

THE PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

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NEW BEGINNINGS

Matthew C. Lewis, PA, EA, Delta, CO, PASC President



I hope that all had a good holiday season. My family and I spent much of it traveling to both the hill country of Texas, near San Antonio, and about a week in Colorado Springs. I am enjoying being back at work so I can recover from our vacation.

As we begin a new year, we also start a new tax season. It seems as though the last season never did end... WOW! There are plenty of "NEW" happenings to be excited about in PASC. The new web site is almost up (and may be finished by this publication date). I've seen the "work in progress" and not only does it look good and easy to navigate but it will simplify our data base maintenance.

Speaking of "New Beginnings", the Four Corners Chapter was approved at our December board meeting. Already

Donna Myers has helped to get another chapter organized in the Fort Collins area, which will be known as the Poudre Valley Chapter. It's wonderful to see the society grow and be presented with new opportunities to serve accountants along the metropolitan areas of the Front Range.

Also in the area of "New Beginnings", there has been talk of new legislation in Colorado dealing with the accounting profession. Exactly what will be enacted into law, it's too early to say. But there is talk from the Governor's office that new regulation is needed. Obviously in the wake of the recent corporate financial reporting scandals, there will be regulatory proposals made. We will continue to monitor the legislative process and keep you informed.

Important Upcoming Seminars

Mile High Chapter

Unemployment & Sales Tax Audits - May, 2003

Pikes Peak Chapter

Round Table - March 19, 2003
Accounting Seminar with
William Haller - May 21, 2003

Western Slope Chapter

Watch this space in March for the
Schedule for 2003

Four Corners Chapter

Watch this space in March for the
Schedule for 2003

Poudre Valley Chapter

Watch this space in March for the
Schedule for 2003

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS SOCIETY OF COLORADO

Seminar/Workshop Calendar 2003

March 19	Tax Roundtable	Colo Sprgs, CO
May	Unemployment & Sales Tax Audits	Denver, CO
May 21	Accounting Seminar (William Haller)	Colo Sprgs, CO
June 8	PASC Leadership Retreat	Ft Collins, CO
June 9-11	Annual Convention & Accounting Forum	Ft Collins, CO
September 17-18	NCPE Corporate / Partnership Seminar	Denver, CO

For more information on PASC events, Call
(303) 457-4451 or (800) 578-4451 or visit our
website <http://www.coloradoaccountant.org>

NCPE 1040 Tax Seminars - Fall 2003

November 5-6	Grand Junctn, CO
November 6-7	Durango, CO
November 18-19	Colorado Spgs, CO
November 19-20	Denver, CO
December 3-4	Denver, CO

NSA Calendar of Events for 2003

May 16-18	Board of Governors Meeting	St. Petersburg, FL
Aug 19-23	Annual Convention	Salt Lake City, UT

For more information on NSA events visit the web site
<http://www.nsacct.org>, or call (800) 966-6679



Meet A Member

Ben E. Russell, PA, Glenwood Springs, CO President, Western Slope Chapter

Born Benjamin Eugene Russell to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin E. Russell in Pueblo, Colorado, "Ben" has been a lifelong resident of Colorado since his birth in 1935. "I love accounting," he has told his friends and clients. "Next to bowling, I wouldn't want to do anything else."

Educated at a series of colleges, including: Pueblo Junior College, Pueblo College, Southern Colorado State College after graduating from Pueblo Centennial High School, Ben has continued his education through seminars, extension courses and Kings Business College. In addition, Ben has stayed current with most of the computerized systems available to the profession all the way from the earliest vacuum tube powered mainframes to today's most sophisticated PC's. In 1961, Ben opened his first tax practice, offering his expertise to the Pueblo community in Tax Preparation, Tax Planning, and Business Consulting. Eventually, he was lured into captive practice with various CPA's, and the private corporate world accepting positions as Controller and Internal Auditor. His last employer was working for the Colorado Mountain College where he established their first Procurement Office. In that capacity, he designed and implemented one of the first Wide Area Networks on the Western Slope including thirteen satellite computer networks which gave CMC their first real-time accounting and procurement control. "I was working over a hundred hours a week during that period." Says Ben, "I enjoyed every minute of it."

In 1985, the call of private practice proved too strong to resist, so Ben resurrected his private practice in Glenwood Springs, Colorado opening an office on Grand Avenue. His offices are still in Glenwood Springs, but he has relocated to the more sedate West Glenwood area. Ben is currently the president of the Western Slope Chapter and has been an active member of PASC since 1992. "I can't think of a better way to serve the

public and make lifelong friends than Public Accounting. My clients are not just customers, they're part of my extended family."

Ben enjoys a good evening with his bowling buddies, traveling through the most beautiful country on earth and learning more about his craft.

Poudre Valley Chapter Formed Lawrence C. Skolds, PA, Ft Collins, CO President, Poudre Valley Chapter

There is good news for Public Accountants in Northern Colorado. At a meeting at the Fort Collins Public Library on December 13, 2002, the Poudre Valley Chapter of The Public Accountants Society of Colorado was formed. A petition was signed and officers were selected at that time. The chapter will be centered in Fort Collins and cover the Northern Front Range area from Longmont in the south to the Wyoming border in the north. Also included is the area from Fort Collins west to Steamboat Springs and east to the plains including the Greeley area.

The chapter is being formed with the idea in mind to provide educational opportunities for accountants in the Poudre Valley area without making them travel to Denver or Colorado Springs. In addition, the chapter will provide an opportunity for networking and interaction with accountants in the area.

We want to make the Poudre Valley Chapter very successful and in order to do that we need your help. Larry Skolds can be contacted at 970-498-0300 if you would like further information regarding the chapter or if you are interested in helping out.



WE ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES - COLORADO

Carlos G. Klinger, PA, Aurora, CO

For my first words of the New Year, I would like to extend a warm greeting to my fellow accountants and wish them a year that brings them health, prosperity, and happiness with their loved ones.

On more than one occasion I have written about the necessity of having a large number of active members in our dear organization. Regrettably in the last four years I have seen very few new “ faces “ in our activities; of course, I don’t refer to the seminars, because there we do see many new “ faces “. But we all know that the organization continues to move from the work of the same people that do the same functions and we hope that they continue for a long time so that we may have time to find their replacements.

Everyone knows that I am small in stature and for that reason, my brain is also small, but in spite of that, on some occasions I put it to work. Although you may not believe me, in the last three years I have thought of a thousand and one ways of getting new members, retaining them, and more importantly getting them to participate in the governing functions of our organization.

I have not been able to find the magic formula that helps us in finding the solution to our “illness”. It was with great hope of solving this problem that I participated in the Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This opportunity permitted me to discover, with much sadness, that this wicked illness that we suffer in Colorado is a cancerous illness in almost all the affiliated states of NSA.

However it was a wonderful experience, because I had the opportunity to get to know other colleagues who like me, are looking for the magic formula that allows us to work in the improvement of our state and local organizations. Without a doubt, we learned, in some measure to develop ourselves

and grow, and indirectly affect the growth and development of PASC and NSA.

It was a day and a half filled with friendliness and the exchange of experiences. The vast majority of the participants learned and picked up valuable knowledge that we will be able to use in our work for the improvement of our state and local chapters.

I don’t exaggerate when I say that the acquired experience has an incalculable value, because they were experiences lived by many of us. We want to do something to increase the number of members and for that end to have a “pool” of members who will be able to carry out the work of greater importance in the benefit of our association.

One of the states conquered the “illness” thanks to the “vaccine” called Education. This is definitely what a large number of chapters, motivated by the quality and effectiveness of their seminars attempt to provide. Once, one has obtained the new member, maintaining them is through the efforts of the newsletter, where their work is highlighted and a prize given for their work. Some chapters, for example gave credit vouchers to be used to pay for seminars (which has been definitely the greatest magnet with the most results to date).

The truth is that I have several ideas to put into practice when the opportunity presents itself and I hope that my colleagues want to work with me in these “projects”, and hopefully have a team that looks for the best ways of increasing our “active” members.

I conclude this with a small note, wishing to all my colleagues and friends that they have the “greenest” of the “green” season. For after tax season, we must dedicate some of our time to our association and work together for the enlargement of the Public Accountants Society of Colorado.

Why Become A Member of PASC?

By Donna G. Myers, PA, Craig, CO
Membership Committee Chair



If you are asking this question, and you are not a member I would like to give you some reasons why I became a member. I joined several years ago because I am isolated here in the northwest corner of our state and the solo accountant in my practice. Therefore, I did not have anyone to bounce ideas off of or give me input. I wanted someone

who has the same interest and accounting and tax problems I have to talk with. Through the Society I have found everyone has their field of expertise and is willing to help. Whether I called, e-mailed, or faxed anyone, I have always gotten a prompt response with an answer or where I might be able to find the answer to my question.

The education provided by the Society is excellent with a wide variety of subjects and updated information. The Society makes the cost for this education as reasonable as possible and through the chapters a convenient location for each area. If you want information or a class on subjects ranging from taxes, accounting, ethics, legislature or anything related that might be valuable to the members, be sure to get a hold of one of the members in your area, and I am sure they will try to arrange a seminar on that subject for you. The Society also has a convention each year in June. It is a good time to intermingle with other accountants from all over the state and a few that are from different states. It is a time to learn, with 12 hours of CPE classes, and a lot of time for fun and relaxation.

For those of you who are members and do not find it fulfilling, may I suggest that you become more involved with the Society. Even if you have only a small amount of time to be involved you can find a place on a committee that might be of interest to you or a place in your chapter that needs your input. You will find that all the people involved are very friendly and helpful and would like your help and your opinions. You will find that you are greatly appreciated. So get involved with your chapter or a committee and enjoy the experience.

I would like to thank Deanna Cross for getting me involved with the membership committee and giving me so much help. There are many others who have helped me in these past years and I know would help anytime. THANK YOU!

We have many good and helpful people involved with this Society and I hope you will join and become involved.

NSA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

William Eskew, PA, EA, ABA, Colorado Springs, CO
NSA Colorado State Director

I hope the holidays were enjoyable for you and your family. I also hope you were able to take time from the work routine to spend quality time with your families and friends. This time of the year has always been special to our family, even though we were not able to spend time with our extended family, our children and grand children were all together for Christmas, and a good time was had by all.

A new year has now arrived, along with a set of new goals and opportunities. If you made New Year's resolutions I hope you have been able to keep your resolves so far. And with the new year comes our favorite time of year, "Tax Season". It's a time when the pace is stepped up, the work day becomes stretched and filled with pressure to get things done. It's a time for less sleep and more midnight oil. I hope you have laid away your supply of midnight oil.

I recently attended the District IX, X & XI State Directors meeting in Las Vegas. The meeting was led by Governors Holoman, Morehead and Fukuhara, and every state was represented except Utah. We spent time in reviewing the recent changes for the State Director's office as well as the changes in the NSA administrative procedures. We also shared the happenings from the various State ASO's and the legislative actions that are taking place.

One of the State Director's roles is to serve as a communication pipeline regarding NSA activities and benefits. The benefit that I would like to remind you of is the Tax Hot Line. The Hot Line answered 4,215 calls during 2002, which is evidence of NSA members increased use of this service. They do a great job and if you are needing assistance in this area you should take advantage of this service. Another area of benefits is the increased line of insurance products for NSA members. Professional Liability coverage, Disability coverage, Long Term Care Insurance and Business Interruption coverage.

I would also like to keep in front of you the need for PASC members to update your credentials. NSA and ACAT have worked very hard to create products that will help you to obtain credentials, whether it is EA, ABA, ATA or ATP. If I can assist any of you with providing more details or just answering questions please contact me. Tele (719) 471-7267 Fax (719) 471-7686 e-mail: weskew@cstaxprep.com

ColoradoAccountant.org

Joanne L. Konrade, PA, EA, Webmaster, Broomfield, CO



Email or chocolate?
Easy; chocolate.
Email or shopping?
Hmmm; email.
Email or telephone?
Really easy; email.

I truly love email; it has been my wonderful office tool for many years. Not everyone wants to hear from me after midnight by phone, but my email will be waiting for them when they have the time and theirs for me.

More and more internet users are becoming aware of the power, versatility and simplicity of using email to communicate with clients, friends, family, vendors, government and more. And I am finding that many people prefer email, as I do, because it is a documented record of conversations which can be accessed at the user's convenience. It can be printed and filed or saved on computer for future reference. Recently, I spent a couple of days converting my address book to the one provided with my email software because I do a better job of keeping it current than any other I've ever used. Mine includes people who don't even own a computer and I have printed it for reference when the computer is turned off.

What is email? Email is an electronic communication of text, graphics, sound and links from the creator to one or more recipients via Internet Service Providers (ISP). If you have an internet connection, you can create and receive email. But, did you know that the email capability you purchase as part of your ISP package is not the only email available to you? There are many places on-line where one can go to get a free mailbox. Hotmail.com is one, Mail.Yahoo.com another, Juno.com yet another and there are countless more.

One little trick some people use to limit SPAM, the google of unwanted emails that are sent to an email address once that address has become public by ordering on-line or participating in a newsgroup, is to get a free email account from one of the many available and use it for placing orders or registering to use a web site. You don't even have to give real information to get one. That keeps your primary email account secret and available to only those you choose to have it.

What is wallpaper? If you want to make your simple email pretty you can use a background, sometimes called wallpaper. One warning about decorating your email, sending graphics, sound, attachments and wallpaper is that these additions all add size to the email file you are transmitting and the recipient is receiving. In a perfect world, everyone would be using high-speed services but this isn't a perfect world. When checking the speed of my

connection by pointing to the double TV screen icon designating I am on-line, I find I am connected at 49,333 bps or bytes per second. Check yours. Your service, modem and the quality of the telephone lines (if used) which bring service to your computer all play a part in the speed of your connection. There are times when I am very busy and someone has sent me a very large file that I would rather not waste the time receiving. (We'll talk about email etiquette later.) Although often very cute, sometimes wallpaper makes it more difficult to read the text. So, decorate carefully.

What is an attachment? Here's the real heart of the power of email. You can attach any file or files to an email. I recently sent an Excel file containing a client's General Ledger to one of the shareholders who had been very ill and unable to participate in the books for most of the year. He received the email, saved the Excel file to his computer and worked on it at his convenience. He later emailed me a list of entries he wanted to reclassify and was able to make his appreciated contribution to the business books.

It is possible to send or receive a file which the recipient can not access because they don't have the necessary software. If you send someone a .pdf file as an example, and they don't have Adobe Acrobat installed on their computer, they will not be able to open the file you have sent.

What is a forwarded email? Very simply, it is email which someone has received and forwarded to another recipient. If you receive an email which has been forwarded from one person to one or more recipients and then forwarded again and again, you will see a real mess that requires digging down many layers to find the original message. Or you may see a message with many carat >>>>>>> symbols before each line of text. Each carat represents the number of times the message has been forwarded before you received it. (We'll talk about email etiquette later.)

What is To, CC and BCC? The recipient or recipients "To" is visible to all who receive the email as is the "CC" or carbon copy. But the "BCC" or blind carbon copy is a nifty technique. You can send an email "To" yourself and list all other recipients as "BCC". The only name that will be visible to all who receive the email will be yours. This may have an application when sending many clients the same email while protecting the privacy of those who will receive it.

What is Reply and Reply to All? Reply is your answer to the person who sent you the email, regardless of how many others received it besides you. Reply to All is when your answer is sent to everyone who received the original email besides you, even if they received it as blind carbon copy recipients and you don't really know to whom you are replying.

ColoradoAccountant.org Continued

What is Spell Check? It is only the most wonderful email tool ever created. It works the same as Spell Check on your "Word" or similar word processing software. I used to be able to spell but that part of my brain has dried up along with the part that used to do simple math before the calculator became an extension of my right hand. It will not catch misspelled words that are truly words such as the words you are reeking know. Some day, catch Bob Cross alone and ask him what word his Spell Checker missed that gave us all a giggle.

What is a Draft? It's an email in progress. Each time I save the email I am creating, it is placed in the Drafts folder for editing or to be sent at a later time.

Now, let's talk about email etiquette. Always do the following as the originator of an email:

Put something in the "Subject Box".

If you are going to send a large file, ask permission in advance. Sign your email and provide the recipient with alternative ways to contact you. Advertising is permissible below your signature. Use your best grammar, spelling and punctuation so the recipient has the easiest time possible understanding your message.

Create additional messages for unrelated topics. Keep your business messages short and to the point.

When forwarding email, take the time to clean it up. The easiest and most appreciated way is not to forward at all. Rather highlight the text you wish to repeat and press CTRL+C. This will "copy" it to your clip board. Begin a new email and press CTRL+V. This will "paste" it from your clip board into the new email. Then delete those messy little carets.

Always do the following when responding to an email:

Respond promptly.

Leave enough of the original email so your response makes sense and remove the rest. Then respond below the original email message, not above. That's called "top posting" and it's difficult to follow the flow when several responses occur.

Answer all the questions in a reply; not just one or two.

Be patient with those who have less experience at email than you.

Never do the following:

Leave your Caps Lock on. IT IS PERCEIVED AS SHOUTING!!!!!!

Forward a chain letter. The email fairy will get you for this one.

Respond to SPAM. It will only confirm to the sender that he has reached a working account.

Send anything in email which you wouldn't want to see in tomorrow's newspaper.

Email has made my tax season more productive. I can always be reached at Joanne@jobird.com Email me.

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From the Governor's Desk

Andrew T. Morehead, CFP, ATP

NSA Governor, District IX



In my last column, I promised more from the fall NSA Board meeting, but as usual, events have overtaken my good intentions.

On this same page is the full text of a Resolution on Accountability approved by the Board of Governors in early January with signature by President Krieger expected by the time you read this newsletter. It speaks for itself.

Colorado state society President-elect Bob Cross of Colorado was the leading proponent of this initiative and deserves the credit for its drafting and coordination to the point of Board approval. An excellent effort, which deserves thanks from all of us.

RESOLUTION ON ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, recent scandals involving public corporations and their auditing firms have required action by the United States Congress and accompanying actions and proposed actions by legislative bodies of state jurisdictions across the country; and

WHEREAS, these actions have made and continue to make a significant impact on the profession of public accountancy at all levels of practice; and

WHEREAS, these issues have become focal points for the news media at national, state and local levels; and such coverage has resulted in an erosion of the public trust; and

WHEREAS, the National Society of Accountants recognizes that public trust is an indispensable element in maintaining respect for the time-honored profession of accountancy; and

WHEREAS, the National Society of Accountants recognizes its duty as the premiere representative of accounting professionals who service small business and individual entrepreneurs at the national level and in fifty-four jurisdictions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Society of Accountants act immediately to enhance protection of the public, restore the public trust and defend the practice rights of its members and the members of its Affiliated State Organizations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the National Society of Accountants is hereby directed to initiate the following actions and to issue press releases as appropriate regarding such initiatives:

Resolution on Accountability, continued from Page 8

ONE: Undertake an immediate and thorough reevaluation of the code of ethics and rules of professional conduct for the National Society of Accountants and its credentialing affiliate, the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation and recommend to its Affiliated State Organizations that they also examine their ethical codes and rules of professional conduct.

TWO: Provide a mechanism whereby the National Society of Accountants offers cooperative technical advice to Congress and state legislatures pertaining to accountability issues as demanded by current circumstances.

THREE: Announce to the national press that the National Society of Accountants' Peer Review Program is substantially equivalent to that of the AICPA model and provides an avenue whereby small business accountants may readily and inexpensively meet the peer review requirements imposed by various state accountancy boards; and to aggressively pursue a course of action that will ensure that the Peer Review Program of the National Society of Accountants is widely available and recognized throughout all jurisdictions.

FOUR: Develop constant and durable relationships with the Small Business Administration, the Independent Bankers Association, other bodies representative of the credit industry and national associations representing small business to adopt standards applicable to tax basis financial statements and disclosures accompanying those statements. Simultaneously, the Accounting Standards Committee of the National Society of Accountants shall seek opportunities for alliances within the credit industry to support the newly approved Tax Accounting Standards for Small Business as espoused by the Tax Accounting Standards for Small Business Board.

FIVE: Expand the mission of the State Regulation and Oversight Committee of the National Society of Accountants to include identifying state-specific issues and concerns that follow passage of The Sarbanes-Oxley Public Company Accountability Act of 2002 and empower that committee to actively seek participation by Affiliated State Organizations in developing and offering cooperative technical advice to state legislatures on matters pertaining to accountability within the accounting profession.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of January, 2003.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS

Signed by Harold F. Krieger, Jr.

Harold F. Krieger, Jr., President

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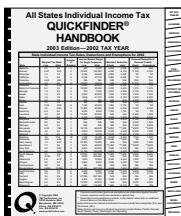
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