



American Society of Women Accountants

THE VOUCHER

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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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August 2009

August Meeting

Welcome to the Kansas City chapter for 2009-10!

What is the hottest topic in the accounting field now? Any opinions? Taxes (Federal, State, Local, property, sales), computers, general ledger programs, FASB adjustments-what is left? If you included International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the list, you are correct!!! At the August 18th meeting we welcome two presenters from Deloitte & Touche, Brian Kilbane and Steve Griffith, to share the very latest "view" on this topic. They are the team which made the IFRS presentation at the 2009 ASWA Regional Conference in St. Louis, MO. This session will qualify for 1.5 CPE hours.

The first presenter, Steve Griffith, is a senior manager within Deloitte's Consulting Technology/SAP service line currently based in the Kansas City, MO office. Steve brings 15 years of experience in SAP to the evening's topic and has served as a national SAP IFRS champion for the past year. He has assisted with internal IFRS education efforts, knowledge development, and deliverables definite work. He has also led numerous global SAP implementations in 30 countries. As a CPA with a finance and accounting background, he has also has extensive expertise on Finance Transformation initiatives in the Consumer & Industrial Products industry.

Joining us from the St. Louis, MO office, Brian Kilbane, CPA is currently a senior manager in the Assurance and Enterprise Risk Services group, having transferred from the Bermuda office of Deloitte & Touche where he functioned mainly as an audit senior manager. Brian has 10 years of audit experience, including 4 years in Bermuda, in the insurance industry, where he focused his client service work toward direct insurers, reinsurers and captive insurance companies in both the P&C and Life areas. Beyond his experience in providing assistance to internal audit groups in developing internal control programs for a company's captive or self-insurance programs, Brian has also worked with firms to develop insurance program accounting policies and procedures. Further, Brian has participated in due

diligence projects on M&A transactions for Life insurance and Property and Casualty companies. Brian currently serves on the Advisory Council for Deloitte's National Insurance Practice, where he provides direct support to the firm's growth strategies and goals for the insurance practice. He serves as the IFRS leader for the St. Louis region. As a graduate (BSBA) from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, Brian holds certified public accountancy licenses in the states of Ohio and Missouri and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the respective state societies in Ohio and Missouri. Brian is also a member of the Insurance Accounting and Systems Association and served as the president of the Southwest Ohio Chapter in 2005 and 2006.

Make plans to join your fellow members August 18th at the Plaza Marriott, 45th at Main. Be sure to invite all of your friends, colleagues, anyone who has expressed interest in this extremely timely topic. If you have any questions, contact Aneita Remus at: aneita_remus@hotmail.com

See you at the Marriott!

Aneita Remus. Program Committee Chairman

When: Tuesday, August 18th, 2009

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

Cost: Members \$40.00
Non members \$45.00

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

Menu: Grilled Breast of Chicken, Mushroom sauce with Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed 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 August 14th.**

Note: All standing reservations have been canceled

Officer's Message

Hello! I hope everyone is enjoying this great summer weather!

Last year was such a great year for our chapter and I'm very excited to remain as president again this year. Looking back we accomplished many things including:

- 1) Bringing more technical programs and additional CPE
- 2) Strengthening our policies and procedures
- 3) Cutting our expenses

We also worked really hard to provide a fun and exciting atmosphere at our meetings, and we had two excellent social events. For the 2009-2010 year we have a focus on membership and continuing to provide excellent programs for our meetings. Our board is working very hard and I am really excited about some of the upcoming topics and initiatives. Stay tuned, you won't want to miss out!

We have a very enthusiastic board this year so if you have any comments or suggestions we are here for you.

Rachel Speth
President

10 Things-To-Do at the Monthly Meeting

And so begins another year of the Kansas City chapter. We welcome everyone to come and join us for a meeting!

- 1) Join us in the lounge or in front of the meeting room for some social time before the meeting begins
- 2) Put on your name tag
- 3) Meet someone new
- 4) Add your business card to the drawing
- 5) Pay for the meeting (Megan Sumners, Treasurer)
- 6) Introduce yourself to the speaker
- 7) Add your name to the sign-in sheet
- 8) Consider your answer to this month's question
- 9) Enjoy a great meal
- 10) Benefit from the timely CPE hour(s) offered

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.

What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?

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:	Mary Roach
Web Site:	Jessica Galati
	Lana Scroggins

Scholarship Awards

The Kansas City Chapter #30 of the American Society of Women Accountants will be awarding four scholarships for the 2009-2010 year. Each year, applications are sent to area universities and colleges. This year they were sent to eighteen area schools. The Kansas City Chapter received twelve applications. The outside judges for the awards were: Debbie Bears, Jefferson Wells; Karen Helms, Quintiles; and Debbie Hill, PDQ Tower Services. These judges had a hard time and there were four applicants that fell at the top of the rankings.

The Scholarship & Awards Board of Directors then met and reviewed the rankings. All four of them were awarded a scholarship, along with a complimentary student membership to ASWA.

The winners were as follows:

Sarah Kongs, Kansas State University. Sarah also is the Kansas City Chapter's applicant for the National scholarship. She is a well-rounded candidate as she maintains her GPA while being involved in extracurricular activities – both at her university and in the community. She volunteers at a Food Kitchen and Emergency Shelter and has participated in several charity walks/runs. Sarah's ultimate goal is to be a CPA and to work for the Kansas City Royals. Her mentor/role model is her Dad (also a CPA) – she believes in his actions and looks up to him.

Emily Gooden, William Jewell College. Emily will be graduating in May 2009 and starting her masters program in the fall. She is involved in music as well as accounting. She was the winner of the William Jewell Young Artist Concerto Competition in violin. Her goal is to become a CPA and she hopes to use her knowledge and skills to help spread the importance of financial literacy and inspire future generations to take charge of their financial life.

Kaitlin Chipman, Kansas State University. Kaitlin has a major in Accounting with a minor in Spanish. She is studying abroad in Spain this summer and plans to utilize her Spanish in her future career. Additionally, Kaitlin is a volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). She serves as a mentor and advocate to abused or neglected children in the court system. She has received the Robert Dole Public Service Scholarship.

Katherine Kastner, Kansas University. Katie's expected graduation date is December 2009. She plans to work for a large public accounting firm and explore international accounting. She has been active in the community through Audio Reader. This is a radio station for the blind and print disabled. Additionally, Katie volunteers at a local elementary school and participates in Relay for Life.

Rachel Speth **ASWA Certification Scholarship Recipient**

Rachel Speth, current President of the Kansas City Chapter of ASWA, is being awarded one of The Foundation's Certification Scholarships. Rachel is starting her second year as President and previously served as Vice President, Secretary, & a Director. She has chaired the Bulletin Committee and started the question of the meeting last year. This helps the members get to know each other better. Additionally, she served as a delegate at last fall's ASWA annual meeting.

Congratulations for your award!

Certification Scholarships and Becker Review Scholarships

ASWA members once again have the opportunity to apply for scholarships from the American Society of Women Accountants Educational Foundation. The two scholarships that are for members only are the Certification and the Becker Review.

The Certification Scholarship is for any members who have past any part of the CPA, CFP, CFE, CIA, CMA or CVA exams between January 19, 2008 and September 18, 2009. Documentation is required.

The Becker Review Scholarship is to provide registration for a Becker CPA Review.

Both applications are due to Mary Roach by October 1, 2009. Applications and instructions are attached. If you have any questions, please contact Mary at: mary.roach@pdqts.com

Speaking of Women's Health

The 12th Annual Speaking of Women's Health event in Kansas City will be held October 2 & 3. The Kansas City Chapter of ASWA has a table of 10 reserved for Saturday, October 3. This is a memorable event that many members have attended for multiple years.

The keynote speakers are the following:

Annette Sym: one of Australia's best selling authors, a low-fat cooking expert (not sure who needs that) and a multi-award winning business woman and entrepreneur.

Karyn Buxman: a successful nurse and comedian who bridges the gap between health care and humor.

Rebecca Gorrell: when it comes to your mind, body and spirit, she is your go-to guru with her expertise in dance, movement therapy and fitness.

In addition to these keynote speakers, there are two breakout sessions, a bag filled with many gifts, a wonderful lunch, lots of door prizes (someday Pam Fraley is going to win the Canyon Ranch Spa trip), multiple health tables, books for sale, flu shot opportunity, free giveaways, etc. Of course the best part is spending the day with other ASWA members. The cost per ticket is \$45 – the bag is worth more than that. Let Mary Roach know if you are interested in purchasing a ticket for the day.

Mary Roach
Past President

ASWA & IMA Renew Partnership

The Institute of Management Accountant's (IMA) Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation covers a broad range of skills and knowledge needed by accountants who work inside organizations, distinct from the CPA, and often beyond what is taught in school. The CMA helps accountants become an organization's strategic business partner with hard skills related to controllership, as well as soft skills related to financial leadership. To further support ASWA members as they pursue their career goals, ASWA is pleased to announce our renewed partnership with the IMA.

ASWA members can join IMA as a Regular member at a discounted membership rate of \$175/year (regularly \$195). Or, ASWA members under the age of 33 can join under IMA's Young Professional membership category for \$115/year (regularly \$130). These special discounts apply to new IMA members only.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this special IMA membership opportunity, please enter promotional code CASWA0901 when completing your order. Please note that the discount will be applied manually at IMA before credit cards are charged. Questions regarding IMA membership may be directed to IMA CustomerService at (800) 638-4427.

With a worldwide network of about 60,000 professionals, IMA is the world's leading organization dedicated to empowering accounting and finance professionals to drive business performance. IMA provides a dynamic forum for professionals to advance their careers through Certified Management Accountant (CMA®) certification, research, professional education, networking, and advocacy of the highest ethical and professional standards. For more information about IMA, please visit www.imanet.org.

The Compass

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

Accounting & Auditing: "[Finding the Right Quickbooks Add-On](#)" – QuickBooks does many things but, as Doug Sleeter points out in his article, "Finding The Right QuickBooks Add-On," it doesn't do everything. Fortunately, he offers good insight into finding add-ons that can help small businesses run more effectively. [The CPA Technology Advisor](#) is the leading independent provider of technology information, in-depth reviews and news to the professional tax and accounting community, offering a variety of online tools and content and publishing the profession's most respected technology magazine, which reaches more than 40,000 professionals."

Controllership: "[The Sunglass Bandit](#)" - By Sherri Huff, CPA, CFE, President, Huff Consulting, LLC, read this article for a lesson learned on fraud.

Leadership: "[4 Steps to a Winning Elevator Pitch](#)" "4 Steps to a Winning Elevator Pitch" - A recent article, from w2wlink.com, the premier community dedicated to professional women, helping you get to where you're going – faster. Do you have an "elevator pitch?" Is it refined, on the tip of your tongue, ready to present at a moment's notice? If it isn't or if you're not sure or even if you think it is perfect, read the following article to learn the 4 Steps to a Winning Elevator Pitch. w2wlink.com provides you expert knowledge, tools to overcome obstacles, and connection with others in our online groups. Our focus includes: Corporate Fast Track, Entrepreneurial Journey, Networking/Work Transition and Work Life Balance. Profile. Group. Connect. You fill out a confidential profile. w2wlink.com groups you into a network circle with common purpose. Go online to learn, share and grow in a private discussion group.

Tax: "[Changing Times: IRS Updates 'Automatic' Method Change Program](#)" – By James L. Atkinson and Dwight N. Mersereau, read this article to learn about the continued expansion of the automatic consent program and the foregoing pitfalls to keep in mind. [Miller Chevalier](#)

Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization

Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization (UPPO) is a nonprofit association that assists companies in acquiring education to comply with state unclaimed property laws. We are holding an unclaimed property conference in St. Louis, MO at the Hyatt Regency on September 2, 2009.

Join Unclaimed Property Colleagues to Discover:

The opportunity to network with a vibrant, knowledgeable community of unclaimed property professionals and subject matter experts across various industries.

A comprehensive agenda targeted for basic to intermediate level practitioners.

How to prepare for and manage an unclaimed property audit.

A sound discussion of all major trends currently impacting unclaimed property.

Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization
St. Louis Regional Conference
Hyatt Regency Riverfront St. Louis
September 2, 2009

To learn more and to register, please access: www.uppo.org

Contact: Jackie Cote, Events Director
(508) 883-9065; jackie@uppo.org

June Meeting Recap

For the June 16th dinner meeting, Steve M Cohen, EdD joined us to discuss generations in the workplace. Dr. Cohen, currently a principle at the Labor Management Advisory Group, brought years of experience and his extensive knowledge within the Human Resources field to our members and guests. We covered several interesting topics including: personality categories; what types of things influence how we think and react to situations; and how different people deal with change. He also provided some guidance in understanding the differences found between the generations. By listing the four generational groups (Traditionalist, Boomers, Generation X, and Generation Y), he provided us with a quick reference to four basic characteristics of each generation:

- Seeks
- Work Characteristics
- Strengths
- Weaknesses

Dr. Cohen left us with much to think about when approaching others in the workplace.

Summer Job Search Strategies

It's easy to lose career focus during the summer months. Kids home from school, warm sunny weather and household projects tend to distract job seekers. Additionally, the interview process often gets disrupted while employers accommodate multiple vacation schedules. These interruptions become an easy excuse to put a job search on hold till September. Don't give in to the temptation to take the summer off. Your summer sabbatical will add months to your job search. Additionally, the increased competition in September means a smaller margin of error in interview performance. Keep your job-search momentum throughout the summer to avoid frustration in the fall.

Here are three tips to keep your job search moving forward.

1. Stay on track.

Keep a schedule of weekly job-search activities that include networking for leads. Summer is a great time for increased social activities, which can quite naturally lead to discussions about your search. Additionally, tap into your on line social network to find people who know people within your targeted companies who may be able to introduce you to hiring managers. Don't over look the potential help of others in uncovering job leads.

Don't let your project "to-do" list take precedence over your job search activities. Yes, Summer is a great time to build a deck, paint a kitchen or landscape your yard, but don't allow your projects to keep you from moving forward toward a new job. Take care of your job-search goals first, then use all those extra day-light hours to fix up your nest.

2. Don't get impatient.

It's easy to let job-search activities slide when interviews get delayed, rescheduled or canceled. It's best to accept that hiring stalls are a natural summer phenomenon. Use your extra time to research targeted companies in greater depth. The insider information you pick up may give you the extra "leg up" in the interview to win out your competition. Remember, even though the hiring process seems slower during summer companies still interview and make offers June through August.

3. Keep your interview skills sharp.

The normal tendency in summer is to neglect critical interviewing skills. The idea is "once interviews start back up I'll pull out that book and get ready." Bad idea. Don't get caught off guard. Start perfecting your interview skills BEFORE your next interview is scheduled. Minimally you should be able to:

- * State your strengths and weaknesses
- * Give reasons for short job durations
- * Sell your transferable skills
- * Give examples of your accomplishments

Remember, these are just the minimum issues you should be able to handle in an interview. Every job seeker has their own list of questions they hope they don't get asked. You must identify the questions that make you squirm and be ready with great answers.

Following these tips will help you maintain your job search momentum during the busy Summer months. Remember, work on your job search, then work on your tan. Build your interview skills then build the deck. You'll be way ahead of the September crowd and months ahead in landing your next job.

Deborah Walker, CCMC is a career coach helping job seekers compete in the toughest job markets. Her clients gain top performing skills in resume writing, interview preparation and salary negotiation. Learn more about Deborah Walker, Career Coach at:

www.AlphaAdvantage.com

Exciting News!!!

Congratulations to Kelly Hucke on her new position at Children's Mercy Hospital

Anniversaries

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

Lauren Alexander - 4 years
Martha Forsythe – 11 years
Ginny Shannon – 4 years
Megan Sumners – 4 years

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.

ASWA News

The ASWA/AWSCPA Joint National Conference is being held in Las Vegas, NV this year on **October 19-21, 2009**. Sign up now!!!!

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 September 1, 2009.



American Society of Women Accountants

Upcoming Events:

Kansas City Chapter ASWA Monthly Meetings:

September 15, 2009
October 27, 2009
November 17, 2009
December 8, 2009
January 19, 2010
February 16, 2010
March 16, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 18, 2010
June 15, 2010

ASWA Conferences:

August 15, 2009	Empowering Today's Accountant Seminar – Chandler, Arizona
October 19-21, 2009	Joint National Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada
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

Other Activities:

October 3, 2009	Speaking of Women's Health
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