

ALASKA SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

STATE BOARD MEETING
September 21, 2005
Lake Lucille Lodge

The September meeting of the ASIA State Board of Directors was called to order by President Paula Laurion at 1:33 pm on September 21, 2005. Members present were: Paula Laurion, Bernadette Koppy, Kathie Riley, Rex Cruse, Kathy Hammer, Dave Stephenson, Phyllis Church, and Marty Brantingham.

Paula thanked Marty for acting as secretary for today's meeting. Special Guests, Wanda Samek, President of the National Society of Accountants and James Nolan, Governor of District VIII were introduced. ASIA member Gene Yurkovich was also introduced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jean Davies, Secretary, along with her husband, Wayne, are in Anchorage today taking the EA Exam.

Marty announced that the Opening Nite Reception would begin this evening at 6:30 pm in the adjoining room.

Rex moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. Kathy Hammer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 13, 2004 meeting are not available. The July 15, 2005 minutes were tabled until copies can be made and distributed.

Dave announced that there were no changes to the Treasurer's Report as presented at the previous meeting. Bernadette moved to accept the report. Kathie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NSA REPORT

Marty presented a written report. She outlined the activities of the NSA convention. Among the highlights were the awarding of a Membership Plaque to Alaska for the greatest percentage of membership growth in the Under 300 Member Category. Marty was proud to receive a blue NSA jacket (10-Plus Club) for recruiting 10 members. The final page of the report outlined the activities Marty had attended during the past year, the membership status of NSA, Alaska's recipient of a NSA Scholarship and upcoming events within NSA. (Report attached to the Permanent File)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethics & Grievances – No report

Legislative Affairs – Ginger Curnow (Report attached to the Permanent File) ASIA needs to continue to be diligent in watching the movement of House Bill 274 but Ginger feels that the intent of the Bill is not to harm the unlicensed accountant. Gene Yurkovich monitored the Board

of Accountancy meeting held in Fairbanks on July 21, -22, 2005. (Report attached to the Permanent File) He also attended a meeting on August 23, 2005 where House Bill 274 and Substantial Equivalency and the Uniform Accountancy Act were discussed (Report attached to the Permanent File). It is also Gene's opinion that the unlicensed accountant is not going to be harmed by the proposed legislation and that the Board of Accountancy wants to work with ASIA in determining the wording in the final bill. They really don't want to do anything that ASIA will challenge. He noted that the Board is made up of almost all new members and that they have not taken a stand on this issue. Gene included in his remarks that Don Rulien, Past President of the ASCPA wants to work us and to get our verbiage before their October 18, 2005 meeting. It appears their biggest problem with the UAA is reciprocity and the 150-hour rule. ASIA has a concern with regulation vs. statute. (Report attached to the Permanent File)

Bernadette has contacted a lobbyist Linda Anderson who represented us when we had the last legislative battle. She remembers us well. Her fee for new clients is \$30000. She has offered ASIA a \$15000 fee with her son being the primary lobbyist and she there to be support.

Discussion followed regarding what steps ASIA needs to take next. Paula will contact Don Rulien and Bernadette will contact Linda Anderson. Paula appointed Bernadette and Dave and will ask Mike Curnow to be a committee to work on the acceptable verbiage for HB 274. (Don Rulien's e-mail attached to the Permanent File) This committee needs to have its work complete before the October 18, 2005. Jim Nolan, Governor, District VIII highly recommended that the committee contact Richard Berryman, Chair of the NSA SROC Committee. He is a valuable source of "canned" paragraphs/verbiage that has been successful in other jurisdictions.

While on the subject of monitoring the activities of the Board of Accountancy, Bernadette asked NSA President Wanda Samek how Alaska could comply with the timely submission of reports to NSA on our monitoring activities when we don't get approved minutes until after the reports are due to be submitted. Wanda stated reports could be filed without the approved minutes. Those minutes could be submitted to the SROC committee once they are received.

MAPP Committee – Bernadette Koppy, Chair – Bernadette reported that there is one by law change to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. The ratification list was provided to the membership in their convention package. She reminded us that any action in the form of a policy or procedure taken at the December 13, 2004 meeting was null and void, as there have been no minutes produced for that meeting. (Written Report attached to the Permanent File)

Membership Committee – Kathy Hammer, Chair – Kathy reported that the membership is currently 145 members, a net drop of 4 over last year. She also passed out a draft of the new membership application and asked for corrections and feedback as soon as possible. (Draft attached) There is a need for a good logo. Kathy asked for assistance in finding one. Paula announced and showed the award Alaska received at the NSA Convention and recognized Marty for her award – a blue blazer and induction into the 10-Plus New Member Club. (Written Report attached to the Permanent File)

Education Committee – Rex Cruse, Chair – Rex reported that education sponsored by ASIA will be reported on under other committee reports. A spreadsheet has been started for the recording of ASIA sponsored CPE and will be completed by the new committee and made available to the members as an aide in their CPE reporting.

Information Systems – Dave Stephenson, Chair – He stated he had nothing new to report. The ASIA website is becoming a real good tool.

Linda Stephenson, Administrative Service Provider and Webmaster provided a written report. (Report attached to the Permanent File)

CHAPTER REPORTS

Anchorage Chapter – Kathie Riley, President – Kathie announced their new slate of officers. (A full report is attached to the Permanent File)

Fairbanks Chapter – Phyllis Church, President – Phyllis announced Fairbanks' new slate of officers. (A full report is attached to the Permanent File)

Kenai Chapter – Kathy Hammer, President – Kathy announced their slate of officers for the new year. (A full report is attached to the Permanent File)

OLD BUSINESS

Gear-Up 2006 – Kathie Riley, Gear-Up Chair – Contracts are all signed and deposits made. The dates of the seminars in Fairbanks and Anchorage are January 5, 6-7, 2006. The brochures are in and will be ready to mail by the end of September. Fairbanks needs a 1040 Chair. Paula will contact a Fairbanks member. (A report is attached to the Permanent File)

Technology Seminar-Recap – This was an excellent seminar. The speaker, Bob Jennings, is an outstanding speaker and the facility (the BP Center) was the best we've ever had. The only negative feedback received was the date being so near a tax deadline.

990 Issue – Dave had a concern with funds for a social activity being paid out of general funds. After discussion it was determined there was no issue.

2005 ASIA Convention – Kathy Hammer presented a written report (attached to Permanent File) that outlined the estimated income/expenditures of the convention. There were several questions regarding the piecemealing of the costs of the convention. Kathy and others expressed their frustration at trying to satisfy everyone with their attendance desires. It was felt that a convention that is in close proximity of a member's home always presents a problem with the desire to pick and choose what one attends.

Budget Committee – Dave Stephenson, Chair – He reported that the budget is ready to present to the general membership.

Prior Minutes – Copies of the July 15, 2005 meeting were distributed. Rex moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Kathie moved to increase the Board travel reimbursement between Fairbanks/Anchorage to \$275 and between Kenai/Anchorage to \$150. Kathy seconded the motion. Phyllis questioned the travel of Fairbanks to Anchorage so often as the majority of board members were from

Fairbanks. Paula explained why the travel to Anchorage occurred this year. A friendly amendment was offered by the presenter and seconded by the presenter of the second to include the reimbursement amounts for all the other locations in the motion. (Secretary to obtain them from the MAPP). Motion carried.

Board Travel Reimbursement for fiscal 2006 was approved as follows:

Between Anchorage and Fairbanks	\$275
Between Anchorage and Kodiak	\$300
Between Anchorage and Southeast	\$400
Between Anchorage and Homer	\$200
Between Anchorage and Kenai/Soldotna	\$175
Between Anchorage and Mt McKinley	\$125
Between Fairbanks and Mt. McKinley	\$125

2006 Convention – Paula Laurion, Chair – Paula has received materials from the Valdez Visitors Bureau. There are 3 hotels to select from in Valdez – The Aspen Hotel, The Westmark and Totem. The possibility of using the Convention Center is an option and they are quoting \$65 a day fee.

Travel options include flying in (ERA flies into Valdez), taking the ferry from Whittier and a 9-hour drive from Kenai.

The dates for the convention are September 20-24, 2005.

Paula reported that she would have further information for us at the next Board Meeting.

ASP Contract – Paula will be getting with Linda Stephenson and renewing our ASP Contract. Both parties are pleased with the arrangement.

The Board held a general discussion regarding the attendance at the State Convention and also issues relating to reimbursement of travel expenses to the NSA Convention. An ongoing question is how to increase attendance at our state convention. Members shared some of what they are hearing from peers. Some of the areas mentioned included the quality and amount of education, the costs of attending convention and the appearance of elitism. Another thought the convention should be more of a member benefit. The length of the convention appeared to be good.

Several on the Board questioned how much the convention has been ala carted. At the end of much discussion, it was determined future conventions should be full registration and CPE only. Breaking it down to specific days or specific CPE sessions would no longer be done.

Bernadette read the MAPP policy regarding reimbursement of expenses for those attending a NSA Convention. Several of the board members felt what the attendee must attend in order to be eligible for reimbursement needs to be revisited.

Dave moved that in order to receive reimbursement attendance at all business and business related sessions and such other sessions as may be of benefit to ASIA is required. Rex seconded the motion. Discussion followed. This is a policy change and would have to go to the general membership for ratification at this year's annual meeting. Due to not having time to prepare, Dave moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Rex seconded the motion. Motion tabled.

As part of an effort to increase attendance at the State Convention, Paula and Dave will develop a survey to be sent to the membership.

2007 Convention – Suggested locations were King Salmon, Homer, Chena Hot Springs and Anchorage. It was the consensus of the Board that it is not too soon to be making plans for that year. Many of the quality speakers need to be contacted a year or more out to be available.

GOOD TO THE ORDER

A letter of thanks was read from Bob Jennings, who did the Technology Seminar in Anchorage.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the Board, Paula adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Brantingham
Acting Secretary