

Official Newsletter of the Andersen Alumni Association

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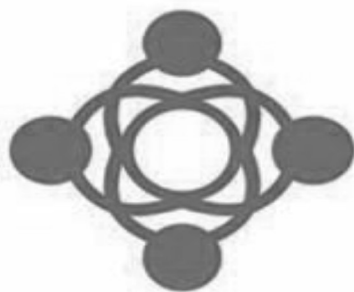
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Straight Thoughts, Straight Talk
"Serving Andersen Alumni Worldwide"

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Editorial

Warren Turner — Editor

Who Packed Your Parachute? Last Friday night, watching the Artemis parachutes deploy, I was taken back to growing up in Huntsville, aka the Rocket City, during Apollo's heyday. Back then, space wasn't abstract. It was personal. Ordinary people doing extraordinary work behind the scenes.

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Alumni on the Move

Andersen Alumni Association — Admin

Congratulations to the Following Alumni and Best Wishes in your new roles.

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Just Released "85,000" the Podcast

Larry R. Katzen — Former Managing Partner for the St. Louis office and Great Plains region and author of the book, "And You Thought Accountants Were Boring"

You lived through it. Or you knew someone who did. Twenty years in the making, on April 7th 2026 we released 85,000 the Podcast, the real story of Arthur Andersen's demise - that has never been told before. Along with the full Production team at SLAP Studios LA, we could not be prouder to bring this story, our story, to light.

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Alumni Reflections: HON Marc E. Andersen Assistant Secretary of the US Army

Brendan Giuseppe — Andersen Alumnus and Founder of BGS Consulting, a proud sponsor of the Andersen Alumni Newsletter

Andersen Alumni Association, working with its sponsor, BGS Consulting, has begun an ongoing series “Alumni Reflections” highlighting members’ reflections. We would like to thank Alumnus and Former Managing Partner, Marc E. Andersen, for sharing his reflections in this issue of our newsletter. Today Marc serves as the Assistant Secretary of the US Army, Financial Management and Comptroller.

[Read full article →](#)

The Origin of “Skunk Works”

Louis Gump — Andersen Alumnus, Author and partner in the Executive Operations practice at TechCXO

“We’re treating this as a Skunk Works project.” I’ve heard this term many times, even led a few projects of this sort. Within our Andersen world, many of us have worked on transformational projects and initiatives, and some of them have involved projects of this sort.

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Cyber Risk: The Six Questions Most Leaders Can’t Answer

Warren R. Turner — Former Arthur Andersen Enterprise Group Manager, Founder of Andersen Alumni Association and Partner Cardinal Points Group

Most CFOs and business leaders believe they have cybersecurity under control. Then they’re asked six simple questions and the confidence disappears. How much would a cyberattack cost your business? If operations stopped for 25 days, would you be out of business? If an attacker has been inside your network for six months, would you even know?

[Read full article →](#)

Relationships That Bring Smiles

Ralph Schonenbach — Former Consultant Andersen Business Consulting, Founder and CEO of Meerkat, Inc.

In times that often feel heavy to me, it's more important than ever to intentionally seek out and cherish the moments and people that bring a genuine smile to my face. For me, focusing on these bright spots helps to balance the scales, ensuring that my smiles far outweigh the frowns.

[Read full article →](#)

Stop Saying

Todd Dewett — Andersen Alumnus, author and speaker

Stop saying you want change. Stop saying we are family. Stop saying my voice matters. Fill in the blank however you'd like. The point is that we think we should say and do certain things that make the organization and its leadership team look thoughtful, progressive, and caring – but what happens in practice is often quite different. Some organizations truly embody the ideals they espouse. Most are a mixed bag – depends on the department and manager. Some are very disconnected from the stated ideals.

[Read full article →](#)

Is Your Profitable Business Quietly Bleeding Cash

Robb Thomas — Former Arthur Andersen Bankruptcy/ Turnaround Consultant

Many business owners are running profitable companies that are quietly bleeding cash. Revenue is coming in, payroll is covered, and by most measures' things look fine. But when you move past the P&L and look at the actual cash picture, a different reality often emerges. Revenue and cash are not the same thing. And the gap between them is where businesses can get into trouble, often without seeing it coming.

[Read full article →](#)

The Questions That Found Me, On becoming a student of honest doubt after thirty years

John Blumberg — Andersen Alumnus and author of Return On Integrity

Recently, someone in his early thirties sat across from me and asked a question I wasn't expecting: What's so great about wonder? He wasn't being dismissive. He was being honest. And curious. He has a career he's building, a family that needs him, a calendar that answers the question "how are you?" before he can. And in the middle of all that, I'm over here talking about wonder and wholeness and integrity as if those words should mean something to a person whose Tuesday is already spoken for before it starts.

[Read full article →](#)

A look at the Talent Market Heading into the Second Quarter of 2026

J. James O'Malley — Former Andersen National Director of Experience Recruiting, Jim is Managing Director at Kensington International Executive Search

Here are some focused market insights as Q1 2026 closes. Note that our audience typically is for C-Suite and HR leaders along with Private Equity backed environments. Our current point of view with our clients is that execution risk sits with talent.

[Read full article →](#)

Alumni Book Release: Vietnam Stories I Never Told

Herb Jansen — Former Andersen Partner and Author

“Forty years after leaving Vietnam, I found a box of letters I had written to my parents from Vietnam. Suddenly, I was interested in telling the stories I never told - the stories never told in the letters or otherwise - and started writing. On the 57th anniversary of the start of my tour in Vietnam, March 11, 1968, my book was published.”

[Read full article →](#)

Alumni Book Release: Sick CRM: Thinking More and Buying Smart

Michael Hudlow — Andersen Alumnus

There is a sad reality that needs to be realized: most companies are unhappy with their CRM within a few years. Not because the software is bad, but because someone skipped the hard parts. They bought more than they needed, customized before they understood the basics, or chased features instead of focusing on what would actually get used. They skipped the hard questions and paid for it later.

[Read full article →](#)

Seven AI Questions Used by Leading Boards

Johnny Lee — Andersen Alumnus and Partner Risk Advisory Services Grant Thornton Advisors LLC

Boards are feeling the pull of AI from every direction at once. Strategy, risk, compliance, talent and technology are converging in ways that stretch traditional governance models. The challenge is maintaining clear accountability and confidence without impeding execution or slowing the organization's momentum.

[Read full article →](#)

Balancing Risk & Reward: A Perfect Dance to the Tune of Changing Times

Jim DeLoach — Former Andersen Partner and Founding Managing Director at Protiviti. He is the author of several books and a frequent Forbes and NACD contributor.

As former CEO Jack Welch once said, "If the rate of change on the outside exceeds the rate of change on the inside, the end is near." Jim DeLoach of Protiviti shares insights from 1,540 global leaders showing that organizations are prioritizing customer experience, cybersecurity and AI deployments in their long-term strategies, indicating a shift toward integrated decision-making that encompasses immediate and future opportunities and risks.

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The C-Suite Transition Fallacy, Why Strong Leaders Stall at The Top

Jennifer Eggers — Andersen Alumnus and Founder & President of LeaderShift Insights®

Most C-suite transitions don't fail because leaders lose their edge. They stall because the job quietly changes from specialist to enterprise steward—and everyone assumes that shift will happen on its own.

[Read full article →](#)

The Signers (Part II)

Ed Maier — Former Andersen Partner

A few years ago, around our annual celebration of one of the most important holidays of the year – Independence Day – the 4th of July, I wrote a piece about our founders. On July 4, 1776, 56 delegates to the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. The signing gave birth to the first real democratic republic in world history—founded by the people and for the people. Most of us can probably name no more than a few of the signers. And those would be the most well-known, e.g., Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Hancock, etc. These were the ones we learned about in our American history classes. This year we are celebrating our 250th anniversary. I felt it appropriate to honor another five of the lesser-known signers. In response to my earlier piece, a few of you realized there was some connection you had with one of these founders. Let me know if that happens again.

[Read full article →](#)

The Coach: How Each of Us Benefit from Accountability and Motivation

Gary Thomson — Andersen Alumnus and currently a Managing Director at Thomson Consulting

In NCAA sports, the evolving role of the coach is essential in a fast-changing NIL environment. In today's dynamic business environment, leadership is not just about managing; it's about evolving with both challenges and opportunities. Leadership coaching can hold transformative power to build better leaders and enhance their effectiveness within firms.

[Read full article →](#)

M&A and Private Debt Market: 2025 Recap & 2026 Outlook

Don Bravaldo — Andersen Alumnus and Founder and President Bravaldo Capital Advisors

Bravaldo Capital Advisors has just released its M&A and Private Debt Market Observations 2025 Recap and 2026 Outlook. Below are key highlights that Andersen Alumni and middle-market business owners may find especially relevant.

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Andersen Alumni Association

Membership perks • Notices • Sponsors wanted • Socials

Alumni Sponsors Wanted

Andersen Alumni Association is proud not to charge annual alumni dues and relies rather on strategic sponsorship to fund operations. Given advances in technology and alumni mobility Andersen Alumni Association is seeking a few additional qualified sponsors. If you think your company may benefit from a strategic partnership with the Association, please email Admin@andersenalumni.com for more information.

Social Media

Social Media is a great way for us to stay connected.

- [Follow us on LinkedIn](#)
- [Like us on Facebook](#)
- [Join our LinkedIn Group](#)



Lenovo

Andersen Alumni Association has partnered with Lenovo to provide our members with savings when purchasing top quality PCs, tech and accessories from Lenovo.

[Explore your savings →](#)



International Travel - MedjetAssist

Medjet provides reduced annual rates for its Air Medical Transfer membership program on a voluntary purchase basis to North American members affiliated with Andersen Alumni Association. Medjet provides single point coordination for the safety and protection of organizational clients and individuals/families as they travel for personal or business reasons - domestically and abroad. Medjet also offers an optional membership upgrade branded as Medjet Horizon that provides (among multiple membership benefits) a 24/7 Crisis Response Center for Travel Security and Crisis Response consultation and coordinated in-country services. Persons from the U.S., Canada or Mexico can visit Medjet at www.Medjet.com/Andersen or call 1.800.527.7478 or 1.205.595.6626. Reference

Andersen Alumni if calling. Enroll prior to travel. Reduced Medjet annual membership rates for persons from North America under age 75 start at \$250. Multi-year and short-term rates are also available. Rules and Regulations available online and provided with Member ID cards.

[Learn more / Enroll →](#)



Message from LinkedIn – Update Feature

Reprint: Communication received by Andersen Alumni Association

Thank you for your continued dedication to your Groups! (Andersen Alumni Association Group Page) Based on member feedback, we have invested in improving the ways that our members can engage in meaningful conversations within safe and healthy communities like yours. In our latest update to Groups, members will be able to easily message anyone in the group without message limits and will have the flexibility to control which messages they accept or privately decline. Members will receive a notification about their message requests just like they would with a regular message and continue the conversation with a single click of "accept". Thank you for your commitment to keeping your community safe and productive. To learn more about this update, visit our help center. Sincerely, The LinkedIn Team

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