

# THE ST. LOUIS LEDGER



*The mission of this Society shall be 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.*

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

We have had a great time at both our planning meeting and our September networking/informational meeting. We have a variety of topics and events planned for 2009-10. If you have not yet been able to attend an event please check out the calendar of upcoming activities. Please think about bringing your accounting or financial friends and/or coworkers to one of our meetings. The meetings are always interesting, offer a chance to learn new things and build your network of contacts.

On October 19-21<sup>st</sup>, the ASWA/AWSCPA Joint National Conference (JNC) will be held in Las Vegas, NV. This is a great opportunity for CPE and networking with women in accounting from all over the country. At this time, it looks as if the St. Louis chapter will be represented by Suzanne M. Basuino and me. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

As always, we have great ideas and great expectations, but it takes the continued support of you, our members, to make these ideas and expectations come to fruition. I encourage you to be involved in our activities and look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please feel free to e-mail me any questions or comments you have for the St Louis chapter and don't hesitate to let me know if you want to help out with anything. My e-mail is [alisadougherty@yahoo.com](mailto:alisadougherty@yahoo.com)

Alisa Dougherty  
2009 – 2010 St. Louis Chapter President

## *2009-2010 Calendar*

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Oct 19-21, 2009    | ASWA Joint Nat'l Conf<br>Las Vegas, NV |
| Oct 28, 2009       | Dinner Meeting                         |
| Nov 18, 2009       | Lunch Meeting                          |
| Dec 16, 2009       | Networking Event/Dress for Success     |
| Jan 20, 2010       | Ethics Dinner Meeting                  |
| Feb 17, 2010       | Dinner Meeting                         |
| Apr 21, 2010       | Dinner Meeting                         |
| May 15 or 22, 2010 | Scholarship Fundraiser                 |
| June 16, 2010      | Networking/Installation Event          |
| June 25, 2010      | S. Central Reg Conf<br>Wichita, KS     |

## *Next Meeting*

Trattoria Branica, 10411 Clayton Rd (Le Chateau)  
St. Louis, MO 63131

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Registration & Networking | 5:30-6:00pm |
| Dinner                    | 6:00pm      |
| Speaker                   | 6:30pm      |

Cost:

Members - \$30 in advance \$35 at the door

Guests - \$35 in advance \$40 at the door

To register, click here: <http://aswastl0910.eventbrite.com>

Join us for an informative tax update presented by our own Linda Paradis, CPA. Linda is a Partner in RubinBrown's Tax Department. She has over 19 years in the accounting profession, with experience in business taxation, including corporate consolidations, mergers and acquisitions, and international tax. Linda has worked with manufacturing & distribution, and technology clients on tax matters involving inventory, accounting methods, FIN 48, research and development tax credits, and usage of net operating losses. Linda assists the firm's SEC, manufacturing and distribution, and professional services clients.

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## *A Tribute*

*By Suzanne Basuino*

Our chapter recently lost one of our greatest cheerleaders. Sue Wolverson passed away September 5, 2009 at the age of 91.

There are many memories I have of Sue from over the many years I knew her. However, like Sue, I will keep this short and sweet. Here is a list of the snapshots in my mind:

- \* Always smiling when welcoming guests and members.
- \* Vigilant following up to get women to attend meetings.
- \* Generous of her time and resources for the St. Louis chapter.
- \* Encouraging women to learn skills through ASWA.
- \* The epitome of the word "mentor".

After the Annual Meeting hosted here in 1997, Sue wasn't as active in the chapter as her health started to decline. She maintained her membership with the help of her daughters Shirley and Nancy. Shirley brought Sue to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon in June. And following in her mother's footsteps, Shirley brought a neighbor who is a CPA to get to know ASWA. Mind you, Shirley isn't an accountant. She is continuing her mother's legacy. That is a tribute to Sue's dedication to the St. Louis Chapter of ASWA.



## **Let's Do Lunch...**

Or drinks, or dinner. One of the major benefits of your ASWA membership is the network of accounting and finance professionals. It's great to get together at the monthly meetings, but it's not always easy to make it there. I encourage you to get together between meetings. The membership directory of the St. Louis Chapter is on the national website. [www.aswa.org](http://www.aswa.org) Go into the "Members" tab. Click on "Members log-in here". Since the website has been updated, you will need your membership number which will be emailed to you if you don't know it. Go down to the ASWA MEMBER SEARCH. You may get the list by chapter or member.

Not sure who to call first? I'm always up for lunch, coffee or anything involving food and conversation. That's Suzanne Basuino - (w) 314-966-6622 or (cell) 314-276-0512 [sbasuino@humesbarrington.com](mailto:sbasuino@humesbarrington.com)

### *Help - I Need Someone*

In homage to the release of the Beatles Remastered Boxset, we need some help. There are opportunities open to plan meetings (get speakers, secure locations, etc.), write for the newsletter, recruit members, etc. Let's showcase your talent.

Interested? Contact: Suzanne Basuino  
[sbasuino@humesbarrington.com](mailto:sbasuino@humesbarrington.com)

*Thank you to Lynnette Lemke and her employer (Tricorp Management Company) for donating the TGI Friday's Gift Certificates to hand out at the September networking meeting. Gift certificates went to ASWA Bingo winners and as attendance prizes.*

*Correction on the Summer newsletter: It was Kimberly Franklin's mother-in-law who passed away not her father-in-law*



## Who's On Board: Treasurer

**Name:** Erica Hallsten

**Accounting Area of Expertise:** Public Accounting - Auditor

**School:** Maryville University, BS in Accounting  
Fontbonne University, MSA in Accounting (still finishing it up)

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my daughter and husband, doing crafts, home projects

**Fun Fact:** My brother and I were born at the exact same time, 11:50am, 18 months apart!

**One thing you would like to do before you die?**  
Go to Italy & Greece

**Weirdest moment at work?** We used to decorate the office at the firm I worked for when there were birthdays. One of my co-workers was turning 40, so we went overboard with the decorations and even decorated the bathroom. It was definitely a weird moment when I walked in the women's rest room and saw my male boss in there hanging streamers and "40" signs! **AWKWARD MOMENT!**

**Anything else exciting to share?** I am leaving in less than two months to go on vacation in Cozumel with my husband and our best friends!! Can't wait!

## The Marathon

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I had signed up to run a half marathon on September 13. 13.1 miles. I have never been accused of being athletic so I must have been under the influence something mystical when I signed up in the first place. In between chores and kids and work, I trained in the few stolen moments I could get.

The first few miles of the race went pretty well. By mile 4, I was slowing down a bit. By mile 6, I was beginning to wonder what made me sign up for this silly thing in the first place. By mile 9, I was beginning to think that walking would not be so demoralizing, others were walking. At mile 11, my sister was there to route me on so I picked up the pace again. Miles 12 and 13 were a mixture of walking and running but I kept going. When I saw the finish line, I couldn't help but sprint to the end because I really wanted it to be over. 2 hours 40 minutes. As I lay in complete exhaustion on the other end of the finish line I decided that this would be a onetime only experience. The physical act of running 13.1 miles may occur only once in my lifetime but the sequence of feelings can be compared to so many other journeys we take in our life: college, studying for the CPA exam, planning a wedding, etc. And for us goal oriented, type A accountants, there is always another "marathon" around the corner that we willingly sign up for.

Lori Reichert  
ASWA St. Louis Chapter Secretary

### 2009-2010 ASWA - ST. LOUIS CHAPTER OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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# Charitable Giving During a Down Economy

By: Maggie Glenney, CPA

Charitable giving during a down economy? It's tough. Cash donations that have been consistent in the past may not be possible this year. However, there are other ways to contribute to charitable organizations without using cash:

- 1) Volunteering time to a charity. Many non-profits may need help with registration at a 5k run/walk or can use assistance with office duties. In addition to the positive feelings that result from giving, there also may be an opportunity to qualify for tax-deductible expenses. The Internal Revenue Service will allow volunteers at nonprofits to deduct expenses related to car and transportation, travel, uniforms and other out-of-pocket expenses from their taxable incomes (these are subject to limitations, so a tax advisor should be consulted).
- 2) Services also can be donated to a charitable organization. These services can range from writing calligraphy on invitations for a formal ball that supports a non-profit or using knowledge or background to assist at a silent auction or trivia night. While the value of the services cannot be taken as a tax deduction, volunteers may qualify for the expenses listed above.
- 3) Those who have lost money in stocks can sell the stocks, give the proceeds to a preferred charity and get two tax benefits in return – netting the capital loss against other capital gains for the current tax year and including the donation as a cash contribution on an individual tax return.
- 4) Although the tax deductions vary, vehicles can be donated to a non-profit. There are different tax forms that need to be completed and rules to be followed if a vehicle is donated, so, again, a tax advisor should be consulted.
- 5) Individuals actually can create a fixed income stream for themselves by establishing and transferring funds to a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. The annuity or trust provides an income stream for a period of time. After this period or upon death, the non-profit receives the assets that produced the income.
- 6) Another option is to give a bequest to a charity and even direct its specific purpose.

For those who would still like to make cash contributions this year, but on a tighter budget, there are additional options:

- 7) During the holidays, donations to the gift recipient's favorite charity can be given in the name of the recipient instead of a gift.
- 8) Individuals at least 70 ½ years in age can make a direct contribution from their IRA to a nonprofit up to \$100,000 if filing single, \$200,000 if filing jointly. This contribution is called a qualified charitable distribution. The amount of the QCD is limited to the amount of the distribution that would otherwise be included in income. Currently, this opportunity is only available for the 2009 tax year.

*Maggie.glenney@rubinbrown.com/ 314.290.3283*

## Dress for Success

As a way to give back to the community, the St. Louis Chapter is going to collect items for **Dress for Success** at the **December** meeting. Please take some time to start going through your closets and setting items aside. Listed below are the guidelines for what the organization accepts. You may also visit the Dress for Success website at [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org).

Dress for Success Midwest is truly a community-based organization. All of our clothing and accessories are donated. We could not provide services to our clients without the support we receive from the community! Thank you in advance for your donation. You are making a difference in the lives of the women we serve!

### **What we Accept:**

Business attire and accessories appropriate to wear to a job interview including:

- Pant/skirt suits
- Jackets/Blazers
- Slacks
- Blouses (especially in white, cream, beige and black)
- Pumps or flats in navy, brown, or black
- Jewelry
- Scarves
- Purses
- Briefcases/portfolios
- Unused cosmetics
- Unused hosiery (knee-highs included) in nude, off-black and coffee

### **We are in particular need of:**

- Plus-sized clothing (size 16 and above)
- Shoes in sizes 9 and above
- Hosiery in all sizes (nude, off-black and coffee)
- Jewelry

Please donate only clothing that you would feel comfortable wearing to an interview yourself. Clothing must be seasonally appropriate (i.e. no wool in the summer), cleaned, on hangers and less than three years old. We do not accept garments in bags. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided upon donation drop-off. We are unable to pick-up donations at this time.

### **Sorry, we do not accept:**

- Used cosmetics
- Used Pantyhose
- Undergarments
- Non-interview appropriate clothing
- Men's clothing

Please note - Donations that are deemed inappropriate or those that are considered excess inventory may be re-donated to other non-profit organizations or sold, with all proceeds being used to fund our programs/client services.

### *The St. Louis Ledger: Now Quarterly!*

The newsletter is officially going to be a quarterly publication – Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. If you have any information that you would like in the newsletter, please send it to [sbasuino@humesbarrington.com](mailto:sbasuino@humesbarrington.com). Please send it print ready so it can just be cut and pasted into the newsletter.

Meeting information will be sent out as flyers. To make reservations this year we will be using Eventbrite – the service that was used for the South Central Regional Conference registration. See you in September!