

## ALASKA SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

*Spring 2004 Newsletter*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – *Rex R. Cruse, EA, ABA, ATA*

Well, tax season is over and we can get on with the rest of the year, and get caught up on all the things we put off until after tax season. This report being one of "those things". I hope you all had a very prosperous tax season.

The ASIA Board met in Fairbanks on May 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition to Gear-Up and our Annual Convention we are investigating the possibility of sponsoring a Technology Seminar, later this year or next year. Many of you have expressed an interest in a Technology Seminar, however the speakers can't make it to Alaska in September so we can't hold it as part of our Annual Convention. The committee is looking into a separate seminar, marketed to other professions, not just accountants.

Check out our website, at <http://www.asiacct.org>. Linda is getting more and more on the website all the time.

Don't forget to put the dates of our 2004 State Convention, September 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. The Convention will be held at the Aspen Hotel in Soldotna. Paula Laurion and Kathy Hammer have arranged 14 hours of CPE including Estate Planning, LLC's, Teamwork, Communications & Problem-solving at the Challenger Learning Center and Microsoft Excel & Office. They have also scheduled a number of activities, which sound like they will be a lot of fun. I hope to see each of you at our Convention.

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### **CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Anchorage Chapter-Kathie Riley, President** – The May meeting was held at Curnow's Tax Service beginning with dinner at 5:30 pm. Reasons and causes to file extensions were discussed followed by a short business meeting. There will be a chapter picnic in mid-June. Watch for details. Officers will be elected at the September meeting. The speaker for the evening will be discussing overseas pay as it relates to civilian contractors.

**Fairbanks Chapter-Phyllis Church, President** – Phyllis reported that attendance had dropped off some at recent meetings. The hotel has recently increased meal costs. The nominating members have been appointed and officers will be installed at the ASIA Convention. July's speaker will be a representative from the Social Security Administration.

**Kenai Chapter – Kathy Hammer, President** - The Kenai Chapter has been holding monthly meetings over lunch and has consistent attendance of 7-8 members. These meetings give the members a chance to get out of the office, participate in round table discussions and get problem questions answered.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2004, topic and place to be announced.

Gear Up was well attended in December and January.

The Kenai members are looking forward to hosting the ASIA convention this September.

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### **A WORD FROM THE NSA STATE DIRECTOR**

**Marty Brantingham, EA, ATA, ATP**

As with all of you, the majority of my efforts since the last newsletter has been to my clients. However, I am pleased to report that I have sent Letters of Welcome to 5 new NSA members. I also had the privilege of sending a congratulatory letter to Phil Christensen on the occasion of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of the National Society of Accountants. Congratulations Phil!

Throughout the filing season, I have attempted to pass on NSA information that would be timely to individuals that are members of ASIA and not yet members of NSA. Many of you I saw at either the Fairbanks Chapter meetings, Gear-Up in Fairbanks, attendance at the IRS Tax Symposium held in Anchorage and others I communicated via e-mail.

Registration forms are now available for NSA's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas, August 28-30, 2004. Information regarding registration, CPE Sessions, Social Events are now on the NSA website at [www.nsacct.org](http://www.nsacct.org) or please contact me at 456-1211. Register by July 1, 2004 and save \$50.

Following the convention is an IRS Nationwide Tax Forum. The forum follows the NSA Convention and is to be held at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio on August 31-September 2, 2004. NSA members can save \$25 on the registration by registering for the forum before August 9, 2004. If this is not a good time for you to attend the Forum, several other dates and locations are available. I encourage you to check out the NSA website or call me for information regarding those dates.

Not yet an Enrolled Agent but would like study materials to take the exam. NSA's 2004 Enrolled Agents Review Course is now available.

NSA members don't forget to pay your dues prior to June 1 to save yourself \$20. Dues go up effective July 1, 2004. If you are not yet a member of NSA, I would like to talk to you about the many benefits NSA can offer you. NSA is currently running a very special offer to ASO members. First year active and associate membership dues are just \$99. Call me today!

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

NSA's Serving Aging America Seminar – Las Vegas, NV – Stardust Resort – May 24-25, 2005

NSA's 59th Annual Convention – San Antonio, TX – Aug 28-30, 2004 – Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk

IRS Tax Forum – San Antonio, TX – Aug 31 – Sep 2, 2004 – Marriott Rivercenter

ASIA 2004 State Convention – Soldotna, AK – Sep 22-25, 2004 – Aspen Hotel

NSA Leadership Networking Conference – Minneapolis Airport Marriott – October 23-24, 2004

NSA Combined LSC/LNC Conference – New Orleans Holiday Inn Airport – November 19-21, 2004

Gear-Up Business Entities/1040 - Anchorage – January 6, 7, 8, 2005 – Location to be announced

Gear-Up Business Entities – Fairbanks – January 6, 2005 – Location to be announced

Gear-Up 1040 – Fairbanks – January 7-8, 2005 – Location to be announced

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### FROM YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Andrew T. Morehead, PA, CFP, ATP

With the approach of summer, our thoughts turn to – conventions. Four of the seven states in the District hold their annual meetings in June. Colorado is June 13-16 in the high country at Mt Princeton, some 2 hours west of Colorado Springs, and offers CPE, hot springs, white water rafting, golf and various other enticements. At the other end of the district (in the lower 48 – my apologies to Alaska)

this is the year for the tri-state meeting of the Washington, Oregon and Idaho societies in a convention June 24-27 in Richland, Washington, featuring CPE, state association meetings and elections, golf, water skiing, winery tours and a variety of other local attractions.

NSA President Dan Setters will be at the tri-state Convention and I plan to be at both conventions as well. It is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with old friends, meet new members and those attending for the first time, and spread the message.

There seems to be a trend in these meetings, a trend that will carry over to the NSA convention in San Antonio in August. You can get all the information from the website at [www.nsacct.org](http://www.nsacct.org), but a look at the schedule will tell you that there is much less CPE (you can attend the IRS Forum immediately following the convention for lots of same at a discounted cost through NSA) and a lot more emphasis on sociability and the role of the convention as a leadership meeting for NSA and ASO officers and committee people. The Colorado convention is structured much the same way; CPE is over by mid-morning each day and most of the time is available for other activities (more info is available at the PASC website at [www.coloradoaccountant.org](http://www.coloradoaccountant.org) or call email me about it at [andy@morehead.com](mailto:andy@morehead.com) since Doug LeNoue and I are the Colorado convention committee co-chairs). For info on the tri-state convention, try [www.waa.org](http://www.waa.org) for the host Washington association registration form, hotel info and other news.

Speaking of websites, a revamped NSA website should be up and running within the next ten days and messages are going out now via email announcing that fact and providing the names/passwords for members. I expect improved content and ease of use, and the integration with our new database system should provide good service in renewing membership and registering for seminars and other events.

I have been recovering from the NSA Budget Committee meeting in Alexandria two weeks ago and preparing for the Board of Governors meeting in Indianapolis starting May 20. I will report more on the budget after the board meeting, where it should be approved, but I can tell you that it was more positive than it has been in years.

Leonard Larson always addresses his messages at this time of year to "Happy Survivor". I'm one (although the extensions are still out there waiting) and hope you are too.

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*"A taxpayer is someone who works for the federal government but who doesn't have to take a civil service examination."*

*--Ronald Reagan*