



**ALASKA SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS**  
*Winter 2005*

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Paula Laurion, EA**

Greetings from the Kenai Peninsula! We will soon be closing the books on 2005 and what better way to prepare ourselves for the tax season than to sign up for the Gear Up tax seminars sponsored by ASIA in Soldotna, Anchorage or Fairbanks. Hats off to Kathie Riley in Anchorage and Tony Prenesti and Roblyn Wiebe in Fairbanks for chairing these seminars.

Please remember to mark your calendars for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual ASIA Convention to be held in Valdez, AK on September 20-23, 2006 at the Best Western Valdez Harbor Inn. The surrounding Chugach Mountains will provide a picturesque backdrop for our convention. Details about registration and education will be mailed after tax season.

We hope you will respond to our convention survey enclosed in the December mailing. YOUR feedback is important for future convention planning! You can also respond on the ASIA website at <http://asiacct.org/survey.pdf>.

Have a blessed Holiday Season and successful Tax year!

.  
=====

**CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Anchorage Chapter-Ginger Curnow, President** - The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month at Curnow’s Tax Service. The meetings begin at 5:30 pm and generally last about 2 hours.

Attendance has been pretty consistent in recent months. October’s meeting topic was Tax Free Exchanges and in November we heard from George Weurich on the Knik Bridge project.

The Christmas Party will be December 17, 2005 at 7:00 pm.

Membership recruitment in the coming months will target graduating seniors who are soon to be in the job market.

**Fairbanks Chapter-Roblyn Wiebe, President** - Fairbanks meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Regency Hotel. The gathering begins at 5:30 pm. Roundtable discussions, dinner and a program are regularly on the agenda.

President Roblyn expresses her appreciation for the Chapter Board of Directors; Vice-President, Dave Stephenson, Ada Bower, Secretary and Jean Davies, Treasurer. You are a great group to work with! The Chapter has gotten off to a great start. November’s speaker was Sharon Elliott, President of the Alaska Exchange Corporation. Her presentation on Like Kind Exchanges was very informative.

For December, there will be no regular meeting; instead there will be a party. The annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange will be held on December 17 at the home of Jean & Wayne Davies. The festivities begin at 6:00 pm. Call Roblyn if you have not received your flyer.

**Kenai Chapter – Kathy Hammer, President** - The Kenai Chapter meets monthly for lunch. Our November guest speaker was Indy Walton from Edward Jones. He provided information about Health Savings Accounts. Dates for Gear Up Seminars have been set. (See Dates to Remember Section)

---

---

**A WORD FROM THE NSA STATE DIRECTOR**  
**Marty Brantingham, EA, ATA, ATP**

Here we are at the close of another year. I hope you all had the opportunity to get some much needed rest and relaxation before you started “preparing” for the next tax season.

What a wonderful time was had by all that attended NSA’s Annual Convention. It was my pleasure to welcome a full Alaska contingent. Let’s do it again next year when NSA meets in Providence, RI.

Our own State Convention held in Wasilla was another well-planned event. We were honored to have NSA President Wanda Samek of Denton, Texas as our special guest. District VIII Governor Jim Nolen and his wife, Jimmie, traveled from Oklahoma. Add Alaska’s own, Rex Cruse, newly elected District IX Governor, and all attendees felt we were in special company.

Having the opportunity to attend the District IX and X meeting of State Directors and ASO Presidents is always an excellent way to pick up new ideas and simply refresh your desire to do just a little more for the members that you represent.

Immediately following the District meeting, I attended the Legislative Strategy, Leadership Networking Conference. What a fantastic format with excellent presenters! I encourage anyone that is involved or wants to be involved in the leadership of his or her chapter or at the ASO level and beyond to attend one of these conferences. By using tracts each person was able to select those areas that were of most interest. Alaska had several folks attend so we made sure that all tracts were covered.

NSA continues to be alert and to work for your practice. You may have read or heard about the Estimates of Taxpayer Burden that IRS has published in their 2005 Instruction Booklet. NSA has urged IRS to reconsider publication of the estimates that appear in the 1040 instructions. NSA believes that the estimates are patently wrong and that their publication will harm taxpayers, the tax profession and the effort of the IRS to increase voluntary compliance.

NSA also opposes the burdensome changes to the IRS Offer in Compromise Program.

To keep up to date on all that NSA is doing for you, please visit often NSA's website at [www.nsaacct.org](http://www.nsaacct.org).

My very best wishes to all as you celebrate the holiday season. May your New Year be prosperous!

---

---

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Gear Up 1040 Seminar (Video) – Kenai, Alaska – December 13-14, 2005

Gear Up Business Entities (Video) – Kenai, Alaska – January 6, 2006

Gear Up Business Entities – Anchorage, Alaska – Hilton Anchorage – January 5, 2006

Gear Up 1040 Seminar – Anchorage, Alaska – Hilton Anchorage – January 6-7, 2006

Gear Up Business Entities (Video) – Fairbanks, Alaska – Fairbanks Princess – January 5, 2006

Gear Up 1040 Seminar – Fairbanks, Alaska – Fairbanks Princess – January 6-7, 2006

=====

FROM YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
*Rex R. Cruise, EA, ABA, ATA*

On September 15, 2005, President Wanda Samek, Second Vice President Andrew Morehead and Executive Vice President John Ams attended the inaugural event of the NASBA Center for the Public Trust held in Washington, DC. NSA is a founding member of the Center and I believe this is very important to the image of NSA.

Other attendees included Governors Giovetti, Nolen and Sommer, Past President Milton Brown and former Governor Ezra Smith.

In September NSA Federal and Legislative Affairs Director, Phil Ufholz and NROC Chair Walter Dudley met with legislative staff members and the staff director of the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Oversight. They discussed NSA's concerns regarding the tax preparer registration bill, S 832 and the recommendation that a public entity administer tax preparer registration if the bill were to pass. The staff consensus was that there will be no further action on S 832 this year because Congress will be focusing on hurricane relief, Supreme Court nominations and appropriations legislation. NSA will be monitoring this bill, in the months to come, because of the affect it could have on many of our members.

District IX and X held their annual State Directors and ASO Presidents Meeting in Denver on October 6, 2005. Due to the short notice and prior commitments, one of our State Directors couldn't make the meeting, and I have promised to get the scheduling done earlier so we can have more notice of next years meeting.

We were very fortunate to have three of NSA's officers at our meeting, President Wanda Samek, First Vice President Robert Fukuhara and "District IX's own" Second Vice President Andy Morehead were able to join us in Denver. As usual, the State Directors, ASO Presidents, NSA Officers and guests were very eager to share information and ideas, making this a very successful meeting.

The 2005 Legislative Strategy, Leadership Networking and Leadership Training Conference was held Oct 7-9 following our District IX & X meeting. The new format, nine tracts, of which you could attend the six of your choice, was well received and I heard some very good comments on the conference. The Leadership Development Committee did a very good job and all of the workshop presenters were very good. We attracted 69 registrants, with approximately 85 percent being from states west of the Mississippi. The Public Accountants Society of Colorado welcomed us and extended its hospitality by hosting an opening reception on Thursday evening.

The NSA Board of Governors held its Fall meeting on October 21-23, 2005 in Riverside, California. One of the agenda items was the presentation of the final version of TAGSB (Tax Accounting Guidelines for Small Business) which you will be able to find on the NSA website in the near future. These guidelines are the work of many of our members (to many to name here) over a number of years.

Over 250 individuals, representing nearly every state in the country, registered for the NSA National Accounting & Tax Symposium held November 14-15, 2005 in Las Vegas.

+++++