



American Society of Women Accountants

San Diego Chapter

January 2009 Newsletter

ASWA San Diego Chapter No. 17, Founded 1949

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JANUARY 2009 DINNER MEETING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

January 2009 Dinner Meeting	1
President's Message by Jeanette Ding	2
Tax Planning for 2009 by Sharon Gross, CPA	2
Join ASWA in Las Vegas: 2008-2009 Membership Campaign	2
Article: Succession Planning by Susan Afan	3
Member News	3
Upcoming Events	4

Mark Stengler, ND presents

NATURAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Join ASWA San Diego as we welcome Dr. Mark Stengler, ND as our January speaker. **Mark Stengler N.D.**, is a well known naturopathic doctor, author, and former advisor to Yale University. He is a leading authority on the clinical use of natural medicine. Specializing in the use of natural therapies, Dr. Stengler also has a strong background in the integrated use of conventional medicine. In addition to his clinical and academic work, Dr. Stengler is the author of one of the nation's most read natural health newsletter Bottom Line/Natural Healing. He is the author/co-author of 16 books, including two best sellers, "The Natural Physician's Healing Therapies," and "Prescription for Natural Cures." He is a frequent contributor to leading health magazines, and a popular expert medical source on television, including FOX, CBS and NBC affiliates. He has also been involved in two PBS documentaries on natural medicine: "7 Steps to Perfect Health" and "Supercharge Your Immune System." Dr. Stengler will share with us a self-care guide to treating our health with natural cures. His approach emphasizes preventing disease and optimizing health without undesired side effects. Join us and be healthier in 2009!

Meeting Details:

Thursday, January 15, 2009

ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY

8980 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

858-450-9277

Registration begins at 5:30pm / Dinner served at 6:15pm

MENU:

Choice of: Roasted Chicken, Pub Tenderloin Tips, or Grilled Salmon

Served with Side Salad with choice of dressing

Served with choice of: Chocolate Stout Cheesecake, Carrot Cake, or Ice Cream Sundae

Sodas, Iced Tea, and Coffee are included.

Wine, beer, and mixed beverages are available at happy hour prices until 7:00p.m.

Prepaid Prices: Members & Students with valid ID \$35 / Guests \$40

At the Door Prices: Members & Students with valid ID \$40 / Guests \$45

RSVP to: aswasandiego@yahoo.com

No shows are responsible for and will be billed the At the Door price.

For prepaid pricing, payments must be received by 1/15/09 by mail or www.Paypal.com. Details can be found at www.aswasandiego.org.

Message from President Jeanette Ding

It's a new year, and we are starting to see some light at the end of the economic downturn. I am very encouraged to see the lethargic employment market start to slowly revive. I'm even more excited to hear that one of our members just recently found a great job by referral from another ASWA member! As I mentioned in the last newsletter, many people find a new employment opportunity through a referral from a friend or through networking. If you've been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy, all the more reason for you to come network with professionals in your field! Who you know or meet can help open doors for you!

If you missed the holiday social at Harry's, you really missed out on a fun night of good food, networking, and affordable holiday shopping. It was great to see many new faces as well as long-time members. Stay tuned for news of exciting upcoming social events in the Spring and Summer, too and plan to join us. Definitely mark your calendars for May 21st as we welcome Carol LeBeau from Channel 10 News as our Keynote Speaker for our Public Relations Dinner!

I'm excited to welcome Dr. Mark Stengler, ND as our speaker for our first meeting of 2009 who will help us learn to live healthier, naturally! I look forward to seeing you at the January dinner or an upcoming event. Don't forget to invite your coworkers and friends to earn free opportunity drawing tickets to win great prizes like the free facial we are raffling off this Thursday!

Happy new year!

Jeanette

Join ASWA San Diego in Las Vegas!

ASWA's National Office is sponsoring a new Membership Campaign through May 31st!

For every 10 new members that we add from July 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009, our chapter earns a free conference registration to the 2009 ASWA / AWSCPA Joint National Conference in Las Vegas next fall. We were able to send Stephanie Shehi, Membership Director, to the Dallas JNC last month through a similar membership campaign. Ask her about her experience, and maybe you can help represent our chapter in Vegas next fall! So far this year, we have six new members (since July 1, 2008). We just need a couple more new members before May 31st to earn a free conference registration for next year's Joint National Conference at the Palms Casino in Las Vegas.

TAX PLANNING FOR 2009

By Sharon M. Gross, CPA
Manager, Murrill, Eakes & Company

Several important tax changes are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2009. Each exemption has increased for your federal tax to **\$3,500 for the 2008** tax year and will go up to **\$3,650 for the 2009** tax year. Exemptions for California are also higher this year.

New Standard deduction for your 2008 IRS returns are \$10,900 for married couples filing a joint return (up \$200) \$5,450 for singles and married filing separately (up \$100) and \$ 8,000 for heads of household (up \$150)

The maximum **Hope credit** for the post-secondary education is \$1,800 (up \$150)

If you were an employee but your employer treated you as an **Independent Contractor**, use **new Form 8919, this way your income will be credited to your Social Security record. (do not use Form 4137)**

Another important change in 2009 is that the Standard Mileage Rates

- **Business miles.** The standard mileage rate for the cost of operating your car decreases to **55 cents** per mile for all business miles driven in **2009**.
- **Increase for 2009 to 24 cents** for Medical and Moving expenses.
- **Charitable** organization mileage remains the same at **14 cents per mile** driven in 2009

Southern California - Victims of recent wildfires may qualify for tax relief from the Internal Revenue Service.

The federal government has declared Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and Santa Barbara counties federally-declared disaster areas qualifying for individual assistance.

As a result, the IRS is postponing until Feb. 11, 2009. Call your CPA for details

Recovery Rebate Credit— If you did not qualify or did not receive the maximum amount for the 2008 economic stimulus payment **you may be entitled to a recovery rebate credit when you file your 2008 tax return.**

Congress recently approved a tax credit for first-time homebuyers that can be worth up to \$7,500. The credit, however, acts more like a no-interest loan because it must be repaid to the government over 15 years.

Adoption Benefit Credits have increased for some to \$11,650 for those with incomes below \$214,730.

Traditional IRAs limits & Roth IRAs limits have increased to **\$5,000 for 2008** if deposited prior to April 15th and for those over age 50 and over, it will be \$6,000 catch up contribution limit available.

For more information, or if you or someone you know is seeking expert tax and consulting services please contact Sharon directly at Sharon@mecocpa.com or at 858-455-5400.

Successful Succession Planning

Article submitted by Susan Afan, Senior Regional Manager, Robert Half International

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

— Alan Lakein, author

If you're one of the many baby-boom-age accounting and finance managers planning to retire in the next few years, have you thought about developing a succession plan? Surprisingly, few financial leaders have taken this prudent step. A majority (83 percent) of chief financial officers polled in a recent Robert Half International survey say they have not identified a successor for their positions.

Succession planning might seem like a low-priority endeavor during tough economic cycles, but it's critical to prepare for contingencies — and protect your organization's future — now. By training a protégé to fill your shoes, you'll ensure a smooth transition and provide much-needed stability to your department during times of change. Here are some succession-planning tips:

Know what you're looking for. The first step is to identify and prioritize the professional and personal qualities you consider most essential for success in your role. Your goal should be to identify a promising up-and-coming employee who has the potential to hone the full range of skills and abilities necessary to perform your job.

Offer exposure. Once you've identified your would-be successor, introduce him or her to situations and assignments common in your position. No matter how talented and sophisticated the protégé, professional development in advance of assuming the new role is key. For instance, you might boost the person's visibility by encouraging him or her to tackle some high-profile responsibilities, such as reengineering an important business process or giving presentations to the company's board or an important client.

Embrace mentorship. As your protégé wrestles with real-world management challenges, provide plenty of behind-the-scenes coaching and feedback. And be sure to facilitate the transfer of not just nuts-and-bolts insights for performing certain tasks and managing projects, but also the less-tangible institutional and “insider” knowledge you've acquired over time. Set regular dates to assess your protégé's progress and offer your support as he or she gains the confidence and expertise necessary to lead the department or organization.

For more advice on management and career issues, listen to The Management Minute, Robert Half's podcast series at www.rhi.com/podcasts.

Robert Half International is the world's largest specialized staffing firm and a leading authority on workplace and management trends. The company has more than 360 offices worldwide and offers job search and placement services. For more information, please visit www.rhi.com or contact your local Accountemps / Robert Half office.

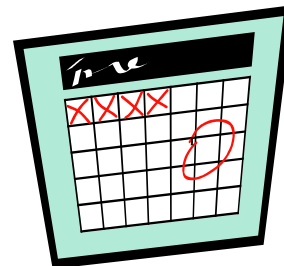
Member News



Jeanette Ding, our Chapter President, was elected at the Annual Business Meeting at the ASWA Joint National Conference to serve on the prestigious Nominating Committee for 2009-2010. The Nominating Committee is responsible for interviewing candidates for and proposing the slate of officers and directors of ASWA's 2009-2010 National Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is comprised of ASWA's immediate Past National President and two ASWA members elected by majority vote by the chapter delegates of all ASWA chapters nationally. Jeanette served on ASWA's National Board of Directors from 2004-2008.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

MEMBER DINNER MEETING - all are welcome!

Dr. Mark Stengler, ND, Author of "Prescriptions for Natural Cures" www.lajollawholehealth.com

**NATURAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
REGISTRATION / NETWORKING AT 5:30P.M.**

DINNER SERVED AT 6:15P.M.

Rock Bottom Brewery

8980 Villa La Jolla Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

http://www.rockbottom.com

858.450.9277

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009

MEMBER DINNER MEETING - all are welcome!

Greg McAlpine, Division Chief/ Fire Marshall, La Mesa Fire Dept.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: HOW YOU CAN BE READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED!

REGISTRATION / NETWORKING AT 5:30P.M.

DINNER SERVED AT 6:15P.M.

94th Aero Squadron

8885 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

http://www.94thaerosquadron.signonsandiego.com

858.560.6771

Don't forget to visit our web site at www.aswasandiego.org for more information about our chapter, past newsletters, upcoming events, and to contact us with your ideas & feedback!

SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
ANNUAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DINNER
10News Anchor Carol LeBeau, Keynote Speaker
Location to be announced.

*Newsletter
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compliments of:*

Robert Half / Accountemps
4365 Executive Drive, Suite 450
San Diego, CA 92121

Is there a speaker you've heard or a topic that you'd like to see covered at an upcoming ASWA dinner meeting, or any other ideas for ASWA events? We welcome your feedback and ideas — in fact, we need them to help bring you the best ASWA experience we can!

Please email us your thoughts at aswasandiego@yahoo.com!