

# THE NATIONWIDE STANDARD

Vol. 3, Issue 1

A Free Newsletter for Our Clients

4/3/2007

Serving you since 1987

## Our Mission

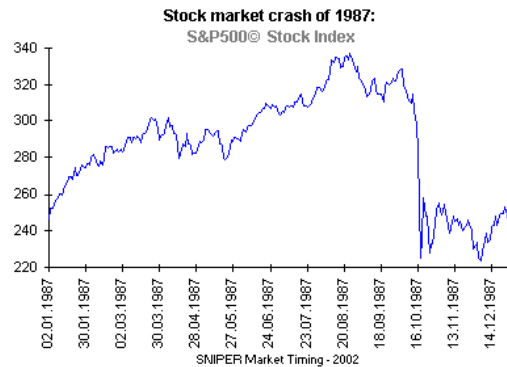
"We are committed to being the foremost provider of accurate information and quality customer service at a competitive price for our clients."

Nationwide Real Estate Tax Service, Inc.  
425 Tesconi Circle  
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## 20 Years – Looking Back at 1987

We closed out 2006 with our 8<sup>th</sup> edition of our quarterly newsletter, kick-starting 2007 with a celebration of 20 years of tax & flood service. Can any of us remember what 1987 was like? Here are some of the notables:

- The average price of gasoline in the U.S. is \$1.29 per gallon
- A U.S. postage stamp is \$0.22
- The median household income is \$26,061
- Ronald Reagan is President and George Bush Sr. was VP
- Reagan says Iran arms-Contra policy went astray and accepts responsibility after lengthy congressional hearings involving Oliver North, Jr., Admiral John M. Poindexter, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, and others implicate his authorization of Iran arms sales profits aiding Contra rebels who are conducting a guerrilla war against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua
- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wins rare third term in Britain

- Iraqi missiles kill 37 in attack on U.S. frigate *Stark* in Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War; Iraqi president Saddam Hussein apologizes the next day
- Prozac released for use in U.S.
- An international treaty signed in Montreal calls for a 50% reduction in the use of CFCs by the year 2000
- NY Giants defeat Denver in the Super Bowl (39-20)
- Minnesota defeats St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series (4-3)
- The 5.9 magnitude Whittier-Narrows earthquake strikes the Los Angeles area, killing 8 and causing \$358 million in damages
- U.S. population is over 242,000
- World population crosses 5 billion
- **Record of the Year:** "Higher Love", Russ Titelman & Steve Winwood
- **Album of the Year:** *Graceland*, Paul Simon
- **Song of the Year:** "That's What Friends Are For", Burt Bacharach & Carol Bayer Sager (performed by Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Gladys Knight, & Stevie Wonder)
- **Best Picture:** *Platoon*
- **Blockbuster Movies:** *Moonstruck*, *Wall Street*, *The Last Emperor*, *Fatal Attraction*

## Quotes for the Quarter

"You have to take it as it happens, but you should try to make it happen the way you want to take it." (German Proverb)

## Quarterly Activity

At Nationwide, we reserve a 1 hour meeting each month to conduct a seminar with all employees in order to learn something new or affirm what we know to be true. Each department rotates the responsibility for developing the seminar, which in turn strengthens the working relationship of the department's individuals through involvement in a different kind of project together.

Personalities vary, but work must get done. We feel the more people know each other the better they can relate and collaborate together. And that is how work gets done more effectively.

With increased interaction and communication among employees, companies can diminish some of the negative aspects of personality dynamics, such as cliques, gossip, passive aggressiveness, retaliation, favoritism, etc. As employees come to recognize and respect each others' uniqueness, strengths, and weaknesses, they learn to trust each other more and open up.

And that is how work improves... lingering issues are addressed and worked out. People become more efficient communicators. Productivity improves; time and money are saved.

Here are 3 activities you can introduce to your co-workers to get people more involved with each other:

### Baby Pictures:

1. Assign someone to make a "company family tree"
2. Each employee secretly brings in their baby picture with a light-hearted unknown fact about themselves and gives it to the "tree maker"
3. The "tree maker" assembles the pictures and facts creatively on a large board or construction paper and numbers them



5. Employees guess who each other is from their baby pictures and facts
6. A prize is given to the person who gets the most correct
7. Frame the finished product and hang it in the office

### Questions, Questions:

1. Generate 2 questions designed to get to know another person for each employee in the office
2. Write the paired questions on slips of paper and mix them up in a basket
3. Employee randomly choose a slip and break off into pairs to question each other and write down the answers
4. Employees rotate until each person has asked each other employee their two questions
5. Have someone good at Word assemble a booklet with a profile of each person, showing their answers

### 2 Facts, 1 Falsehood

1. Each employee writes 2 facts and 1 lie about themselves on a piece of paper
2. Each employee tells the group their list as if they were all facts
3. Employees guess which one is the lie
4. Award a prize to the employee that guesses the most lies!

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm

### **Important E-Mails:**

#### *General Info*

[info@nationwidecompliance.com](mailto:info@nationwidecompliance.com)

#### *Business Development*

[jason@nationwidecompliance.com](mailto:jason@nationwidecompliance.com)

#### *Flood Questions*

[flood@nationwidecompliance.com](mailto:flood@nationwidecompliance.com)

#### *Tax Questions*

[tax@nationwidecompliance.com](mailto:tax@nationwidecompliance.com)

### **Management Team:**

*President – Linda Walling  
VP / Tax Dept. – Marci Dyche  
Flood Dept. – Michelle Quilici  
Geologist / IT – Dani Foster  
Director of Business Development – Scott Byorum*

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**Easter, 4/08**

Here comes Peter Cottontail...

**Cinco de Mayo, 5/05**

Viva Mexico!

**Mother's Day, 5/13**

"Describe, in single words, only the good things that come into your mind about your mother."

– from Blade Runner (1982)

**Shavuot, 5/23**

Festival of Weeks

**Memorial Day, 5/28**

"When we say "War is over if you want it," we mean that if everyone demanded peace instead of another TV set, we'd have peace." – John Lennon (1940-1980)

**Father's Day, 6/17**

"A man knows when he is growing old because he begins to look like his father." – Gabriel García Márquez

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**STRESS... Tips To Manage It**

Our environment is continuously changing, even when we perceive it as relatively stable. We only have control over our own actions and reactions and our influence is limited. Stress is the "wear and tear" we experience physically, mentally, and emotionally as our bodies and minds continuously adjust to the fluctuating events and conditions in our lives.

As a positive influence, stress can prompt us to make beneficial changes in our lives and improve our well being. It can help us gain insight and add to our knowledge and experience, which aids us in navigating through life more effectively.

As a negative influence, stress can alter our perceptions of ourselves, others, and the events in life for the worse. It can lead us to unproductive thoughts and actions and can make us physically ill.

Anxiety, distress, discomfort, nervousness, irritability, dissatisfaction are just some of the emotional and mental indicators that you are under stress. Head and stomach aches, rashes, elevated blood pressure can be physical symptoms of stress.

Ultimately, stress not only effects ourselves, but also those we interact with, for better or worse. So it is beneficial to our health and the well being of our relationships to manage stress effectively.

Managing stress is as simple as addressing the systems it affects: Mental, Emotional, and Physical.

- **Mental:** Occupy your mind with pleasurable, interactive activities, such as reading, writing, games, conversation, etc. Set reasonable goals with flexible time tables for meeting them.
- **Emotional:** Define your purpose in life and use it to guide you. Express your feelings to supportive people. Make room in your life for laughter and love.
- **Physical:** Relieve stress through exercise. Start walking on your breaks and lunches. Monitor what you put into your body; reduce what you know is bad and increase what you know is good. Educate yourself on health issues.

Stress and reaction to it varies per individual, so managing it will vary per individual. Experiment and find what works for you. And never be afraid to ask for help... sometimes just talking about stress with someone can help reduce it.



VP/Tax Dept Manager – Marci Dyche

**FEATURED EMPLOYEE**

**Marci Dyche**

Marci started working at Nationwide in 1991. She was the company's "first employee" and began her career entering tax contracts, doing flood certificates, answering phones, and sending out sales letters. She's come a long way since then, serving as the company's Vice President and the Manager of the Tax Department.

"I like the freedom and creativity of structuring the Tax Department," she says. "I know fiends who've gone to school to learn what I've learned on the job here. I think Nationwide is special because of its integrity. We have a lot of pride in the products and services we provide to our clients. We're not the kind of company that would outsource to India."

A favorite quote of Marci's follows the Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would like to be treated!" Her personal philosophy is to "enjoy life now. A lot of people spend their time worrying about the future. I think if they focused more on the present, they would be happier."

Marci's favorite thing to do is be a mom and hang out with her husband Bruce and their 2 daughters. She likes the colors of Fall, going to the park, and working out. "Most all my days are really good. And I also really like my job!"





## Just For Laughs

### The Argument

A sea Captain and his Chief Engineer got into an argument about which one was more important to the ship. Finally, they decided to trade places for a day.

The Chief went up to the bridge and the Captain went down to the engine room. After a few hours, the Captain suddenly appeared on deck, covered with oil and soot.

“Chief!” he yelled, wildly waving aloft a monkey wrench. “You’ll have to come down here! I can’t make her go!”

“Of course not!” replied the Chief Engineer. “We’re aground!”

### One Day in the Caribbean

A lawyer and an engineer were fishing in the Caribbean.

The lawyer said, “I’m here because my house burned down, and everything I owned was destroyed by the fire. The insurance company paid for everything.”

“That’s quite a coincidence,” said the engineer. “I’m here because my house and all my belongings were destroyed in an earthquake, and my insurance company also paid for everything.”

The lawyer looked somewhat confused. “How do you start an earthquake?” he asked.



### The Tale

#### The Lesson

There’s a story about a very educated English gentleman visiting a great Buddhist master. The holy man poured a cup of tea for the Englishman and kept pouring and pouring until there was tea all over the floor.

Finally, the Englishman could not sit silently any longer and asked: “Why are you overfilling the cup?” The Buddhist master replied: “This cup is like your head. It is so full of your own thoughts that nothing else will go into it. You must empty yourself first in order to learn anything new from me.”

~ (Unknown)



### WORD WEIRD

**Quisling:** A traitor who serves as the puppet of the enemy occupying his or her country.

**ETYMOLOGY:** After Vidkun Quisling (1887 - 1945), head of Norway's government during the Nazi occupation (1940 - 1945)

### FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER?

Please e-mail Scott Byorum:  
[scott@nationwidecompliance.com](mailto:scott@nationwidecompliance.com)

The Nationwide Standard is published quarterly for its lender clients. It can be viewed online at [www.nationwidecompliance.com](http://www.nationwidecompliance.com). Click on “LINKS”.

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