



**ALASKA SOCIETY OF
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS**

Winter 2004 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Paula Laurion, EA

Greetings from the Kenai Peninsula! I want to thank you all for your vote of confidence at our elections held at the annual convention in September at the Aspen Hotel in Soldotna, Alaska. We certainly missed all of you that were unable to attend. The speakers covered LLC's, Estate Planning in Alaska and Microsoft Excel. We also took a space mission at the Challenger Learning Center and discovered a new comet – Comet ASIA! I had a lot of fun and even learned something in the process.

With the tax deadline past, most of us are now settling into the task of obtaining our continuing education. You should have received your Gear-Up brochures for the seminar in your area. Live seminars are scheduled for Anchorage and Fairbanks and a video 1040 presentation is offered in Soldotna. The IRS symposium, which ASIA helps sponsor, will be held at the Loussac Library in Anchorage on December 14, 2004.

My hope for this year is that we can all stay connected and work as a team for the better of our profession. Please view the ASIA website at www.asiacct.org for ways to contact members and keep informed of pertinent events.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Anchorage Chapter-Kathie Riley, President – The Anchorage Chapter has rebounded this year. We have monthly meetings on the first Wednesday at Curnow's Tax Service. The meeting starts with dinner at 5:30 and then a speaker or topic followed by a short business meeting.

We had a great summer barbecue at the American Legion. There were as many children as adults present.

Officers for the new year are:

President – Kathie Riley
Vice President – Glenn Herring
Secretary – Leanna Monceaux
Treasurer – Karen Auge

Fairbanks Chapter-Phyllis Church, President – Fairbanks Chapter meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Regency Hotel. Attendance has dropped off some in recent months and these folks are being missed. Come back soon!

Officers elected for the coming year are:

President – Phyllis Church
Vice President – Carl Benson
Secretary – Kelly Hunter
Treasurer – Jean Davies

Mark your calendar now – The ASIA North Christmas Party will be December 18, 2004 at Jean Davies' home in Ester. Look for a flyer that will give you all the details.

Kenai Chapter – Kathy Hammer, President - The Kenai chapter has recently completed a several month workshop on Administering Estates using PPC's Guide to Administering Estates. We found the information informative but also a little intimidating.

Officers elected for the upcoming year are:

President – Kathy Hammer
Vice President – Paula Laurion
Secretary – J.R. Dailey
Treasurer – Joe Ryback

1040 Gear-Up Video Seminar will be held December 21 and 22, 2004 at Mykels in Soldotna.

Kenai was proud to have the 2004 ASIA convention held in their backyard of Soldotna. Once again Paula Laurion did a wonderful job as Session Chair. Kenai really feels lucky to have her in their Chapter.

A WORD FROM THE NSA STATE DIRECTOR

Marty Brantingham, EA, ATA, ATP

Another year is quickly coming to an end. It has been my pleasure to have been your NSA State Director for the past two years and I look forward to working with and for you for another two years. Installation at this year's NSA convention was full of all the pomp and circumstance that is a NSA tradition. We look back on a year of much accomplishment under the leadership of President Daniel Setters and look forward to the vision and leadership of President Eldon Klingan.

NSA will be offering several opportunities for membership over the next few months. I would be extremely pleased if you would let me sponsor you as a member. Probably the best one currently is for you as an ASIA member to join for \$99 for your first year. As an ASIA member you may be contacted directly by NSA, again, I would like the opportunity to share with you the benefits of membership and to have the pleasure of being your sponsor.

Speaking of membership, a new benefit has been launched—NSA Anniversary Bucks, commemorating NSA's 60th anniversary year. Members who renew within approximately a month of receiving their first renewal notice will get \$30 in anniversary bucks that can be used toward the cost of seminars, NSA products or extra questions to the tax desk.

Membership currently stands at 12,863. This breaks down into 10,621 active members; 1052 associate members; 627 retired; 323 student; 164 educators, 30 life; 29 international and 17 firm members.

As this newsletter is going to print I am packing my bags for the combined Legislative Strategy Conference/Leadership Networking Conference that is being held in New Orleans. I'll get home just in time to share Thanksgiving with family and friends. And with that, may I extend to you a most blessed and safe Holiday Season. And, of course, my the upcoming tax season be your best one yet!

DATES TO REMEMBER

NSA/AFTPNJ National Tax Update – Atlantic City, NJ – Hilton Hotel - December 6-7, 2004

Gear-Up Business Entities/1040 - Anchorage – January 4, 5, 6, 2005 – Sheraton Anchorage

Gear-Up Business Entities – Fairbanks – January 7, 2005 – Fairbanks Princess Hotel

Gear-Up 1040 – Fairbanks – January 5-6, 2005 – Fairbanks Princess Hotel

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

FROM YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Andrew T. Morehead, PA, CFP, ATP

This year's NSA convention in San Antonio may have marked my first time in that city, but it certainly will not be my last. The Alamo, the Riverwalk....and some of the finest eating places around. You can even get through airport security in a few minutes. I will go back.

The convention went well, considering all the events packed into a three-day schedule.

The election results:

President	Eldon Klingan
First VP	Wanda Samek
Second VP	Bob Fukuhara
Sec/Treas	Donny Woods
Governor Dist II	Bob Somers
Governor Dist IV	Wanda Goodson
Governor Dist VI	Charles Jones
Governor Dist VIII	Jim Nolen
Governor Dist X	Barbara Stechnij

Past President Jeff Adelstone was appointed to the ACAT Board and Executive VP John Ams was signed to a multi-year contract.

Within District IX we have had some committee appointments I should mention. Bob Cross of Colorado is the new Administrative Chair of Right to Practice, which includes such areas of responsibility a federal taxation, state regulation and oversight, accounting guidelines and peer review. Leonard Larson of Washington will head up Leadership Development efforts, including relations with our affiliated societies. I will be the Board Governor on the Executive Committee this year and there are many other volunteers from our District IX states in positions on committees they year. Congratulations to all of you.

The Scholarship Foundation received many state contributions, as usual, and benefited from proceeds from the annual auction and from the karaoke contest on the first night of the convention. In all, I understand that more than \$32000 was raised in the three days for its programs.

The site for the 2006 NSA convention will be Providence, RI. For those of you who are not familiar with that area, it is close to Boston, Cape Cod, Newport and many other scenic and historic places to visit. For those who like to gamble, it is also close to Foxwoods, the biggest casino in the US. It is a wonderful area to visit in the summertime and I certainly plan to be there. More details and exact dates will follow as soon as staff makes those arrangements.

Finally you may recall that there many changes proposed to NSA's policy on financial assistance to its affiliated state organizations for legislative efforts following the district networking meeting held in Portland OR last fall. Thanks to the work of numerous volunteers, particularly including District IX's own Bob Cross and Right to Practice Chair Bette Jo Berryman, that revised policy statement was approved by the Board. It should result in increased flexibility and better working relationships as NSA and its affiliates work toward improvement of the accounting profession and protection of our practice rights.

IRS/TAX PRACTITIONER SYMPOSIUM

Save the date! The IRS Tax Practitioner Symposium co-sponsored by ASIA and Alaska Society of CPAs is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at Loussac Library Wilda Marston Theatre – 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK. Registration and social will begin at 8:00 am and the symposium will adjourn at 4:00 pm. There will be a lunch break from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Topics will include Tax Law Updates, with coverage of the Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004 and American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, taught by local ASCPA member Don Rulien. Local ASCPA member Ingrid Karn will teach an Overview of Self-Employed Retirement plans. Local IRS staff will speak on Tax Law Enforcement Issues, Local Compliance, Issues New Services for Tax Professionals and News You'll Use for the 2005 filing season, including e-file/e-pay updates. In addition, Taxpayer Advocate staff members will be available for assistance with your troublesome cases and applications and assistance for those new to e-file will be available. Pre-registration is not required.