
The **ASWA** *Journal*
Seattle

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<http://www.aswaseattle.org>

February 2007

Seattle Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2007

College Club of Seattle
505 Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 622-0624

Social Hour 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm

Menu:

Salad: Spinach & Bacon Vinagrette

Entrée: Tortellini with Sausage

Potato: Green Beans Almondine

Vegetable: Baked Stuffed Tomato

Dessert: Carrot Cake

Vegetarian Option: Vegetarian Pasta

Members/Faculty	\$25.00
Guests	\$27.00
Students Members	\$17.00
Student Guests	\$19.00
Coffee Only	\$ 3.00

Reservations, even if selecting the coffee only option, need to be made by

1 pm, Thursday, February 22

in order to guarantee a spot. Standing reservations will apply. For **reservations**: use the **Online Reservations Form**, send email to reservations@aswaseattle.org, or contact, Arrangements Chair, (206) 467-8645 (ASWA voice mail).

For **cancellations**, please call, use the online form, or send an email to cancel no later than noon on

Monday, February 26

No-shows and late cancellations will be billed. Walk-ins are welcome but with no meal availability guarantee.

Wednesday, February 28

1 Hour Technical CPE

Speaker: Carla Wigen

Topic: Overview of Washington

Trust Law

Although you may not deal with trusts on a day-to-day basis, Carla will discuss some of the basic ideas of how trusts and trustees operate including trust structure, administration and investments that you may come across in your different accounting roles.

Carla Wigen is Vice President and Senior Trust Officer for Washington Trust Bank's Wealth Management & Advisory Services in Seattle, Washington. Carla has 20 years of experience in the legal and accounting professions. Prior to entering the financial services industry, Carla practiced law with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt focusing on estate planning, corporate, partnership and limited liability company taxation, business planning and real estate law. Carla is a CPA and received her B.A. from the University of Washington, her J.D. from the Seattle University and her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Washington. She serves on the Board of Directors of Residence XII.

President's Message

February 2007

Tax Returns are Like Crossword Puzzles

Preparing a tax return or working a crossword puzzle involves some of the same concepts. These include crosschecking answers, problem solving and being resourceful.

A crossword puzzle taken from a newspaper typically progresses in difficulty as the week wears on. Monday may be fairly easy and the Sunday *New York Times* nearly impossible. Sometimes preparing a tax return is like picking up the Monday crossword, prepared with little effort. However, some tax returns are, well, puzzling. They need much thought and effort. There are "rule" books and reference books available for both returns and puzzles. And because you are in ASWA, you can always phone a friend.

When preparing a crossword the answer to the clue may be solved quickly. Other times the clue does not yield an immediate answer. It is necessary to get up and walk away from the problem and take a break to refresh the mind, body and spirit. When the puzzle is picked up later, the answer seems obvious. The same is true with tax returns. During tax season it is essential to schedule a "puzzle break". We all need to refresh ourselves and have some fun amongst the madness.

How do you survive your busy season, whenever it might be? I'd love to hear from you.

Jana Helmuth
president@aswaseattle.org



Announcements

Team-Building Exercise

Now that you're here, what are you going to do with us? **Thursday, February 15th, 6:45 – 8:15pm.**
Olympic View Church ... 425 NE 95th Street. Please bring your special talents and experience!

Kids Are Our Business Breakfast 2007

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center annual breakfast is **Wednesday, February 28th** at the **Seattle Westin Hotel**. Please let either Teri Kertson (tkertson@gmail.com) or Rhonda O'Leary (rhondao@revenuescience.com) know if you'd like to join them for this wonderful event. KCSARC is a dynamic and growing organization whose mission is to "End the Silence" that has kept sexual assault hidden for so long. Suggested donation: \$100.

Nominating Committee

There are lots of positions that must be filled to meet the structure mandated by our Chapter by-laws. That said, we are very aware of the busy lifestyles and time constraints everyone faces; we are not exempt. We must present the slate of officers and directors to the general membership at the membership meeting March 28th. Jana is running a tight ship currently; Rachel intends to continue with that same philosophy -- getting tasks accomplished well and completely, with a minimum of time and energy. We're working smarter not harder

It is already busy-season, so take *just a moment* if you will, please, and let us know how you would like to proceed.

Thank you,

Liz Pray, Linda Landerdahl and Karen Mason, Nominating Committee, and Rachel Petrich, Pres-elect

Community Service: Farestart Guest Chef Night -- July 19, 2007

Save the date to either serve or to be served. Farestart has moved to a newly renovated location at 7th and Virginia. See www.farestart.org for information about the organization and its new facility. More information about the event will be posted in a future newsletter.

The Benefits of Temporary Professionals

As you continue to monitor and adjust staffing and budget plans throughout 2007, keep in mind that using temporary accounting professionals is a savvy and cost-effective way to meet your firm's objectives. Following are just a few of the many advantages of developing a strategic staffing plan that includes the use of skilled interim staff:

You protect the jobs of your full-time employees. Temporary professionals can help you handle both expected demands and unforeseen spikes in activity. By taking advantage of interim accounting professionals on an as-needed basis, you can keep your core staff level consistent while maintaining optimal productivity. This is true in any economic climate. In a recent survey conducted by our company, we asked executives about the biggest benefits of using temporary workers, and the top response: to help avoid overstaffing followed by layoffs.

You keep your team fresh and focused. Staff burnout can lead to low morale, missed deadlines, increased absenteeism, excessive overtime and high turnover rates. All of these issues can cost your organization precious time and money over the short- and long-term. However, bringing in project professionals during workload peaks can take the burden off employees with growing to-do lists, nip burnout-related problems in the bud and help you maintain a more satisfied team.

You get a sneak preview. Many companies use temporary assignments as a way to evaluate candidates for full-time positions. This approach provides a low-risk assessment opportunity. Having a candidate on-site allows you to observe the accountant's skills, performance and personality to determine if he or she is a good fit for your firm. Having the chance to evaluate a professional's work firsthand gives you key insight that is difficult to obtain from just a resume, cover letter or interview.

By working with a specialized staffing firm to augment your team with interim accounting professionals, you'll not only turn fixed costs into variable expenses, you'll keep your core staff happy and productive. And you might even find the perfect candidate for a full-time position.

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.



Strategic Planning Committee Report on Annual Goals:

Program is delivering 10 CPE meetings a year, assuming the speakers as discussed at our last meeting.

Membership: We have approved 19 new members with several new memberships to be approved. We are well on our way to our target of 24.

Member Retention, reconciliation needs to be done between the National Database list of members and our local list of members. We cannot know if our member retention is on target until we know who is in the Chapter!

Member Participation is running at about 60%. That is very far below our goal of 90%.

We felt that all of our Strategies and Action Plans were on target, although some higher level follow-up to ensure that the people responsible for instigating the action knew what, when, where and how they were supposed to act would not be amiss.

The next Strategic Planning meeting will be in April 2007.

Next Journal Deadline:

Wednesday,

February 28, 2007

The Seattle Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants, to serve its members' interests, publishes the Journal monthly.

If you have news, seminars, community meetings, committee meetings or an article you would like published, attach the file (preferably in Word™, single spaced with no tables, boxes or irregular formatting) and send via email to **Marilyn Wilt** at journal@aswaseattle.org.

Calendar of Events

February 28, 2007

Monthly Meeting: College Club

Speaker: Carla Wigen, Vice President, Washington Trust Bank

March 28, 2007

Monthly Meeting: College Club

Speaker: Linda Saunders

Topic: Medical Insurance Fraud

April 25, 2007

Board Meeting: College Club, 5:15pm

April 25, 2007

Monthly Meeting: College Club

Election of Officers & Directors

May 23, 2007

Monthly Meeting: College Club

Guest Night

Recognition of 65th Anniversary

May 31 – June 2, 2007

NW Regional Conference: Spokane

June 27, 2007

Monthly Meeting: College Club

Installation of Officers & Directors

ASWA Mission Statement

The mission of the American Society of Women Accountants is to enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional, and economic potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession.

ASWA Claim Statement

For women who seek advancement in the accounting profession, ASWA is a professional membership organization that provides the leadership skills required for success. ASWA provides experienced mentors and a supportive, non-threatening environment to practice business management and establish a professional reputation among peers.