# Connecting with Users: Newsgroups





"The newsgroups are great, everyone is willing to help, give advice and I've become friends with special people."

Pawn Shirley, GEM Insurance

Dawn Shirley, GEM Insurance Agencies, L,P., Houston TX Accessing other users in a smart and valuable resource, and connecting with them is easier than ever with the ASCnet Newsgroups.

### What are the ASCnet Newsgroups?

Simply put, the newsgroups are users helping users via the Internet. The Newsgroups are not a list serve, but rather a bulletin board system allowing users to post questions in specific topic areas.

- By utilizing the newsgroups on a daily basis, users can utilize experience and receive help from other users, without geographical limitations.
- The newsgroups are an outstanding resource to help you prepare for an upgrade, troubleshoot an issue, or just help run your office better.
- There is no additional cost—access to the newsgroups is included in you ASCnet membership!

### **Helpful Tips:**

1. Members of ASCnet can find easy to follow instructions on how to get started with the newsgroups on the ASCnet website:

#### www.ascnet.org/newsgroups

- 2. Don't forget to include a Signature File. Instructions on how to set up a Signature File can be found on the newsgroups homepage of the ASCnet web site. What information should you include in your Signature File?
  - ☑ Your Name
  - ☑ Agency's Name
  - ✓ Number of users in your office
  - ✓ Version of TAM you are currently using
  - ☑ Other software you are using that may interact with TAM This information helps those users that respond to your questions to be able to provide more specific information to you.
- 3. There are no "silly" questions. Try to be as specific as possible when asking for help. After viewing some of the postings on the newsgroups and reading the responses, you will get a feel for the information to include in your questions.
- 4. Have fun and remember what ASCnet is all about— Users Helping Users!

## Did you know...

- ☑ The newsgroups are password protected, so you don't have to worry about receiving spam after posting
- ☑ There is no extra software needed to get connected
- ☑ There is no limit to the number of people in your office that can participate in the newsgroup.
- ☑ The newsgroups average over 15,000 user sessions a day.
- ▼ The newsgroups and the TENCon (ASCnet Annual Conference) are the top two reason people join ASCnet.
- ☑ When you post a question, it can be posted in one group or you may cross-point in several groups.