



## **The Nebraska Independent Accountant Newsletter**

Nebraska Affiliate of the National Society of Accountants

**October 2008**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Ray Scholl**

It is a privilege to serve you as NSIA President for this coming year and I feel very fortunate to have one of the finest slate of Officers, Directors and Committees for support.

A BIG thank you to District NSA Governor Sharon Cook for attending our Annual Meeting and conducting the Installation Ceremony. Congratulations to Eric Hansen for being reelected NSA Nebraska State Director at the NSA Convention in Kansas City.

I stated at our Annual Meeting in Columbus that I would like to see more of our members become active in NSIA. As a start to accomplishing that goal, I would like to invite NSIA members to attend Board Meetings to see what is going on. We conduct our board meetings on the evening prior to a seminar, so if you have the time, you are more than welcome to attend the meeting.

The NSA Annual Convention in Kansas City was excellent. The CPE sessions were probably the best that I have seen since I started attending the NSA Conventions. Minneapolis was my first convention and I haven't regretted attending one yet. It seems like once you attend a NSA Convention, you're very easily hooked on attending more. You get to meet the people who are working for us on the National scene along with getting to know people from just about every state who share your concerns about the accounting industry. By attending the NSA Convention you also get a better understanding of the connection between NSA and the Affiliated State Organizations (ASO) such as NSIA. The ASOs are a very important part of NSA. Without the help of the ASO monitoring legislative and regulatory activities in each state, NSA would be severely handicapped in dealing with such matters on a national level. NSA, if they have the proper information, can come to our aid when local legislation or regulation can be detrimental to our profession. The ASO needs to keep NSA informed.

I heard one statistic in KC that was rather shocking. That statistic was that "75% of people in the accounting business today WILL NOT be actively engaged in business in 10 years." With enrollment in accounting classes decreasing in institutions of higher education, WHO is going to fill the void??? We need to reach out to younger individuals and convince them to seriously look at tax preparation and accounting as their profession. NSA has a program of working with the institutions of higher education on a local level that may be a project for NSIA to work on.

The October 2008 NPA Magazine contains a number of excellent articles. There were two of the articles that I thought were very interesting. They were "Proposed Preparer Penalty Regulations Demystified" and "Selling a Practice". So if you have some reading time please take a look.

Remember, NSIA and NSA is working hard to protect your right to practice and to provide tools to aid you in having a successful practice. If you know a colleague that does not belong to NSIA and/or NSA, visit with them about the benefits of becoming a member.

## NSA STATE DIRECTORS MESSAGE

By Eric Hansen

NSA has a program available for YOU! It's their Leadership Development Program, and I am proud to say I am a recent graduate. A bit of background on yours truly. For those who know me I have held a leadership position with NSIA and NSA for ten years. I have also run my tax practice for over thirty years. That being said, let me be honest here. I went into the NSA Leadership Program with my subconscious whispering to me, "Why are you doing this & why do you need this?" Maybe you are thinking the same.

Prior to being a participant I felt that I was a fair leader with competent abilities. I felt I could get my thoughts across, make decisions, influence the direction of others, be diplomatic and accomplish tasks. Without sounding too self-righteous, I believe those things to be true. So, how did the Leadership Development Program help me?

I learned that one can always learn more. Sounds simple doesn't it. But for me it wasn't simple. When one thinks they know what they're doing, opening up to new ideas and methods can be hard. The LD program and the other participants stretched me. We read books and held group discussions. We discussed trust, motivation, teamwork, being accountable, meeting goals and many other topics. The program refreshed what I had forgot, refined what I knew and taught me a few new wrinkles. Most important -- I learned one is never too old to learn. (I'm the OLD one)

I strongly recommend the Leadership Development Program. Their agenda taught this old dog some new tricks! Maybe it can teach you a few, too. Would you like to hear more? I would be glad to talk to you about it further. Give me call or let's talk at the Gear Up 1040 seminar in Lincoln.



## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dawn Liphardt

I am honored to be serving each of you as the First Vice President for NSIA during 2008-2009.

NSIA held their annual meeting in Columbus September 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. This may have been one of the best annual meeting days that NSIA has ever had. Nina Kavich gave an Ethics presentation that spoke more about our moral obligation to be ethical in our profession and that we are all faced with various ethical matters that we must be vigilant about as we seek to help our clients.

One of the reasons I have been a long-time member of NSIA is because this group closely monitors our legislature for bills that may effect our profession on a state level. NSIA has a committee that closely works with Bill Mueller, attorney, to keep in touch with members of the Nebraska Legislature. Our association owes a big thank you to Ken Brauer, EA for his many years of work in this area and for heading up this committee. Bill Mueller gave a presentation on the concerns and issues that he works on as it pertains to our group. It is comforting to know that someone is looking out for us.

In the afternoon Doug Ewald, the Nebraska State Tax Commissioner and Jim Bogatz, legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Revenue gave an excellent presentation. I found it very enlightening that these individuals are working to enhance the relationship that the Nebraska Department of Revenue has with both the Governor and the legislature. Additionally, they are open to feedback from our profession and they are instituting some of those suggestions. It was great to see that these individuals were taking notes at our open question and answer session and that they invited us to express our concerns and wishes as it relates to our profession.

Finally we heard from Mary Hickey of the Taxpayer Advocate Service. Mary has spoken to our group before and she always gives us timely and valid information. One publication that Mary suggested we each seek out and review before tax season is Pub. 4681. I am not going to reveal the contents of this publication, but at the Gear-Up Seminar November 6-7 in Lincoln, I will ask this as a bonus question. If you come prepared, you can enter a drawing for a chance to win a prize.

On Friday we attended the Business Entities Seminar with Tony Johnson, CPA and Carl Heintz, CPA. They did an excellent job and they are terrific at giving us practical information that can be used when working with our business clients.

Finally, I encourage you to check out both the NSIA website at [www.nebsia.com](http://www.nebsia.com) as well as the NSA website at [www.nsacct.org](http://www.nsacct.org). NSIA is held with distinction by NSA. Sharon Cook our District Governor from St. Louis, MO attended our Annual Meeting and Convention and received a lifetime membership in NSIA for her outstanding representation of our state at the national level. We appreciate that she took the time to be with us.

# NSIA BI-LAW CHANGE

## Article VI, Section 1

G. Executive Committee: There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Society's officers: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. This Committee shall perform such duties for the good of the Society as is assigned to it by the Board of Directors and/or NSIA Constitution and By-Laws. The duties and actions performed by the Executive Committee shall be recorded, presented for ratification and included in the minutes at the following Board Meeting.

Also voted on and carrying unanimously at the 2008 Annual Meeting was clarifying the NSIA policy on communications to be as follows: "The NSIA Board of Directors and Committees may conduct Society business and communicate using telephone, mail or any other electronic device or method including e-mail".

(Adopted 9/25/2008)



## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT By Mandy David

We had a great attendance at the Entity Seminar in Columbus September 26th. Also, the speakers for the annual meeting did a superb job. A lot of good information was shared.

Sharon Cook, NSA District VII Governor, installed the elected officers and board members Thursday night at the banquet. They are as follows: President Ray Scholl, First Vice President Dawn Liphardt, Second Vice President Steve Douglas, Secretary Eric Hansen, Directors: Harvey Breasch, Larry Heyen, Ken Brauer, Jeff Bring, Leota Janousek, Jamie Douglas and Scott Masek.

Our next seminar coming up is the annual Gear-Up 1040 seminar at the Holiday Inn in Lincoln November 6-7th. Brochure were mailed out last week and there is also a registration form at the bottom of this page. Hope to see you there!

## GEAR-UP 1040 SEMINAR NOVEMBER 6-7, 2008

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for 16 Hrs. CPE Credit

Seminar from: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

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#\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$245 per person before Oct. 30

#\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$280 per person after Oct. 30

### Non-Member Registration

#\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$270 per person before Oct. 30

#\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$305 per person after Oct. 30

### Location:

Holiday Inn (Downtown)

141 North 9th Street

Lincoln, Nebraska

(402) 475-4011

Block of rooms until Oct. 16

Additional attendees from same firm may deduct \$25 if no manual is required.

Please enclose check payable to NSIA.

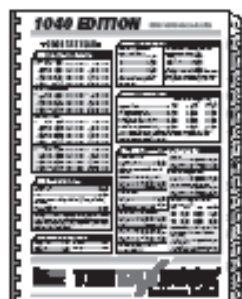
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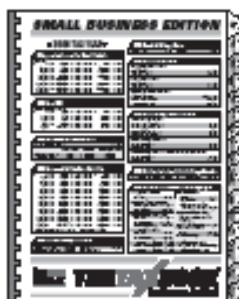
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Seminars & CPE	Jeff Bring	402-466-8000
Constitutional By-laws	Ray Scholl	402-462-9532
Past President Advisory	Cindy Buller	402-896-5191

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2008:

**November 6-7**                      Gear-Up 1040 Seminar  
Downtown Holiday Inn  
Lincoln, NE

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009:

**August 12-15**                      NSA National Convention  
San Diego, California

**November 5-6**                      Gear-Up 1040 Seminar  
Downtown Holiday Inn  
Lincoln, NE



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