

THE PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Bi-Monthly

March - April 2003



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Thoughts From The President's Desk

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



Here we are near the end of another busy tax season. I hope that you are having a prosperous season and that these last few weeks will not be too strenuous on you. If you are like me, you will be ready for a break from the demands and pressures of the last few months. We always close for a few days at the end of tax season. Shouldn't that be a "National Holiday" for accountants? I am looking forward to spending a few days with my family recuperating.

I know that this is probably not the time that you will be planning when and how to get your continuing education requirements met, but when you do, consider the opportunities that are offered by PASC. In June we will be having our annual statewide convention, featuring 12 hours of CPE in accounting as well as the Leadership conference, the Installation of Officers banquet, golf and other activities. Each of our six chapters will be offering various opportunities on a variety of topics. In the late summer and fall we will be having

the 1040 – Individual Income Tax Update seminars as well as the Business Income Tax Workshop covering Corporations, Partnerships, and Limited Liability Companies. These workshops will be held at various locations around the state. If you have a topic that you would like covered in a seminar, contact a member of our education committee, one of the officers or board members. We will continue to do our best to provide you with education that is both relevant and timely in the changing and challenging world of our profession.

In August, the National Society of Accountants will be having their Annual National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. There are many nationally known speakers and a wide variety of continuing education topics from which to choose. Usually it is too far away for many of us to attend, but with it this close, I hope you will consider joining me there.

Important Upcoming Seminars

Mile High Chapter

Unemployment & Sales Tax Audits - May 2003

Pikes Peak Chapter

Accounting Seminar with
William Haller - May 21, 2003

Western Slope Chapter

Watch this space in May for the
2003 Schedule

Four Corners Chapter

Watch this space in May for the
2003 Schedule

Poudre Valley Chapter

Watch this space in May for the
2003 Schedule

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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
See Insert

June 8

PASC Leadership Retreat Fort Collins, CO

June 9-11

PASC Annual Convention Fort Collins, CO

September 17-18

NCPE Corporate / Partnership Seminar Denver, CO

NCPE 1040 Tax Seminars - Fall 2003

November 5-6

Grand Junctn, CO

November 6-7

Durango, CO

November 18-19

Colo Springs, 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 PASC events, Call
(303) 457-4451 or (800) 578-4451 or
visit our website <http://www>

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

From The Governor's Desk

Andrew T. Morehead, PA, CFP, ATP, Eaton, CO, NSA Governor District IX



I know it is going to happen, but the comparative silence on the NSA email network starting with tax season always startles me. No longer do I have twenty messages waiting every day; now I am fortunate to have two, and one or both of them is just for my information and requires no action on my part.

This year, the quiet may be welcome. Despite the advent of legislative season, I have had no urgent messages on new and unwelcome initiatives. Rather, there has been a notable absence of such accounting reform legislation when many observers, including myself, expected an avalanche of new proposals slamming the accounting profession.

Is it possible that both the legislators and the public recognize that, while there are problems with the survivors that now audit publicly traded companies, there is still accountability and a sense of responsibility on the part of those of us who serve Main Street and not Wall Street?

I like to think so. Perhaps we have established our bona fides after all.

On a different subject, Bill Parrish, Governor of District VII and I attended the meeting in Alexandria of the Finance and Administration Committee (at our own expense, by the way – you can always identify an NSA junkie). There were a number of good matters to report; an NSA investment portfolio that is being actively managed for the better, and some real improvements in

oversight of the NSA budget and financial statement production.

Part of the discussion revolved around the problems with the current NSA database system and its interaction with the website. I have received numerous messages about the problems of using the website. Many of the problems can be traced to the failures in the database system and its inability to interact with the website software. Let me assure you that John Ams, our EVP, and the staff are well aware of the problems, are working on solutions and are expected to have some improvements online by the end of tax season.

Finally, you may have seen the summary NSA financial statement included on Page 19 of the February-March 2003 issue of the National Public Accountant. While correct in all regards, it bothers me because, while it meets the strict requirement of the resolution passed at the last convention, in my opinion it does not include enough information to make it readily understandable to our members. I intend to raise this question at the NSA Board meeting in May. In the meanwhile, as I hope you all know by now, you can reach the State Director or me at any time to ask whatever question you may have on the financials or any other NSA matter of interest to you. So rattle the cage of your NSA State Director. Mine is the next cage along.

Try to survive tax season!

NSA Convention 2003

Salt Lake City, Utah

August 19-23



When I started doing tax returns in 1979, my husband had to learn “tax season survival cooking.” When he began he used two kitchen tools: a teaspoon and a table knife. Imagine peeling a potato or dishing spaghetti with those tools only.

The amazing thing is that this is a man who commands a variety of tools as is evidenced in this shameless plug for the beautiful home he is building: <http://www.jobird.com/pete.htm> . Over the years he has mastered kitchen tools so diverse that he has become a really good and, more importantly, efficient cook.

There are so many wonderful, time saving and amazing tools at our fingertips on the www. Clients and peers alike are often astounded at the information available; much of this information once took a trip to the library or access to a wall of books.

[Mail2web.com](http://www.mail2web.com) is a site where you can retrieve your email no matter what computer you are using. It will ask for your email address and password; then all of the email you have not yet downloaded to your computer will be shown to you. You can read it, delete it, reply to it or forward it to someone else.

[Mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) offers maps, driving directions and satellite photography of the United States. This is a great tool for finding addresses and the best route to drive. You can create your own map such as the one on Pete’s site showing a pinpoint location or you can choose from a number of other icons to enhance your map. The satellite photography is awesome. Enter your address, then zoom in to see what your house looks like from space.

Check the weather anywhere in the world at [wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com) or [weather.com](http://www.weather.com) .

There are a number of “locator” web sites. Try [anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com) or [langenberg.com](http://www.langenberg.com) to find someone. There are selections for locating a person or business if you only have a name, or if you only have a phone number or if you only have an address. This has been a great tool for locating people, verifying addresses and a variety of other uses. Last tax season a friend called and said a new client had dropped off some work but didn’t leave a phone number and was staying with a relative whose name she didn’t have. We were able to get a phone number by searching on the address. A client was doing some skip tracing and had a state and last name. We found the debtor.

Have you used irs.ustreas.gov or any of the individual state sites listed at 1040.com/state.htm ? These governmental agencies have realized the value of making forms, instructions, contact information and a variety of other resources available

to the public on the www. If you rely on these web sites, you may never need to call the government again.

Valuation sites such as nadaguides.com and edmunds.com for new and used vehicles or salvationarmy.org for personal property may be helpful when looking for documentation to substantiate the value of a contribution deduction. Historical stock values may be found at bigcharts.marketwatch.com/historical . Real estate, depending upon the county in which it is located, may be listed on the www such as <http://www4.co.jefferson.co.us/apps/servlet/ats.atsdisplay?search=1> Jefferson County or <http://www.denvergov.org/realproperty.asp> Denver County or <http://www.mitchandco.com/realestate/pitkin/propertySearch.cfm> Pitkin County. As you know, valuation for tax purposes is not always the same as fair market value.

Do you ever need to convert foreign currency to U.S. dollars? Try x-rates.com or finance.yahoo.com/m3? . How about language translation? Here are a few sites for some of the more common languages: world.altavista.com or freetranslation.com and yourdictionary.com . There are other sites for less common language translations; I’ve used one to translate email from a lady who wrote to me from South Africa. Surprisingly, German was similar but many words were still unknown and I was amazed at how many languages there are in South Africa including many small tribal ones.

I never can remember what equals what in distance, volume, weight and more. Here is a converter to take the work out of conversions: onlineconversion.com .

Thank goodness for my spell checker, but frequently I need a real dictionary and thesaurus found at m-w.com/home.htm .

I wanted to find a good “calculator” of what, I’m not quite sure. So my last tool is really two tools in one. The powerhouse of all on-line tools is the search engine, my favorite being google.com . So I went to google.com and entered the word “calculator”. The results were wonderful. You do the same search and you will find the following calculators: mortgage, math, loan, finance, relocation cost of living, salary, love, distance, inflation, UPS, currency, healthy body, astro physical, savings bond redemption, calorie, Electoral College, college financial aid, federal employee retirement, amortization, sunset, tire size, astronomy, IRS withholding, life expectancy, consumer price index, molecular weight, credit card charges, percent change, social security retirement benefit, celestial navigation, galactic extinction and a few jillion more.

If you are not taking full advantage of all the www has to offer, promise yourself one or more private tutorial sessions with someone who can help you become more familiar with the tools available and how to use them. During this tax season, ask your local clients with computer savvy children if one of them would like to earn some money teaching you the basics. Today’s kids are the best resource for this technology. It would be affordable and fun; who could ask for more?

PASC Launches New and Improved Website

Jack D. Dirksen, Executive Secretary, Northglenn, CO



The Public Accountants Society of Colorado is pleased to announce the launch of our new, professionally designed, web site located at:

<http://www.ColoradoAccountant.org>

Some of the features you may find valuable to you as a member are:

1. the ability to edit your own personal information on-line as well as your ability to describe and list your areas of special expertise. Your user name and a password were emailed to you earlier this year. Once you sign in, you may change to a more user-friendly password. If you lost that message, you can quickly and easily have it emailed to the email address that we have on file for you right from the website, or you can call the office (303-457-4451) and we will send it again.
2. the ease you will find in navigating, searching and sorting the information contained in the membership directory and the links of interest.
3. the educational seminar listing and your ability to register and pay dues on a secured server.
4. for those who wish to become members, the ability to apply on-line and much, much more.

The web site has a professional look and feel and will represent PASC to those seeking our services as representative of the professionalism we provide the community.

Please take a moment to check your listing for accuracy. We are relying on members to audit their information, as errors can occur when making a transition such as PASC has in launching this new site. At this important time of year, we all want to be as accessible as possible to clients and potential clients.

You are encouraged to mail or email your personal photo to the administrative office of PASC for inclusion with your listing. Please email your photo attachment and any questions that you may have to:
info@coloradoaccountant.org.

PASC Annual Accounting Forum and Convention

Fort Collins, Colorado

June 8-11, 2003

June 8 - Leadership Retreat

June 9 - Accounting Forum

**June 10 - Annual Meeting
- Golf, Tennis, etc.
- Installation Banquet**

June 11 - Accounting Forum



Meet A Member

Lawrence M. Skolds, PA, EA, ABA, Fort Collins, CO

My practice currently consists of only me. I am planning on expanding to perhaps one part-time employee this year.

I provide write-up services for my clients, Quickbooks set-up and consulting services, payroll, Individual tax preparation and planning, small business (Sch. C, 1065, 1120 and 1120S) tax preparation and planning, and general business consulting services.

Before I decided to make Public Accounting my career, I was managing a restaurant in my hometown, Joliet, Illinois. I did that for 7 years. I was working there when I was finishing up my accounting degree. Once I had the degree in hand, I decided that a job behind a desk was better than the crazy hours that I was working at the restaurant.

Midway through my undergraduate degree, I changed my major from Engineering to Business. I wasn't sure what area I wanted to concentrate on. I registered for Accounting 101 and on the first day of class, the professor told the class that if you didn't understand the basic concepts within the first two weeks, then don't make accounting your major. Well, in that first two weeks of learning about T-Accounts and the basic accounting equation, I realized that I really "got it." The neatness and orderliness of having everything balance really appealed to me, and I was hooked.

I believe my "specialty" is working with small business owners to help them make their business more successful. Whether through tax planning, getting their bookkeeping system set up, or just helping answer a question for them, I get a lot of satisfaction from knowing that I am helping them build a strong business.

In addition, I firmly believe that the three most important things that an accountant can offer his/her clients are honesty, accuracy, and integrity.

I am currently working towards my Masters Degree in Accounting at CSU. In the future, I would like to be able to teach accounting somewhere. The professors I had in college greatly influenced me. I attended a lot of night classes and the teachers were usually practicing Accountants from the area. I always admired the fact that although they had their own practices to worry about they made the time to teach and share their knowledge. I would like to do the same.

I am an avid golfer and an amateur gourmet chef. I love to cook. I make Teriyaki Kabobs that are just as tender as your mother's heart.

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago (Joliet, Illinois to be precise). I attended college at The University of Illinois and at Lewis University, a small school near my hometown. In my final semester at Lewis U., my Advanced Tax professor, Donald L. Cordano, hired me to work in his practice. With the exception of a short stint in the Tax Department of The Northern Trust Bank in Chicago, I worked for Mr. Cordano from 1994 to 2001. Working for Mr. Cordano inspired me to start my own practice. In January of 2001 my wife, Lisa, and I moved to Fort Collins and we have absolutely fallen in love with Colorado. Our first child, Timothy Lawrence, was born on February 4th, 2003. This is really an exciting tax season for me!

Editors Notes: Donald L. Cordano, MBA, MST, EA, of Joliet, Illinois is a long time member of NSA. He currently serves as Chair of the NSA Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees and serves as a board member of the Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT).

Jensen Appointed to Business Advisory Council

PASC member, Leota Jensen of Parker, CO has been appointed to the Business Advisory Council as Honorary Chairman for Colorado by Congressman and Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Leota received notice of the appointment along with a *National Leadership Award* on February 25, 2003.

Expressing his personal thanks, Majority Leader DeLay stressed the critical importance of the input and support that this grassroots effort will be to the economic and tax policy decisions that Congress will be debating. The Business Advisory Council will be conducting meetings in Washington D.C. with Members of Congress and other high ranking officials including a "President's Dinner."

Congratulations Lee, and thanks for your efforts to keep Washington informed of those issues important to PASC members and our small business clients.

In case you didn't know...

In 1996, The Public Accountants Society of Colorado formed a relationship with Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. to offer PASC members a top quality legal services plan at a discounted rate. For 30 years, Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. has provided equal access to justice for families, self employed individuals and small business across the United States and Canada for pennies a day. Simply put, a Pre-Paid Legal plan does for attorney and legal bills, what an HMO medical plan does for doctor and hospital bills.

As a New York Stock Exchange Company with over one million members, Pre-Paid Legal Services is quickly becoming a household name as a revolutionary rock-solid solution to an often inaccessible justice system.

Are you thinking, "I have never used a lawyer"? In reality you have; he just wasn't your lawyer... *think about it.*

Statistics Say:

"You are nearly three times more likely to be in court than you are to be hospitalized." – National Center for State Courts and the American Hospital Association

"Even law abiding American will encounter a legal situation an average of four to six times per year." – National Resource Center for Consumers of Legal Services

The American Bar Association says:

"More than half of all households have a legal situation right now."

"Americans have come to view legal assistance as a necessity. The best way for the majority of Americans to be able to assure themselves of legal assistance when they need it... is through a prepaid legal plan."

Getting legal help for you, your business and your family should not be a difficult financial decision! As a business owner and accounting professional, are you at risk of a lawsuit? What kind of defense can you afford? Do you

recommend that your clients have their Will up to date? When was the last time you updated your family Will?

The PASC's alliance with Pre-Paid Legal Services, allows you to become a member for the group discounted rate of as little as \$14.95 per month (the \$10 enrollment fee is waived). You receive a comprehensive legal service plan that protects your legal rights, protects your business, saves you time and money and provides you and your family peace of mind.

As a trusted financial advisor, you may also see the value of this asset protection for your clients. Call for more details on individual plans and referral/finder's fee revenue.

For benefit questions or to request an application, contact our sales associate, Cathy Cooper:

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Kirk Busby

Senior Tax Specialist
Internal Revenue Service
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(TEC)

We are trying to create a partnering relationship and establish an open line of communication to help your organization's members as well as the IRS. Our purpose at TEC is to find ways of communicating better with the practitioners and ultimately to the public as a whole. Part of the communication is providing information about hot items like the OVCI and then to help with any questions or concerns. The following information is provided in pursuit of our mission.

New Effort In Offshore \$ Schemes

It's time for those involved in abusive avoidance schemes to make things right. A new Offshore Voluntary Compliance Initiative is underway aimed at bringing taxpayers who used offshore payment cards or other offshore financial arrangements to hide their income back into compliance with the tax law. Just as importantly, it will help get the people promoting these deals.

Find out more at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=105689,00.html>

Please feel free to contact me with any of your needs or questions.

MS: 5003-DEN
600 17th St.
Denver, CO 80202
tel: 303-446-1005
fax: 303-446-1997
e-mail: Kirk.A.Busby@irs.gov

ACAT UPDATE

Cyndi Trombly, EA, ABA, ATA, CFP
PASC ACAT Chairperson

We received really good news from the Accreditation Council for Accounting & Taxation regarding the December 13, 2002 exam held here in Denver for Accreditation in Business Accounting. Of the seven people who took the exam, five passed both parts. According to info that one of our candidates received from ACAT, 53% of all people nationwide who took the exam passed at least one part. We had 85.7% who passed at least one part and 71% passed both parts.

Congratulations to our PASC members who have achieved the ABA credential:

Lynne Jansons, PA, ABA, Littleton, CO
Paul Ketcham, PA, ABA, Denver, CO
Barbara Robbins, PA, EA, ABA, Colo Springs, CO

Non-members of PASC who also passed the examination are **LeAnn Canty** and **Joann Drago**. Please note that one person from Fort Collins and one from Colorado Springs came most Saturdays in November and the first weekend in December to attend the study group. All of the passing PAs attended most of the study sessions and it paid off!

We will try to have some study sessions before the next exam in June (see the ACAT press release on the facing page). The study sessions will be in May and will depend on the students' preferences as to where and when. Contact Cyndi Trombly (**303-671-6114**) if you are interested in taking the exam and would like to be part of the study group. If you know of a good meeting place, please call us.

Editor's Note: PASC has a continuing commitment to have our members achieve this credential. Our study groups were discontinued when the material in the examination was not coordinated with the study materials. This study group was the first to be able to use the new study guides and video tapes provided by the National Society of Accountants.



**ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
FOR ACCOUNTANCY AND TAXATION**

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Fax: (703) 549-2984
Email: cnewby@acatcredentials.org

**ACAT TO ADMINISTER EXAMINATION FOR
ACCREDITATION IN ACCOUNTANCY CREDENTIAL ON JUNE 6**

Alexandria, VA (February 24, 2003) – The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation[®] (ACAT) will hold its next Comprehensive Examination for Accreditation in Accountancy on Friday, June 6, 2003 in multiple sites across the United States. The examination is the first step in earning the Accreditation in Accountancy (ABA) credential, the voluntary public accounting alternative to the certified public accountant designation. At a time when the accounting industry is under close consumer scrutiny, the ABA credential offers an important way for independent accounting professionals to convey their technical proficiency and commitment to excellence to the general public.

The ACAT Comprehensive Examination, which is administered nationally only twice a year, establishes a uniform measure of proficiency which employers and clients can use in selecting an accounting, tax and/or financial services professional. The examination tests technical proficiency of candidates in financial accounting, compilation services, managerial accounting, taxation, business law and ethics. Emphasis is on a practical approach to professional accounting services required by small business entities.

Individuals who pass the examination and meet ACAT's experience requirement become Accredited in Accountancy and may use either the Accredited Business Accountant[®] or Accredited Business Advisor[®] (ABA) designation, as permitted by state law. Individuals maintain accreditation through compliance with ACAT's mandatory continuing professional education (CPE) requirements and adherence to ACAT's Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct. Credential holders are listed in the "Find A Professional" section of the ACAT website.

The deadline to register for the June exam is May 1, 2003. The fee is \$150. For more information and/or an examination application, contact ACAT toll-free at (888) 289-7763 or via email at info@acatcredentials.org, or visit the ACAT website at www.acatcredentials.org.

Organized in 1973, ACAT is a nonprofit, independent accrediting body affiliated with the National Society of Accountants in Alexandria, Virginia.

Welcome Our New Members!

January 2002 - February 2003

Helen E. Bird, PA

Active
Avon, CO

Roger Given, CPA

Active
Colorado Springs, CO

Peter J. McNaughton, EA

Active
Denver, CO

Sandra S. Braunlich, PA

Active
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Iva Hauck Girtman, CPA

Non Resident
Lakeland, FL

Marilyn A. Mobley, CPA

Non Resident
Farmington, NM

Marilyn R. Burnside, CPA

Active
Aurora, CO

Patrick J. Hudy, CPA

Active
Aurora, CO

Barbara Moore, PA, EA

Non Resident
Farmington, NM

Gregory Cavanagh, MBA

Active
Durango, CO

Rod Humble, PA

Active
Durango, CO

Marvin Moore, PA, EA

Non Resident
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Lynne Jansons, PA

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Littleton, CO

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Active
Hudson, CO

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Durango, CO

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Associate
Arvada, CO

Judith D. Franklin, CPA

Active
Arvada, CO

John V. Martinez, PA

Active
Littleton, CO

Berta Dee Tangye, PA

Active
Pueblo, CO

New memberships and new chapters this past year are the result of the hard work of our Membership Committee and its chair, Donna Myers of Craig, Colorado.

The Professional Public Accountant

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	Mile High Chapter				
President	Lori Anderson, CPA	(303) 333-7933	We welcome any and all input or articles that you may wish to submit. Mail to 10651 Livingston Drive, Northglenn, CO 80234 or fax to 303-480-1690 or email to dscross@wyoming.com.		
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