning for the holidays! Each year the Kansas City Chapter of ASWA picks a charity to support for the holidays. This year we have decided to support El Centro. Marie LaFever, one of our ASWA members, is Vice President of Finance at El Centro. El Centro's mission is to address the needs and improve the lives of Kansas City, Kansas's Hispanic residents. El Centro provides services in 5 locations throughout Kansas City, KS and Overland Park, KS. El Centro serves families of all backgrounds throughout Kansas City; however, the agency retains a particular expertise in addressing the needs of Latinos and Spanish-speaking immigrants. Some of El Centro's programs include adult education, pre-K education, senior programs, family support services, home ownership services, and running the Silver Lining Thrift Shop.

You can help by bringing coats, hats, gloves, and mittens to our November or December meetings. I will deliver the donations to El Centro. Coats are most needed for school age children and babies as well as mothers in sizes large and extra large. They prefer new items, but will also accept gently used and clean items.

Thank you for helping make someone else's holiday a little brighter!

Krista Johnson
Director

2008-2009 Kansas City Chapter Officers and Directors

The following members have been elected to the 2009-2010 Board of Directors:

President:	Rachel Speth
President Elect:	Tammy Lawson
Vice President:	Pamela Fraley
Secretary:	Bridget Sturr
Treasurer:	Megan Sumners
Director:	Krista Johnson
Director:	Aneita Remus
Director:	Jessica Galati

2008-2009 Kansas City Chapter Committee Chairs

Bulletin:	Jessica Galati
Budget:	Megan Sumners
Chapter Dev:	Rachel Speth
Member Handbook:	Pamela Fraley
Membership:	Tammy Lawson
	Krista Johnson
Program:	Aneita Remus
	Bridget Sturr
Meeting Logistics:	Carla Neely
Reservations:	Megan Sumners

Scholarship:
Web Site:

Mary Roach
Jessica Galati
Lana Scroggins

Nominating Committee

Interested in becoming more involved with the Kansas City ASWA chapter? Ready to serve on the Board or chair one of the committees? Or do you know someone who would be a good candidate? If the answer is yes to any of these questions – the Nominating Committee is looking for you!

The Nominating Committee is beginning their search for members to serve on the 2010-2011 Board. In addition, they are looking for one more volunteer to serve on the committee.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. We want to hear from you!

Rachel Speth
Aneita Remus

Scholarship Committee

Mary Roach, Scholarship Committee Chair, is looking for another member to help with the committee this year. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with your chapter. The Kansas City chapter proudly provides scholarships annually to our local college students. Please contact Mary Roach if you have questions or would like to join her on this committee.

By-Laws & Standing Rules Review

The Board of Directors is going to be reviewing the By-Laws and Standing Rules at the next Board meeting. If you are interested in providing input or comments, please email me at plfrale@msn.com, and I will email you a copy of the documents for your review. Thanks!

Pam Fraley
Vice President

Join ASWA's LinkedIn Group Today

We encourage you to join ASWA's "LinkedIn Group." LinkedIn is an online network of more than 25 million experienced professionals from around the world.

LinkedIn provides ASWA members:

- The ability to quickly find fellow ASWA contacts nationally for networking and professional information
 - An ASWA group discussion forum to ask questions, make recommendations and more!
 - The power to connect with industry experts
-

- Exponential opportunity to increase local, regional and national membership
- The ability to know more than a name – view rich professional profiles from fellow ASWA Group members
- A platform to accelerate careers/business through referrals from ASWA Group members

To join ASWA's LinkedIn Group, all you need to do is click on the [Invitation](#) and build your profile. ASWA's National Membership Committee has assembled a simple to follow set of [ASWA LinkedIn Group Instructions](#) to guide you through the process. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact ASWA Headquarters at aswa@aswa.org.

We look forward to networking with you on ASWA's LinkedIn Group!

The Compass

ASWA members can access articles of interest in the "Four Points" categories of Accounting & Auditing, Controllershship, Leadership and Tax. All you need to do is click on the category of interest on the compass icon to the left and enter your member ID and password. This month's "Four Points" articles include:

Accounting & Auditing: "[Six Steps to Earning a Certification in Internal Auditing](#)" - an article from the Institute of Internal Auditors. Since the inception of Sarbanes Oxley, the need for experienced internal auditors has grown exponentially. Obtaining a certification through the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) clearly establishes an auditor's competency and value. In addition to the Certified Internal Auditor certification, the IIA offers several specialty certifications in controls, government audits and financial services audit. "

Controllershship: "[The Benefit of Certifications](#)" - a recent article by Robert Half International provides information on why obtaining certifications may boost an individual's career.

Leadership: "[CFO 101: Five Prerequisites](#)" - by Matthew G. Lamoreaux, read this article for advice from veteran CFOs to CPAs seeking the top job in finance.

Tax: "[What is an Enrolled Agent??](#)" - an article from the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA), read this to learn about the NAEA's enrolled agent certification.

ASWA Holiday Card

Each year the Kansas City Chapter of ASWA has a holiday wish as the front cover of the monthly newsletter. The thought behind this is for the members to sign as their greeting to the other ASWA members. The

members are then asked to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. This donation is based on what the member would spend on cards and postage to send actual cards to ASWA members.

The cover will be available at the November meeting. If you are not able to sign, please let Jessica Galati, Megan Summers, or Mary Roach know; and they will add your name to the cover. Hope each of you has a wonderful 2009 holiday season!!!

October Meeting Recap

Property taxes – something that we deal with both professionally and personally. Our October meeting gave us a better understanding of how property is appraised for tax purposes. We were joined by two experts from both sides of the state line. Paul Welcome from the Johnson County, KS Appraiser's Office began the discussion. He was followed by Curtis Koons from the Jackson County, MO Assessment Department. Then the two made themselves available for our many questions.

The speakers touched upon many subjects. They began with the reminder that the county appraiser does not set or collect taxes. The appraisal is a method to determine a property owner's fair share of taxes to support services provided, such as schools, roads, police, etc. This valuation provides the information needed by the Tax Administration.

Paul provided some interesting insight into the technology currently used to aid the appraiser. Appraisers use computer-generated data, sales data, and both oblique and ortho photography.

Both speakers also described their respective appeal process. An appeal may occur when a property owner feels their appraised value is higher than the fair market value of the property.

Anniversaries

The following are celebrating their anniversary this month with ASWA Kansas City Chapter:

Krista Johnson
Mary Roach

Reservation Reminder

Reservations for the monthly meetings are due to Jessica Galati by noon on the Friday prior to each meeting date. Those who have made a reservation at any time and are unable to attend will be billed for the meeting cost. The Chapter Officers and Board of Director members appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Job Opportunity

El Centro, Inc. has a real opportunity for an outgoing, people person who likes to work with teams they put together!

Title: Director of In-kind Service

Qualifications include: Understanding the marketing process and use of volunteers in organizations.

If this intrigues you or one of your friends, please contact

Mary Lou Jaramillo at mljaramillo@elcentroinc.com

Member Handbook

The Kansas City Chapter is in the process of updating our Member Handbook. If you have any suggestions, please contact Pam Fraley or any of the current board members. Please keep your eyes open for an email from Pam regarding the Member Handbook in the near future.

ASWA News

Member News

If you have any program ideas for the 2009-2010 meetings please contact Aneita Remus at aneita_remus@hotmail.com.

Contact Information

Remember to update your contact information when it changes on the ASWA web page www.aswa.org.

Footnotes from the Board

Web Site: Check our chapter's web page at www.aswa-kc.com. **All Voucher information is there. Any comments or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.**

Suggestions or News for the Bulletin?

Do you have news to share with the chapter? Weddings, births, promotions, new job, won the lottery? Professional news? Suggestions? If so, please send your information to Jessica Galati at (816) 508-4103 or by e-mail – jessica.galati@hotmail.com

The next voucher deadline is November 24, 2009.



American Society of Women Accountants

Upcoming Events:

Kansas City Chapter ASWA Monthly Meetings:

December 2009	Chapter Social
January 19, 2010	Dinner Meeting
February 16, 2010	Dinner Meeting
March 16, 2010	Dinner Meeting
April 20, 2010	Chapter Social
May 18, 2010	Dinner Meeting
June 15, 2010	Dinner Meeting

ASWA Conferences:

May 6-7, 2010	Southwest Regional Conference	Santa Barbara, California
May 21-22, 2010	North Central Regional Conference	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 18-19, 2010	Northwest Regional Conference	Portland, Oregon
June 25, 2010	South Central Regional Conference	Wichita, Kansas
