

The **ASWA** *Journal*
Seattle

Volume 57 Issue 10

<http://www.aswaseattle.org>

April 2006

**Seattle Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2006**

College Club of Seattle
505 Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 622-0624

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|-------------|---------|
| Social Hour | 5:30 pm |
| Dinner | 6:30 pm |
| Speaker | 7:30 pm |

Menu

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|---------|--|
| Salad | Spinach & Bacon Vinaigrette |
| Entrée | Peppered Steak or Vegetarian Pasta (Vegetarian option) |
| Sides | Rosemary Roasted Potatoes & Broccoli Hollandaise |
| Dessert | German Chocolate Cake |

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Members | \$25.00 |
| Guests | \$27.00 |
| Student Members | \$17.00 |
| Student Guests | \$19.00 |
| Coffee Only | \$ 3.00 |

Reservations, even if selecting the coffee only option, need to be made by **1 pm, Thursday, April 20**, in order to guarantee a spot. Standing reservations will apply. For **reservations**: use the **Online Reservations Form**, send email to reservations@aswaseattle.com, or contact Nina Buffington, Arrangements Chair, (206) 467-8645 (ASWA voice mail). For **cancellations**, please call, use the online form, or send an email to cancel no later than noon on **Monday, April 24**, before the meeting. No-shows and late cancellations will be billed. Walk-ins are welcome but with no meal availability guarantee.

**Wednesday, April 26, 2006
Dinner Meeting**

Program

The new SUTA (state unemployment tax act) dumping law

Speaker: Brenda Westfall

1.5 Technical CPE

Areas of Discussion

What is SUTA dumping?

SUTA stands for State Unemployment Tax Act. This act sets forth the way that unemployment taxes are figured and collected.

SUTA dumping is a way employers improperly change their unemployment insurance tax rate to pay less tax. Doing this cause the tax those employers should have paid to be passed along to all other employers in the state.

SUTA dumping is a growing problem. It is unfair to employers who are paying their correct share of unemployment taxes and rewards those employers using SUTA dumping by lowering their taxes.



American Society of Women Accountants

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President's Message

April 2006

With Spring and the greening of trees comes the hope and joy of rebirth, longer and brighter days, whose contrast is so poignant because it follows so closely upon the dreadful and seemingly endless long dreary days of busy season. At ASWA as we move into the final quarter of this fiscal year, we are already preparing for the seamless transition into the new fiscal year. The Nominating Committee has presented its slate of officers and directors for your 2006-07 Board (see their report in this issue). The Finance Committee will be taking another look at the budget for this year to determine what changes might be recommended for next year. The Strategic Planning Committee is reviewing our guiding, or directional, document to fine tune it, along with doctoring the process to amend it, to allow us to continue our mission and governance as the calendar rolls forward. All of which benefits you, the membership.

We will be finishing the year with a *bang!* The Northwest Regional Conference of the ASWA will be hosted by the Seattle Chapter, June 16-18, on the campus of Seattle University. There are 4 different tracks throughout the conference, offering 16 hours of continuing professional education. This is a wonderful opportunity for catching up with old friends, forging new relationships, experiencing the quality low-cost CPE that Seattle Chapter is known to provide (thank you, Chris and Susan P); networking for jobs and/or other contacts, earning your EFWA Leadership Training Series certification, having fun and exchanging ideas/challenges/successes with members of other ASWA chapters. The NW Chapter Exchange will meet Sunday morning at the Silver Cloud-Broadway, presided over by our own Sharron O'D.

There are lots of small chores that need doing, either in advance of the conference or on site. Please contact the conference committee to volunteer your particular talents: **nwrc06 "at" aswaseattle.org**. The registration brochure will be in the mail to you any day now. You're your calendar for the early-bird registration deadline: April 24th. Please note: you have the opportunity to sleep in your own bed at home (comfy, but...); reserve a room at the Silver Cloud- Broadway; or sleep on-campus in the dormitory. Does that "take ya back" to an earlier time? We'll be rolling back the clock for Fun Night, as well. Friday, 6/17, will find us at The Garage, a bowling, billiards, and shuffleboard landmark, next door to the Silver Cloud. There we will enjoy a buffet meal and social, in a smoke-free environment. Guests are welcome to join in Friday evening's festivities, for a fee. Please, plan to join us!

The "Coach's Corner" maxims for today: Do not permit what you cannot do to interfere with what you can do. Make each day your masterpiece!

Let me know how I can help.

Liz

President "at" aswaseattle.org



**April 26 dinner meeting
 continued**

A new federal law requires states to pass laws that close the loopholes that allow some employers to avoid some of their unemployment taxes. The federal law is to make the unemployment tax system fair for all employers. Washington is drafting new legislation to conform to the federal law after obtaining with input from the business community. Many of the requirements of the federal law are already included in Washington statutes.

How does a business SUTA dump?

There are three ways to SUTA dump:

- Vertical Method. An employer creates a "new" business that is assigned a "new" employer tax rate. The payroll is then transferred to the new employer.
- Horizontal Method. An employer transfers the business payroll to a subsidiary employer with a lower unemployment tax rate.
- Acquired Rate Method. Instead of starting a new business, the employer finds another employer with a low unemployment tax rate and arranges to transfer the payroll to the account with the lower rate and then changes the business activity. (A construction company buys a florist and transfers their construction workers to the florist business, while they are still performing construction work.)

Brenda Westfall is the supervisor of the Status and SUTA Dumping Units of Employment Security. She has been with the department for 18 years, all of those years in the Unemployment Tax and Wage Administration Division in Olympia. She plans to talk about the new SUTA (state unemployment tax act) dumping law and a few other recent changes to Employment Security tax. The other changes may be the revised tax and wage report and the reporting of hours worked on the reports.

Announcements

**Executive Service Corp of Washington
 (ESCWA) Volunteer Ad**

Pay it forward. Volunteer your financial skills.

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity where you can put your financial management expertise to good use? The Executive Service Corps of Washington (ESCWA) is looking for volunteers with bookkeeping, accounting, or financial management experience to help nonprofit organizations improve their financial management practices. ESCWA is a nonprofit organization, one of 34 ESC in the US providing management support to nonprofits and schools.

Volunteers are needed to serve as consultants on well-defined consulting projects, as workshop leaders, to conduct assessments of financial systems for nonprofit organizations, and to assist new organizations with setting up sound financial systems. Volunteer projects typically require about 5 hours in a month and the volunteer sets the schedule with the client organization and team. Share your skills! Go to escwa.org or call 206-682-6704 for more information.

**Educational Foundation for Women in
 Accounting**

Note: Many of you know that EFWA was co-founded by the ASWA and AWS CPA, back in 1966, and one of the EFWA programs was a bi-annual survey. The EFWA is once again performing a survey, but has no access to the ASWA database. This notice is a request for ASWA members to provide their e-mail addresses to EFWA for purposes of communicating the survey, and other items, electronically.

Have you checked out the EFWA website lately? We have made some exciting changes, and there are more in the works. Check us out at: www.efwa.org

Here's a simple, easy, and **free** way for you to support EFWA – *give us your e-mail address!* We would like to send you our semi-annual newsletter and other updates electronically. This would allow more funding to go to our scholarship, leadership training, and other programs. New donors can provide us their e-mail address right on the donor envelope. The EFWA will not sell or otherwise distribute your contact information; it is exclusively for us to contact you.

Please take a couple of minutes to visit us at www.efwa.org or send us an email at: info@efwa.org. We would love to hear from you!

Shirley Laird
 President, EFWA



Nominating Committee Report March 22, 2006

On March 22, 2006 the Nominating Committee presented to the members of the Seattle Chapter the following slate of Officers and Directors for the Chapter for the year 2006 –2007. Election will be held on April 26, 2006 at the Seattle Chapter monthly dinner meeting.

Nominations

Officers

President Jana Helmuth
President-elect Rachel Petrich
Secretary Kristin Holland
Treasurer Diane Cunningham

Directors

Director of Communications Jennifer Willison 2 years
Membership Janet Stebbins 2 years
At-Large Rhonda O’Leary 1 year
Immediate Past President Elizabeth Pray 1 year

Open Positions

Directors:

Director of Marketing
Director of Professional Development
At-Large

Committee Chairs:

Member Relations
Marketing, Student Activities
Education
Spring 07 Seminar (SU)
Fall Seminar 2007
CPE Tracking
Employment (Opportunity)
Yearbook
Archivist

Help/Committee Members Needed

Strategic Planning
Dessert Auction
Membership
Member Relations
Spring 07 Seminar (SU)
Fall Seminar 2007
Speaker Highlights
Program
Scholarship
Treasurer’s Workshop
Guest Night
Student Night

Please e-mail nominating@aswaseattle.org to volunteer or get more information.



Roster of Officers, Board of Directors, and Committees 2006 / 2007 Fiscal Year

As of 3/22/06 (Officers' name *bold italic*, Board of Directors are bold)

| | |
|---|---|
| President | <i>Jana Helmuth</i> |
| President-elect | <i>Rachel Petrich</i> |
| Secretary | <i>Kristin Holland</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Diane Cunningham</i> |
| Immediate Past President | Liz Pray |
| Administrative Committees | |
| Bylaws | Carrie Noess |
| Finance | Margo Reich, Mary Anne Olmstead, Rachel Petrich as ex-officio |
| Strategic Planning | Tonya Shum, Liz Pray, _____, _____, _____, Rachel Petrich as ex-officio |
| Historian/Archivist | [Susan Goegebuer] |
| Scholarship Policy & Procedure | Mary Ann Schmitt ('04-'07), Jan Cobb ('05-'08), _____ ('06-'09) |
| Endowment Fund Board | Carol Watson ('04-'07), Susanne Lindsley ('05-'08), _____ ('06-'09) |
| Scholarship | Jill Fleming |
| Dessert Auction | Pat Angell |
| Procedure Manual Update | Carrie Noess & Michelle Yong |
| Director of Marketing | |
| Membership | Janet Stebbins |
| Member Relations | _____ |
| Student Activities | _____ |
| Marketing | _____ |
| Student Night | Deby MacLeod & _____ |
| Guest Night | _____ |
| Director of Professional Development | |
| Program | _____ |
| Speaker Highlights | Anne Ellett |
| Education | _____ |
| Seattle U Fall Tax Seminar | North End Tax Round Table |
| Seattle U Spring 07 Seminar | _____ |
| Fall Seminar 2007 | _____ |
| CPE Tracking | _____ |
| Community Service | _____ |
| Treasurer's Workshop | Mary Dickinson |
| Director of Communications | |
| Arrangements | Jennifer Willison |
| Employment | Adrienne Lowber |
| Opportunities Page | _____ |
| Technology | _____ |
| Newsletter | Jan Augustin, Kerry Hughes |
| Yearbook/Database | Marilyn Wilt |
| Directors-At-Large | _____ |
| | Rhonda O'Leary and _____ |



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| <p><u>Next Journal Deadline:</u></p> <p>Wed, April 26, 2006</p> <p>The Seattle Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants, to serve its members' interests, publishes the <i>Journal</i> monthly.</p> <p>If you have news, seminars, community meetings, committee meetings or an article you would like published, attach the file (preferably in "Word" and single spaced with no tables, boxes or irregular formatting) and send to Michelle Yong via e-mail at journal@aswaseattle.org</p> | <p><u>Calendar of Events</u></p> <p>Apr 26 Board Meeting – 5:15pm <i>Dinner Meeting-SUTA, College Club</i></p> <p>May 19 Seattle/Bellevue Past-Presidents' Luncheon – 11:30 am <i>Ivar's Salmon House, Seattle</i></p> <p>May 24 Board Meeting – 5:15pm <i>Dinner Meeting-TBA, College Club</i></p> <p>June 16-18 ASWA NW Regional Conference - Seattle, WA</p> <p>June 28 Board Meeting – 5:15pm <i>Dinner Meeting-TBA, College Club</i></p> <p>Sep 18-20 ASWA/ASWCPA National Conference – Las Vegas, NV</p> |
| <p align="center">ASWA Mission Statement</p> <p>The mission of the American Society of Women Accountants is to enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional, and economic potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession.</p> | |
| <p align="center">ASWA Claim Statement</p> <p>For women who seek advancement in the accounting profession, ASWA is a professional membership organization that provides the leadership skills required for success. ASWA provides experienced mentors and a supportive, non-threatening environment to practice business management and establish a professional reputation among peers.</p> | |