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The impact of associations

ASAE & The Center recently initiated a study aimed at collecting and disseminating objective data about associations. Here are a few examples of some of the findings:

- Employment in U.S. associations totaled more than one million in 2006, up 11 percent from 1997.
- Associations have added nearly 100,000 jobs to the nation's employment base since 1997.
- The greatest job growth between 1997 and 2006 was recorded in five states: California, Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.
- The District of Columbia led the nation in concentration of association workers in 2006, with nearly one out of every 10 workers (9.1 percent) employed by a business association, professional organization, labor union, or other membership organization.
- Business associations, professional organizations, labor unions, political organizations, and other voluntary membership organizations are expected to add an estimated 75,000 jobs to the U.S. economy by 2014, bringing employment in these segments of the association community to 592,000 workers nationwide.
- Associations received \$33.1 billion in revenue and held an estimated \$50.6 billion in assets in 2006.
- The District of Columbia, Illinois, Virginia, California, and New York led the nation in trade and professional associations by revenue.
- The association sector consisted of nearly 102,000 establishments in 2006, compared to 100,200 association establishments in 1997. This was an increase of two percent.
- U.S. associations paid an average wage of \$40,250 in 2006, compared to \$33,500 in 1997.
- Business associations and professional organizations paid an average annual wage of \$58,500—38 percent higher than the average private sector wage of \$42,400 in 2006.

Source: *Associations Matter: Associations by the Numbers* study by Content First, LLC

Short shots from ASAE & The Center

Members help plan social responsibility summit. ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership's Global Summit on Social Responsibility, first announced at the organizations' Annual Meeting & Exposition in Chicago in August, is quickly taking shape after more than 60 industry thought leaders contributed their expertise and enthusiasm in a design meeting in Washington, DC, at the end of October. The Global Summit on Social Responsibility will take place April 30 to May 2, 2008, in multiple locations around the world, including a hub site at the soon-to-open Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center located just outside Washington, DC. Other gatherings will take place simultaneously in locations throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Asia, as well as online. For more information about ASAE & The Center's Social Responsibility Initiative and the upcoming Global Summit, please visit www.asaecenter.org/socialresponsibility.

Circle Club packages expanded. In response to member feedback, ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership have expanded their Circle Club program to include 10 different package options designed to cost effectively meet an organization's professional development needs. The new packages include more flexibility to customize educational opportunities based on staff needs; individual memberships included in each package; options according to where an organization is headquartered; a new virtual package great for organizations on a tight travel budget; and special options for association management companies and their unique educational needs. For more information, visit www.asaecenter.org/circleclub.

CenterU Online offers on-demand archives. To further aid association executives looking for professional growth and learning opportunities, ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership have bolstered CenterU Online with enhanced development resources, featuring on-demand archives of past seminars that can be accessed through ASAE & The Center's online store. The all-new on-demand archives allow members and nonmembers to easily search and access a vast library of past programming, from onsite conference sessions to previously held virtual seminars. These digital files can be purchased individually for \$29.95 for members and \$39.95 for nonmembers. A purchase includes 120 days of file access and any downloadable handouts that were distributed at the original program. Visit www.asaecenter.org/ondemand archives to view a catalog of current offerings.