

THE SPOKESWOMAN

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS

Ames Chapter No. 158

September 2003

Contents: September Meeting Notice, President's Message, Membership Minutes and ASWA Bylaw Proposals for the 2003 Annual Meeting

September Meeting Notice

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Hotel at Gateway Center
Conference 1 (The Smaller Room)
US Hwy 30 & Elwood Drive
Ames, IA

Speaker: Elisa Gibson
Topic: Microsoft Word

Networking: 5:30 (Lobby Bar)

Speaker: 6:00

Meeting/Dinner: 7:00

Dinner Reservations by Noon, Tuesday, September 16

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President's Message

Happy New Year! It may not be January 1 but it is the start of a new year for the Ames chapter of ASWA. If the planning meeting is any indication, we are going to have a great year. What a fantastic meeting – I think we set a record for the number of people attending the planning meeting. We have a lot of ideas for fun and educational programs for the year. We even welcomed a member – Janet Mortvedt. It was a great way to start the year!

With such a fantastic start, I want to encourage each one of you to make the most of the opportunities we have in ASWA, both within our chapter and nationally. Everyone has the opportunity to learn through our programs, network with others in the accounting field and develop friendships with members. The friendships I have formed through ASWA are very special. Each one of us has something unique to contribute to our chapter, the organization as a whole and to each other.

We had tremendous growth last year – in fact, we were the **winners** in Region 3 of the Chapter Challenge for the highest combined renewal and growth rate. The credit for that growth goes to **you**, the members of ASWA Chapter 158 – **Congratulations!** Now we have additional challenges – we want to continue that growth but we also want to encourage and welcome our newest members. If you are a member who has been with us for a while, think about what you can do to mentor our new members. If you are one of the newest members of our group don't be afraid to get involved. From experience, I can tell you – **We have a great time!** Welcome to the New Year. It is going to be a great one.

Cindy

Membership Minutes

American Society of Women Accountants
Ames Chapter #158
Planning Meeting
July 18, 2003

The planning meeting for the 2003-2004 fiscal year was called to order by President, Cindy Sippel, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Cindy Sippel, Kara Mikesell, Dawn Tank, Janet Mortvedt, Margaret Munson, Beverly Wandling, Karen Jacobsen, Kathy Strum, Elisa Gibson, Kate Mulder, Jan Duffy, Theresa Samson, Soma Mitra, and Nancy Campbell.

Karen Jacobsen moved, and Beverly Wandling second a motion to suspend all normal business, except to replace the delegate to the national convention.

Jan Duffy moved and Dawn Tank seconded the motion to replace Jan Duffy with Beverly Wandling as the delegate to the national convention.

Cindy Sippel presented Soma Mitra with her membership certificate.

Kate Mulder moved, seconded by Jan Duffy, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Campbell
Secretary

ASWA Bylaw Proposals 2003 Annual Meeting

Proposed Amendment #1—From the Birmingham Chapter

Proposed Amendment to Article III – Members

Current Bylaw
Article III Members
Section 2

Amendment #1 Amend Article III. Section 2 by striking the words “the chapter board of directors, where applicable, and”

2. Application for membership shall be signed by a member of the Society. Application for membership and reclassification shall be approved by the chapter board of directors, where applicable, and the national board of directors.

Proposed Amendment
Article III Members
Section 2

2. Application for membership shall be signed by a member of the Society. Application for membership and reclassification shall be approved by the national board of directors.

Rationale: The current bylaws provide for the chapter board of directors to approve the application of a proposed member. This situation has caused some chapter boards to disapprove an application for membership due to their job title or employer. This is a violation of ASWA National Bylaws and might subject the offending chapter and the National organization to litigation. Such litigation could result in the financial ruin and demise of ASWA. As a not-for-profit organization, ASWA functions under IRS regulations as a 501c(6) corporation. A lawsuit filed against ASWA might also result in the loss of our not-for-profit status.

If an individual meets the requirements based upon interest, education, work experience or licensing, that individual is entitled to **ALL** the rights and privileges of any other ASWA member in the membership class. We **do not** discriminate based on racial, religious, gender or career background. If an individual falls into a category stated in our bylaws then that individual **can** become a member of ASWA, unless they have committed an act unbecoming a member of the community or their profession.

This amendment is crucial to the financial health and protection of ASWA at the national and local levels.

Proposed Amendment #2—From the San Antonio Chapter

Proposed Amendment to Article V – Officers

Current Bylaw
Article V Officers
Section 1.

Amendment #2 Amend V Section 1 by striking the words “Two directors shall be elected by the Chapter Presidents’ Council.”

Proposed Amendment
Article V Officers
Section 1.

b. The officers of the Society shall be a president, a president-elect, one to three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, the immediate past president, and eight directors. Two directors shall be elected by the Chapter Presidents' Council. The number of vice presidents shall be determined by the board of directors and reported to the Nominating Committee prior to the annual meeting. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, the standing rules, and parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

b. The officers of the Society shall be a president, a president-elect, one to three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, the immediate past president, and eight directors. The number of vice presidents shall be determined by the board of directors and reported to the Nominating Committee prior to the annual meeting. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, the standing rules, and parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Rationale:

The Election of the Society's National Officers and Directors is an important task of the society's membership.

The nominating committee is the current process used for slating and electing of the executive committee and six of our directors. The nominating committee meets for three to four days during our national conference and conducts structured interviews with potential national board candidates. The Nominating committee also has time for follow up interviews and conferences among the committee subsequent to the national conference up until the time that the nominations are presented to the chapters' presidents and secretaries on December 27 of each year. The Nominating committee is a structured committee with guidelines for interviews and the selection process. The Nominating committee is a time commitment for the members elected to the committee.

The Chapter Presidents' Council (CPC) currently has the opportunity to meet in person one time each year, at the national convention. The CPC has in the past couple of years had time for two meetings sometime during the convention. During that short period of time they are finishing business and committee reports from the prior year, they are conducting elections for the CPC officers, they are setting committees and goals for the upcoming year, as well as any other CPC business. They also are required by our national bylaws to elect a director to our National board of directors each year. Not much time is available to accomplish this task, and members of the CPC may have to vote and elect a director to the national board without much information. The CPC has a lot of responsibilities, and a short amount of time in person to accomplish these tasks.

This bylaws proposal will allow the CPC to be relieved of one responsibility, that of electing national directors to the national board. This could also lead to the CPC having the opportunity to change their structure to something less formal, or to expand their discussions to a chapter exchange type of process or structure.

Up until Fall 2000, the nominating committee slated and presented for elections the full slated board of directors. This process has worked in the past, and encompassing eight directors instead of six directors into the process would not be over burdensome for the nominating committee.

This would be the proposed Proviso for the bylaws if Amendment #2 is approved.

Provisos:

To Article V, Officers, Section 1

For the fiscal year 2004-2005, the Chapter Presidents' Council shall elect one director, as the current bylaw states. Beginning with the 2005-2006 fiscal year all directors will be slated and presented for election by the nominating committee.

Therefore, sometime during the 2003 convention, the Chapter President's Council shall elect one director to take office July 1, 2004.