

ASBO at 100: A Century of School Business Management

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

— ALPHONSE KARR

As ASBO International celebrates its centennial, we should reflect on the truth of this often-heard quote and how it applies to the field of school business management in general and the association in particular.

For example, consider the words of George Grill, ASBO historian for the association's first 50 years, as he describes the birth of ASBO International 100 years ago:

It all began in Washington, D.C. The year was 1910; the month was May. At the invitation of Elmer Ellsworth Brown, U.S. Commissioner of Education, seven men formed a semicircle about his desk on May 15, and for three days sat, perhaps smoked, and certainly argued over standardization of school accounting and reporting procedures.



1970 SEATTLE

Before the third day closed, the seven had become Founding Fathers of an organization which they christened, appropriately enough, the National Association of School Accounting Officers.

Things have certainly changed since then. When members of ASBO

International meet today, it's likely that about half the people in the room are women. In fact, women have held the top positions in the association and in the field for decades. Six women have held the office of president: Donna Gloschen (1989), Pam Deering (2000), Linda White (2001),



1922 COLUMBUS



1950 CHICAGO



YEAR UNKNOWN

Melody Douglas (2006), Angela Peterman (2009), and Erin Green (2010). Countless others have served on the board of directors, on committees, and in other leadership positions.

School accounting and reporting procedures are still top items on the school business manager's agenda, but the additional responsibilities that come with the job are far more complex than they were in 1910.

ASBO International has evolved significantly in the past century in terms of membership, governance, and stature in the field of education, yet its goal remains the same: to provide a quality education for our children.



1948 ST. LOUIS



1910



2010

100 Years of ASBO
A Century of School Business Management



NESS OFFICIALS