



American Society of Women Accountants

FORTY-FIRST ENTRY

Volume 59, Issue 6

February 2009

President's Message

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ASWA Members and Friends:

A special thank you to Caryl Ehler for putting together our annual tax update. A lot of great information was provided to assist us in preparing 2008 tax returns and in developing tax strategies for 2009 and beyond.

February 24th is Student Activities night including the raffle of the Becker CPA review class. Kathy Burzynski has put together a terrific event to introduce students to our organization including speakers from Metavante and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

In addition, we already have a variety of corporate sponsors lined up for this event: Johnson Controls (3), Fiserv (2), Actuant (1), Accountemps (2), Devry University (1) and E & Y(2). Cost of Sponsorship is \$50 which covers a dinner for one, a 3 minute company promotional discussion, and a display area during networking time. If you have additional companies that may be interested in participating, the sponsorship form is available on our website: www.aswamilwaukee.org or by contacting Kathy Burzynski: Bur@BurzynskiES.com (262) 335-0763.

There are still numerous ways as a member or friend of the organization that you can support this event.

1. Attend and invite other guests including students, co-workers, friends
2. Donate raffle prizes – please bring them to the February meeting - Chris Yard will coordinate. Please let her know by Feb. 12th if you would like to be listed as donor in the program.
3. Have a company or individual donate a big ticket item for a silent auction (Value of \$45 or higher) – Let Kathy know ahead of time so that it can be listed in the program.
4. Help with setup prior to the event – timeframe anytime between 4:45 – 5:30 - let Kathy know if you are available.
5. Donate directly to the scholarship fund. The scholarship donation form is included in the bulletin.

Please take an opportunity to introduce yourself to two new members, Rachael Nork and Krista Panko and to Betty Kroll, a renewing member. Welcome!

Janet Sargent has been putting together our 2009-2010 Board. Please consider getting involved in the organization by volunteering to serve in one of the open positions. Being on the Board allows you the opportunity to develop and polish your leadership skills. It is a great resume builder especially in these economic times. It also enhances your networking circle and allows you develop new friendships. Please contact Janet or myself for additional information on the open positions.

If you have an issue or concern, please feel free to contact me at LSteinberg2@wi.rr.com (note new e-mail address) or 262-821-1861. See you at the February meeting.

Linda

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ASWA Mission:

The mission of ASWA 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.

To learn more about us, go to www.aswa.org or www.aswamilwaukee.org.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM**Don't Forget Student Night February 24th!**
You Don't want to miss it!

We are excited to have Peter Henrikson from Metavante Corporation and Melody Wolske, CPA from PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP as our guest speakers!

In addition to our guest speakers we are going to have representatives from some of Wisconsin's most prestigious companies including: Johnson Controls, Fiserv, Actuant, Ernst & Young, and many more!!

New this year, we are going to have a silent auction of some fantastic prizes include a certificate for *designer shoes* valued at \$200!!! This year one very fortunate student is going to **win a Becker CPA Review course** valued in excess of \$2000 (courtesy of Becker Review)!! And back by popular demand is our raffle. As always - ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!!

Be sure to sign up today!

There are still a few spots available **Company Sponsorship** – contact Kathy Burzynski if you would like your company to be represented on Student Night!

Wanted: Additional prizes for raffle drawing and our silent auction – contact either Kathy Burzynski at Bur@BurzynskiES.com or Chris Yard at chrismke@hotmail.com.

If you are able to help with set-up please contact Kathy Burzynski.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Our Chapter has recently received applications for membership for three new members.

Rachael Nork is a financial recruiter working at CFS/Virchow Krause.

Krista Pankop is a CPA who also works at Virchow Krause as a partner in the audit area.

Betty Kroll is re-joining the chapter after having been away for a few years. Betty is currently working at Radke & Schlesner, S.C. doing tax, cost and general accounting.

Krista and Betty were at our last meeting, and Rachael hopes to be at Student Night in February. Please be sure to welcome them all to the organization! We're very happy to have each of you on board.

Sue Christensen
Membership Chair



ENTERTAINMENT '09, GOLD C BOOK, AND FALL EDITION POCKET PEELER SALES

Even though our fundraising sales are now over we still have 1 Entertainment '09 Book for \$35, 2 Gold C Books for \$15 each, & 1 Pocket Peeler for \$10 available for sale with 100% of the cost going to profit for our group. If you haven't bought one yet this is your last chance to get one before they're gone! They will be at the February 24th meeting but if you would like to purchase one before the meeting just contact me at the number below so we can arrange how to get one to you. Thanks for everyone's efforts for our fundraising sales this year!

Ann Neshek

Fundraising Chair

E-mail: fundraising@aswamilwaukee.org

Phone: (414) 443-1911

Address: 1317 S. 121st Street, West Allis, WI 53214

ASWA Milwaukee Chapter 41 Slate of Officers and Board Members For Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Standing for Election April 28, 2009

OFFICERS

President	Sue Jaeckel
Immediate Past President (ex officio)	Linda Steinberg
Recording Secretary	Catherine Yekenevicz
Corresponding Secretary	Kathy Burzynski
Treasurer	OPEN (currently held by Cathy Yekenevicz)
Vice President – Program	Janet Sargent/Sheila Robak

BOARD MEMBERS

Program – Reservations	OPEN (currently held by Sue Jaeckel)
Publicity	Chris Yard
Membership	OPEN (currently held Sue Christensen)
Fundraising	Ann Neshek
Webmaster Chair	Wendi Hall

COMMITTEES (not elected positions)

Scholarship Chair	Sue Heaton
Scholarship Trustee	Sue Christensen
Scholarship Trustee	Jean Williams
Student Night	OPEN (currently held by Kathy Burzynski)
Member Education/Legislation	Caryl Ehlert



invites **all** Accounting and Finance Students (men **and** women) to

Student Night

Tuesday, February 24th, 2009

Klemmer's Banquet Center

10401 West Oklahoma Avenue, West Allis

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun informative evening and begin sketching the road map of your career!

Networking with Sponsors from Milwaukee Area Businesses!

Raffle for **prizes** including a **Becker CPA Review* scholarship!**

Excellent speakers!

Speakers:

Peter Henrikson, – Metavante

Preparing yourself for your career in accounting, finance and beyond!

Melody Wolske, CPA – PricewaterhouseCoopers

Insights into dynamic careers in public accounting!

Contact Kathy Burzynski for more details at (262) 335-0763 or Bur@BurzynskiES.com

RSVP BY 02/16/2009

*Scholarship recipient must register for the course by August 24, 2009!

Make your checks payable to **American Society of Women Accountants** (Members \$22, Students \$19, Guests \$24)

Return registration form with payment to:

Kathy Burzynski

Burzynski Employment Solutions, LLC

6394 Scenic Drive East

West Bend, WI 53095

Name: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Company Sponsorship Form Student Night

Tuesday, February 24th, 2009

Klemmer's Banquet Center

10401 West Oklahoma Avenue, West Allis

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Cost of Sponsorship is \$50 which covers dinner for one, 3 minute company promotional discussion, and display area during networking time.

Please list the number of Company Sponsors that will be attending.

Company:

Name of Individual:

Title:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Name of Individual:

Title:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Name of Individual:

Title:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Checks should be made out to ASWA and mailed to:

Kathy Burzynski, CPC

Burzynski Employment Solutions, LLC

6394 Scenic Drive East, West Bend, WI 53095

Bur@BurzynskiES.com

(262) 335-0763

Four Year Scholarship Recipient Named

We are pleased to announce our 4-year scholarship recipient for the 2009/2010 school year from the Dorothy Philippi Scholarship Fund.

The winner of \$1,500 scholarship is Brittany Rowe. Brittany began her college life at Indiana University, and is now attending UW-Milwaukee, with an expected graduation date of spring 2010. While at UW, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA in accounting as well as a 4.0 overall. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi and the National Honor Society, and is on the Dean's List. She is also working part-time while attending school. Brittany's essay is what sold us though. Her early college experience was filled with challenges, and she had to make some life changes. She was lucky enough to find a dedicated mentor at the company she went to work for, and took full opportunity of the chances she was given to succeed. After she graduates, Brittany hopes to work at an accounting firm for a few years, then become an accounting professor. In her words, "In teaching, I hope to change lives like Dawn (her mentor) changed mine." We have complete confidence that she will do so!

Brittany is planning on attending our student night meeting in February, so please introduce yourself and congratulate her on her determination and success.

As always, thank you to our members who work to raise money to fund the scholarships. We appreciate the chance to provide scholarships due to the commitment of our members!

The Scholarship Committee

Sue Heaton, Chairperson

Jean Williams, Trustee

Sue Christensen, Trustee

Be more than a number, more than just a name on a list - be a presence and a force in ASWA Milwaukee Chapter 41!

It's time to ask yourself "What will I do to make ASWA stronger in the coming year?" Really, each member needs to be part of the energy of the chapter in order for the chapter to give back to the members.

I have enjoyed being Treasurer for the last two years (and a good number of times before that) but it is much better to rotate that responsibility than to let it sit on the desk of one person too long. And of course, we're all accountants in some way, so this particular task should be familiar territory!

So give it some thought, and decide what your official work in the chapter will be for the next year. And if you are interested in being Treasurer, let our President, Linda Steinberg, know ASAP so that we can get the transition going smoothly.

Officers, Board Members and Chairs

Officers

President:	Linda Steinberg President@aswamilwaukee.org
Immediate Past President:	Janet Sargent (ex officio)
Recording Secretary:	Valerie Sheldon RecSecretary@aswamilwaukee.org
Corresponding Secretary:	Sue Press CorSecretary@aswamilwaukee.org
Treasurer:	Cathy Yekenevicz Treasurer@aswamilwaukee.org
Vice President-Programs:	Sandi Chase VPresident@aswamilwaukee.org

Board Members

Program Reservations:	Sue Jaeckel Reservations@aswamilwaukee.org
Publicity:	Christine Yard PR@aswamilwaukee.org
Membership:	Sue Christensen membership@aswamilwaukee.org
Member Retention:	Rhonda Fritz members@aswamilwaukee.org
Fundraising:	Ann Neshek fundraising@aswamilwaukee.org
Website Chair:	Wendi Hall webmaster@aswamilwaukee.org

Committees (Not elected & Nonvoting)

Student Activities:	Kathy Burzynski student@aswamilwaukee.org
Member Education:	Caryl Ehlert Education@aswamilwaukee.org
Scholarship Chair:	Sue Heaton scholarship@aswamilwaukee.org
Scholarship Trustees:	Sue Christensen and Jean Williams

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Friday, March 6, 2009

If you have anything you would like to submit please send an e-mail Sue Press at spress@schlitzpark.com or gpress@centurytel.net. If you have any questions, you can contact Sue at 414-272-6302 or 262-495-8611.



ASWA Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009

Location: Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Time: Social 5:30, Dinner Promptly at 6:00, Program Promptly at 7:00
Fees: Members \$22, Retired Members and Students \$19, Guests \$24

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entrée</u>	<u>Program Topic/ Speaker</u>
February 24, 2009	<i>Family Style</i> Pot Road of Beef Baked Chicken	Student Activities Night
March 24, 2009	Roasted Artichoke Ravioli/Pesto Chicken Cordon Bleu Burgundy Marinated Steak	Tips on Career Planning, Effective Resumes, Interviewing <i>Kathy Burzynski, CPC, Owner/Consultant</i> <i>Burzynski Employment Solutions, LLC</i>
April 28, 2009	Shrimp with Vodka Sauce Chardonnay Chicken Sirloin Steak	TBD <i>Election of Officers</i>
May 26, 2009	Stuffed Filet of Sole Beef Stroganoff Chicken Kiev	TBD
June 23, 2009	Baked Chicken Breast Garlic & Herb Pasta NY Strip	TBD <i>Installation of Officers</i>

Please call Sue Jaeckel at 262-255-2179 or by e-mail to Reservations@aswamilwaukee.org or sjaeckel@wi.rr.com by the Thursday before our meeting to make a dinner reservation.

Please advise if you wish the alternate Vegetarian Steamed Vegetable Entrée instead. Guests are always welcome at our meet-

PERMANENT RESERVATION LIST: (Call in ONLY if you wish to cancel!)

Kathy Burzynski	Sue Christensen	Rhonda Fritz	Wendi Hall	Susan Hallberg
Sue Heaton	Sue Jaeckel	Linda Steinberg	Vivian Moller	Ann Neshek
Cheryl Pfundtner	Sue Press	Sheila Robak	Valerie Sheldon	Catherine Yekenevicz

PER EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION, any member who makes a reservation by the deadline, or any member on the permanent reservation list who fails to cancel their reservation by the deadline, will be billed for their meal. Anyone wishing to be added to or deleted from the permanent reservation list may contact Sheila Robak. Please note that by placing your name on this list, you are responsible for paying for the meal from every meeting. If you are not able to attend, please call or email by the previous Friday and you will not be responsible for payment.

Standard Mileage rate for 2009

For 2009, the standard mileage rate for the cost of operating your car for business use is 55 cents per mile.

Filing Location Changed

The Internal Revenue Service announced today that taxpayers in Delaware, Illinois, New York and Rhode Island who file paper income tax returns will send them to different processing centers this year.

Taxpayers in Delaware, New York and Rhode Island will now send their tax returns to the IRS Kansas City Service Center in Kansas City, Mo. Taxpayers in Illinois will now send their tax returns to the IRS Fresno Service Center, in Fresno, Calif.

Tax Tips

The Internal Revenue Service is offering a daily series of Tax Tips for the 2009 federal tax filing season that began this month.

Tax Tips offer concise, useful information on topics affecting millions of taxpayers. More than 70 tips on federal taxes will be available with a new one for each business day until the April 15 tax filing deadline.

Taxpayers can receive new text-based Tax Tips via email when they are published by subscribing through the [e-News Subscriptions](#) page on IRS.gov. When subscribing, the taxpayer will receive a confirmation message by e-mail that he or she must respond to in order to confirm the subscription. Other list serves available on IRS.gov include Guidewire, which distributes IRS guidance, and Newswire, which distributes IRS press releases.

Recovery Rebate Credit

The recovery rebate credit is a one-time benefit for people who didn't receive the full economic stimulus payment last year and whose circumstances may have changed, making them eligible now for some or all of the unpaid portion. Generally, a credit adds to the amount of your tax refund or lowers the amount of taxes owed. Therefore, the amount you receive for the recovery rebate credit will be included as part of your refund, as shown on your tax return.

You May Be Eligible

People who fall into the categories described below may be eligible for the recovery rebate credit this year:

- Individuals who did not receive an economic stimulus payment.
- Those who received less than the maximum economic stimulus payment in 2008 — \$600 per taxpayer; \$1,200 if married filing jointly — because their qualifying or gross income was either too high or too low.
- Families who gained an additional qualifying child in 2008.
- Individuals who could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return in 2007, but who cannot be claimed as a dependent on another return in 2008.
- Individuals who did not have a valid Social Security number in 2007 but who did receive one in 2008.

How to Get the Recovery Rebate Credit

You need to claim the recovery rebate credit on Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. The instructions for these forms will show you which lines to use. Unlike the economic stimulus payment, the recovery rebate credit will be included in your tax refund for 2008 and will not be issued as a separate payment.

You'll need to have the amount of your Stimulus Payment from last year so you can figure out whether or not you're eligible for the Recovery Rebate Credit.

How Can I Find This Amount?

To use the IRS secure online tool to find the amount of your Economic Stimulus Payment from last year, you'll need the following information from your 2007 tax return:

Your Social Security Number

Your 2007 Filing Status

Number of Exemptions claimed your 2007 tax return

Below is the link to go directly to the IRS site to check on the stimulus payment information.

<https://sa1.www4.irs.gov/irfof/IRServlet?app=IRACTC&selectLanguage=en>



Steps to Recession-Proof Your Job

Given the severity of the current economic crisis and rising unemployment, even those currently employed may feel like there's no truly safe harbor. News of major layoffs, corporate restructurings and bankruptcies make "job security" seem like an oxymoron. Rather than get caught up in the speculation about possible doom-and-gloom scenarios, however, the most savvy professionals will resolve to take a fresh, objective look at their professional skills and experience and apply them to weathering the storm.

No one knows how long the recession will last or what the future holds. But if you look at past downturns, it becomes clear that those who made it through before displayed specific behaviors and made deliberate decisions that helped them endure. Recession survivors understand that their professional fortunes are directly tied to those of their employers, so they do whatever is required to help their companies pull through. Consider the following tips to recession-proof your job and enhance your value to your current employer.

Strategy #1: Focus on Your Firm's Bottom Line

In a recession, the finance function becomes even more important as firms seek to cut costs and improve efficiencies. Companies will naturally value employees who find new ways to save money. If there's been a hiring freeze or accounting staff has already been reduced, you could volunteer to take on additional responsibilities that do not fall within your formal job description. Flexibility and adaptability reinforce your professionalism and commitment to the company.

Don't wait for your manager to ask you for suggestions — show that you understand the challenges the firm faces by proactively devising less-expensive ways to get the job done. Consider all of the functions in your department and determine which are most critical to the company's bottom line. These are the areas where you can provide the most value. If yours is a small company that has been outsourcing payroll, for example, offering to take on that type of project will save your firm money and increase your value to the company.

Strategy #2: Work Smarter and Harder

To make yourself more indispensable, display a can-do attitude and the willingness to pitch in by putting in extra hours or being responsive to your colleagues' requests for assistance. If you have special expertise in specific accounting software or new government regulations, be sure to make yourself the go-to resource for your firm. Cultivate a reputation as an employee who excels at his or her own job while enabling others to perform at peak levels as well.

Stay focused on producing consistently high-quality work and meeting deadlines. Try not to get distracted by talk of what may or may not happen, and above all, resist the urge to add your opinions to the rumor mill. Gossiping with co-workers may help you blow off steam and alleviate your anxieties in the short term, but it could cause management to perceive you as a negative influence instead of a team player.

Strategy #3: Shine a Light on Your Accomplishments

Make sure your manager and other senior professionals know the value you bring to the firm. You don't have to brag; simply let your supervisor know what you're doing to help. One of the best ways to do this is to provide a weekly project update that fully explains your contributions. For example, instead of saying you "helped complete the audit by deadline," let your manager know you "identified five key areas where basic expenditures could be reduced by 25 percent to 50 percent."

Enhancing your visibility on a broader scale is essential. At interdepartmental meetings, for example, speak up and make a meaningful contribution to the discussion. Network within your company by getting to know those in other departments. Your success isn't just about what you know but whom you know.

Strategy #4: Update Your Skills

Professionals with outdated skills or inadequate experience are usually among the first to be let go during recessions. In contrast, those with the most current and essential professional and interpersonal skills have a better chance of surviving layoffs because they can fill multiple roles, require little training or supervision and can collaborate effectively with others.

To become more recession-proof, make ongoing training and skill-building a priority. If you aren't already, aim to become proficient in the latest accounting and finance technologies. Stay abreast of evolving regulatory and compliance issues. Refine your written and verbal communication skills and cultivate your ability to work in diverse teams with individuals from a variety of backgrounds.

Strategy #5: Prepare for Your Next Job Search

It may sound strange to suggest that you look for a new job while you're working hard to keep your current one. But as previous recessions and recoveries have shown, people who think long term are the ones most prepared when conditions improve. Start by updating your resume to include the new roles or responsibilities you've assumed, as well as details about your latest professional accomplishments.

Remember to keep in touch with your potential references. By communicating with these professionals consistently, you'll ensure they can talk about your skills and you'll have their up-to-date contact information should you need it.

Although no single action can fully guarantee your job security, you'll increase your chances of weathering a recessionary environment by taking practical steps to raise your value and visibility. Good workers are highly prized, so being a strong contributor to your company could swing the odds in your favor in the event of layoffs. And if you are fortunate enough to remain at your current job through the course of the downturn, you'll be well positioned for a bright future when business picks up again.

For more career advice, listen to Robert Half's podcast series, The Management Minute, at www.rhi.com/podcasts. **Accountemps** is one of the world's first and largest temporary staffing services specializing in the placement of accounting, finance and bookkeeping professionals. The company has more than 360 offices throughout North America, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and offers online job search services at www.accountemps.com.



Donation Program to Support the Dorothy Philippi Scholarship Fund

This fund is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Background: The Milwaukee Chapter 41 of the American Society of Women Accountants grants up to two scholarships each year to women students who are majoring in Accounting and attending a Wisconsin school. One scholarship, for \$500, will be awarded to a woman in a two-year program who will be entering or already in her second year in the coming spring semester. Another scholarship, for \$1,500, will be awarded to a woman in a four-year program who will be entering her senior year in the upcoming fall semester. The Milwaukee Chapter utilizes a variety of methods to raise funds including direct donations by members, friends and corporate sponsors.

Please consider supporting our scholarship fund at one of the following donation levels:

- **Benefactor Members** – Contributions of \$1,500 or more (this level can be obtained through payments over a three year period, i.e. \$500 commitment per year)
- **Sustaining Life Members** – Contributions of \$125 or more by a Life Member during the year
- **Life Member** – Lump sum contribution of \$500 or more, completed pledge of \$500 or more, paid in four consecutive annual installments (\$125 or more per year)
- **Sponsor Member** – Contributions of \$250 or more during the year
- **Patron Member** – Contributions of \$100 - \$249 during a year
- **Friend Member** – Contributions up to \$100 during a year

In order to make a donation, please print and fill out the attached form. For additional information, please contact Linda Steinberg, Milwaukee Chapter President, President@aswamilwaukee.org or 1-262-821-1861.

JOB CHANGE? ADDRESS CHANGE? NAME CHANGE?

There is no better time to update your contact and/or employment information in the ASWA directory – than now! Just visit www.aswa.org to edit your own information anytime.

Here is the process:

1. Go to www.aswa.org.
2. Click on "Members Only". Sign in using your last name and member ID (if you don't know your member ID, contact Sue Christensen at membership@aswamilwaukee.org).
3. Do a "Member Search" for yourself.
4. Click on "Edit My Profile"

Not only will this help you get your renewal notice, but it is also helpful during the year so that we can get in touch with you if we need to. Thank you for your help!

Dorothy Philippi Scholarship Fund Donation Form

Please indicate the donation category:

- Benefactor \$1,500
- Benefactor Installment \$500 (3 year commitment)
- Life Member \$500
- Life Member Installment \$125 (4 year commitment)
- Sustaining Life Member \$125
- Sponsor \$250 or more
- Patron \$100 - \$249
- Friend (under \$100)

Please check (as appropriate)

Employer Gift Matching Form is enclosed

Please send donation receipt to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail address _____

Contribution:

in honor of _____
 in memory of _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to ASWA Milwaukee Scholarship Fund and mail to:

Catherine Yekenevicz
 2330 Chestnut Street #85
 West Bend, WI 53095-2989

NEW MEETING PLACE?

While Klemmers has been our meeting location for the past few years, it is always worthwhile to check into other meeting places. If you have any suggestions of places to meet starting in August of 2009, please let me know and I will check them out. sjaeckel@wi.rr.com or 414-871-9040 (work) or 262-255-2179 (home).



FORTY-FIRST ENTRY

American Society of Women Accountants
c/o Susan L. Press
W5151 Young Road
Eagle, WI 53119

aswamilwaukee.org

The mission of ASWA 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.