

The Spokeswoman
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS

Ames Chapter No. 158

March 2003



March Meeting Notice
Wednesday, March 19, 2003
Hotel at Gateway Center
Harvest Room
US Hwy 30 & Elwood Drive
Ames, IA

Networking: 5:30 Speaker: 6:00 Meeting/Dinner: 7:00

Dinner Reservations by *Noon, Tuesday, March 18*

Theresa Samson
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[\(tsamson@crosspaths.net\)](mailto:tsamson@crosspaths.net)

Speaker: Dr. Diane Janvrin
Topic: Spreadsheet Design

Diane Janvrin will be speaking this month on Spreadsheet Design. Dr. Janvrin is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Iowa State University. She received her B.A. from Central College in Pella, her Masters of Accountancy and PhD from the University of Iowa. Diane teaches Accounting Information Systems. She has been published in *Information and Management* and the *Tickmark* – the Iowa Society’s practitioner journal. One of her research interests is spreadsheet design and spreadsheet errors.

Diane will be speaking to us this month on how good spreadsheet design will reduce the occurrence of errors in spreadsheets. I personally (and I imagine many of you) have had no formal training in spreadsheets. Diane helped me design a project for my class, and I was amazed at what I didn’t know! Please come and find out how to improve your spreadsheets.

Jan Duffy



President's Message

I've been thinking this week about my birthday. I'll be turning Enron 40 (I learned something from their accountants). Anyway, as I was trying to figure out how to tie Enron accounting and birthdays together, it occurred to me to question whether I'm capitalizing my life or expensing it. And which is appropriate, anyway?

After all, to paraphrase Professor Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, if you focus too much on tomorrow, eventually all that's left is a bunch of empty yesterdays. And yet, Aesop counters this with the fable of the grasshopper and the ant – living just for today may leave us cold and hungry tomorrow.

It all comes down to balance – after all, assets exist to throw off value, and long-lived assets are supposed to throw off value over several years. We meet once a month to renew our skills and increase our human capital and to enjoy each other's company – some for today, some for tomorrow – partly expense and partly capital.

I also wonder about how much of my life is off the balance sheet – how much am I hiding from myself and my shareholders. I like to believe I keep an honest 10K, but I am like everyone else and make a point to conceal some assets. I find I do this at work more as a get-along-go-along tactic. I suspect my organization would be better off if all of my fellow employees were more forthright. It would be a different world with one set of books -- if face value was the real value.

Mostly I need a pitcher of grasshoppers for my birthday. See you Wednesday at Gateway.

Carpe Diem!

Board & Membership Minutes

American Society of Women Accountants

Ames Chapter #158

Membership Meeting

February 19, 2003

Call to Order: The February 2003 membership meeting of the Ames Chapter #158 was called to order by President Margaret Munson at Lucallan's in Ames on Wednesday, February 19 at 6:55 pm.

Introductions were made by those in attendance: Jan Duffy, Pat Jenkins, Dawn Tank, Amy Bogges, Tanya Janes, Ann Kurtenbach, Marsha Peterson, Kara Mikesell, Janet Mortvedt, Elisa Gibson, Margaret Munson, Theresa Samson, Beverly Wandling, Kathy Strum, and Cindy Sippel. A quorum was present.

Minutes: Motion made by Pat Jenkins and seconded by Jan Duffy that the January 2003 minutes be approved as printed in the bulletin. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was presented by Beverly Wandling. It was noted that we had 3 members from last year who did not renew. Follow-ups will be made to see why these members did not renew. The Treasurer's report will be placed on file for review.

Committee Reports:

Membership: President Margaret Munson presented membership certificates to the following new members: Ann Kurtenback, Kara Mikesell and Marsha Peterson. We welcome them to the group.
Program: The program committee is researching places for our meetings. In March, we will be meeting at Audubon's at the Gateway. The committee also welcomes any program ideas from the membership.
Scholarship: The scholarship application has been sent out and the deadline for applications is April 15, 2003. The membership is encouraged to have 100% participation in scholarship donations.
Bulletin: Pat will be updating the membership list. Members are encouraged to send her any updated information for inclusion.

Old Business:

Chapter Award: April 1 is the deadline for Chapter Award nominations.

Name Tags: Jan will order nametags for new members.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee will be composed of Cindy Sippel, Theresa Samson, and Dawn Tank. Any member who is interested in holding a position should contact one of the committee members.

Adjournment: Motion made by Kathy Strum and seconded by Dawn Tank that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Sippel
Acting Secretary

American Society of Women Accountants

Ames Chapter #158
Board of Directors Meeting
February 19, 2003

Call to Order: The February 2003 Board of Directors meeting of the Ames Chapter #158 was called to order by President Margaret Munson at Lucallan's in Ames on Wednesday, February 19 at 8:10 pm. Those in attendance were: Jan Duffy, Pat Jenkins, Margaret Munson, Theresa Samson, Beverly Wandling, and Cindy Sippel. A quorum was present

Business: A motion was made by Cindy Sippel and seconded by Pat Jenkins to suspend the regular business of the Board. Motion passed.

Minutes: A motion was made by Pat Jenkins and seconded by Theresa Samson that the minutes of the last Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

New Members: Two new members were submitted to the Board: Dawn Tank and Tanya Janes. On a motion made by Theresa Samson and seconded by Jan Duffy, the Board approved the application for membership subject to approval by National.

Adjournment: Theresa Samson made a motion to adjourn which Pat Jenkins seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Sippel
Acting Secretary

Congratulations

Sue Ravenscroft wins Award for Ethics Research

In spring term of this year Sue Ravenscroft, Associate Professor in the ISU Accounting Department, and her co-author Steven Kaplan (of Arizona State University) were awarded the fifth annual Glen McLaughlin Prize for Research in Accounting Ethics. The three-person reviewing committee consisted of Eric Noreen of INSEAD, Mariann Jennings (a well-known ethicist who spoke at the most recent Federated Schools of Accountancy annual meeting) and Don Ostas, an economist at University of Oklahoma. The prize is notable in that it is awarded only if the committee believes the submissions are of high enough quality; there is not a mandate to make an award each year. In addition, the award is notable because it includes a \$10,000 honorarium. Sue and her co-author presented the paper at the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma and were honored at a dinner held to make the presentation of the award.

The paper is on the topic of how managers respond when they learn that a colleague has engaged in earnings management for the purposes of increasing a bonus. We found that even when managers were willing to attribute earnings management behavior to the environment, i.e. to say that people were responding to dysfunctional incentives facing them, managers still considered their colleagues who engaged in earnings management to have lower abilities along non-moral dimensions. One member of the review committee said this paper won the award because the committee agreed with the implication that if internal labor markets are effective discipline mechanisms firms may be able to spend less time and money designing formal control systems.