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AICPA INSIDER

THE MONTHLY
INFORMATION SOURCE
FOR TEAM AICPA

Volume 1, Issue 3
June, 1999

WHAT'S INSIDE??

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ATTENTION STAFF LIAISONS

The AICPA Communications Team has developed *Meeting the Media*, a media training tutorial comprising a 32-minute videotape and accompanying booklet. This package offers valuable guidance for you and your committee members on how to work with newspaper and broadcast reporters. It covers such critical topics as shaping your message, responding to confrontational questions and establishing relationships with reporters. Contact Joel Allegretti x6111 for further information.

Hello, Can You Tell Me About the CPA Vision?

If you get a request from a member or the public for information about the CPA Vision — or if someone needs a Vision presenter, PowerPoint slides, or a video for a conference or committee program — where do you turn for the latest?

- 1 Start with the CPA Vision Web site at cpavision.org.
- 2 Refer to your team's copy of the Vision CD-ROM (coming soon).
- 3 Call Kim Myerwold x6063 of the KM/Strat. Planning Team. Kim can set you up with brochures and videos, or arrange for a speaker.

WEBTRUST GOES TO WASHINGTON

Efforts are under way to increase CPA WebTrustSM visibility both in the nation's capital and abroad. The AICPA has engaged Infotech Strategies, a consulting firm specializing in issues related to e-commerce, to assist in building awareness of the CPA WebTrust service, particularly in the Washington, D.C., policy-making arena.

In conjunction with this initiative, the AICPA has met with the Online Privacy Alliance and is participating this month in the Federal Trade Commission's Public Workshop, "U.S. Perspectives on Consumer Protection in the Global Electronic Marketplace," and the European Union's conference on self-regulation of the e-commerce marketplace. Participation in forums like these is intended to broaden understanding and acceptance of CPA WebTrust.

ON THE AICPA AGENDA

AICPA's Board of Directors and governing Council both met in May. Here are some highlights and who to contact for more information.

ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA:

- A new vision for the IRS, as presented by the National Taxpayer Advocate for the IRS. Gerry Padwe x4226
- A report from the National UAA Steering Committee on the progress of the implementation of the Uniform Accountancy Act in the states. John Sharbaugh x4257
- The results contained in the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) recently published fraud study. Alan Anderson x6144
- A report from the Chairman on the current initiatives of the National Accreditation Commission. Joanne Lindstrom x3806

THE AICPA COUNCIL, AT ITS SPRING MEETING:

- Passed a resolution that would eventually permit CPAs in non-CPA owned firms to perform compilation engagements. Note that this decision cannot take effect until a bylaw change allows individual members to undergo peer review. Arleen Thomas x6115
- Approved the budget for fiscal year 1999–2000, providing for a restructuring of membership dues, which, in the view of the leadership, will be "simpler, fairer and more logical." (See "Chair's Corner" in the June CPA Letter for more details.) Michele Rodin x6126

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT KNOWLEDGENET

What do you know about KnowledgeNet? In a flurry of recent activity, the word has been spread about an exciting new tool designed to enhance our collaborative efforts. You or a member of your team may be an early phase KNet user. You may have attended a recent live demo of the tool. Or, you may have heard about KnowledgeNet from a director, manager or other colleague who attended the recent management meeting or the Information Edge Forum.

INTRODUCING KNOWLEDGENET: A POWER TOOL FOR OUR FUTURE SUCCESS

In the last issue of *AICPA Insider*, we talked about the concept of Knowledge Management (KM) and how creating a culture of information exchange will benefit all of us at Team AICPA. While KM requires more than just a technology solution, the introduction of a compelling technology can be the engine that drives change in an organization.

The technology tool that has been chosen as the centerpiece of our KM initiative is a software tool called Livelink from a company called Open Text. We are using Livelink to create the AICPA KnowledgeNet, which is envisioned as the platform for the collaborative efforts for our workforce.

How significant is the creation of KnowledgeNet? According to Barry Melancon, "The AICPA is in the information business. If we are to be a knowledge-based resource center for our members, it is absolutely critical that we be a knowledge-based organization. I see KnowledgeNet as the foundation for a dynamic KM system that will meet the demands of our members. If we do not meet those demands in a sophisticated fashion, the Institute will become less relevant."

Over the next few months all of Team AICPA will be introduced to KnowledgeNet through a set of modular innovative training programs, special team consultations, online demonstrations, presentations and articles like this in the *AICPA Insider*.

How Is KnowledgeNet Organized?

KnowledgeNet gives us a great opportunity to simplify our information gathering and organize our workflows within the Institute. It will serve as the one source for all Institute information, no matter which team originated it.

KnowledgeNet is divided into three main sections or "workspaces." The **Enterprise Workspace** will house FastFact, *AICPA Insider*, the current content of VIC, policies and procedures (and related forms) from teams such as HR, Finance, Accounting, MIS, Telecom, and all Team AICPA public home pages. The **News Center** will be the place to keep up with important events and initiatives around the Institute and the profession. The **Splash Café** will serve as a virtual lunchroom, water cooler and bulletin board. Your own **Personal Workspace** can be used to organize and store your most important documents, Web links, task lists, etc. The **Project Workspace** opens the way for the most powerful collaborative efforts among members of day-to-day teams, cross-functional or special project teams, member committees and task forces — in short, any project you might imagine.

How Will This Change How You Work?

Here's a brief look at the capabilities of KnowledgeNet and how it will affect how you work.

Easy access and the power of the Web

The AICPA KnowledgeNet is Web-based, requiring an InterNet connection, a browser, and a user name/password for access. With a T1 connection in the office, this is now a one-click, 10-second experience most of the time. Remote connection through a dial-up modem from out of the office is just as easy and almost as fast. No more special software, long dial-up strings, and convoluted log-ons for remote LAN access. Plus, when you are connected to KnowledgeNet, you are connected to everything the World Wide Web has to offer.

The one-stop Team AICPA information source

In our current environment, finding a crucial piece of AICPA information may require reviewing numerous paper or electronic reference resources. Finding documents that your colleagues (or even you) have created may require wading through scores of documents in multiple applications on your desktop. KnowledgeNet is logically organized and has a set of powerful features, including a flexible search engine, which will enable you to get to the data you need when you need it.

Your project management assistant

KnowledgeNet also has functionality that can help to bring organization and control to project management, one of the most essential yet difficult "pastimes" here at the AICPA. It's simple to create and organize a home page for any new or ongoing project. KnowledgeNet offers an easy way to create and share agendas, meeting summaries and task lists among project participants. And, with discussion strings tied to specific items in the project space, there is no longer a need to sort through large quantities of e-mails to get the info you have been waiting for.

Storing, sharing and collaborating on documents

With KnowledgeNet, the person or team that creates a document has direct control over who else can view and make changes to it — no longer a need to seek MIS support for granting access to shared directories. A powerful tool for managing versions of the same document is also in place.

A new standard for how we work

According to Barry, "It is extremely important for staff to dedicate themselves to using KnowledgeNet to the fullest capacity so that cross access to information is maximized. I am confident that our team is up to the challenge."