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## Letter From the CEO



*Colleagues, fellow professionals, and friends,*

*Lessons from a Painting entitled "Fact and Fancy"*

Hanging in my office is a large (4'x3') painting called "Fact and Fancy" which I think frames much of life for us. No, not in the Old Wild West way of life, but living life in the tension between how we fancy it should be and how it really is. We fancy ourselves doing all sorts of exciting things with seeming ease and perfection, but we find ourselves – most often – imperfectly engaged in our routines...routines at home, routines at work, routines with friends...routines in summer, winter, fall, and spring.

That is how I interpret the painting. In the foreground stands the world of "Fact" – the world of everyday life, essential tools of the trade, worn leather saddle, spurs, lantern, and handkerchief alongside some everyday non-essentials that, if appreciated, may brighten the spirit -- a pot of coffee, the smell of tobacco, a warming tonic. Nothing special, certainly nothing perfect or ideal. Then there is the backdrop – the world of "Fancy" – the world of the imagination, riding atop two spirited animals, a star of the Show.



The artist behind this painting is Richard V. Goetz. He taught my father how to paint starting way back in the 1950s, and my father became a very accomplished painter under Goetz's mentorship (see my father's homage to Goetz's painting), and I think Goetz taught my father a lot about a philosophy of life as much as of art (that's what good teachers really do). Goetz's philosophy as an artist was "paint what you see" and I suspect his painting was an expression of how he saw his own life and much of the world around him. "To me," he said, "painting is one of the highest forms of aesthetic self-expression and can be a most meaningful mode of communication." Goetz went on to add, "An object in the arrangement is never painted merely to tell the viewer what the object is but, rather, to use the abstract patterns of color it reveals to build the composition, while striving for emotional impact."

So, how does this painting impact and challenge us? Its impact first is emotional – stirring something within us as we ponder both the Fact and Fancy not just of the Old West, but the Fact and Fancy of our own lives. But what of the challenge? Is it to remind us that the "Fancy" is always something distant, ephemeral, and out of grasp, so just settle in to the "Fact" and reality of life? Perhaps, but I see the painting as a call to live in both worlds, Fact and Fancy.

So, how might we marry the two worlds? I think, to a large degree, we do that by seeing purpose and significance in the routine parts of each day. Purpose and significance primarily have to do with others and how we impact their lives – for the better, whether directly or indirectly – by what we do and how we do it. Beyond that, we should neither settle into the Fact (which frustrates by turning status quo into staleness) nor pine for the Fancy (which frustrates by never achieving the ideal), but, rather, we should live and take pleasure in the realm in between the two – the realm of progress – seeking to grow and become better at the routine tasks while working on new skills if there is something we would like to do.

I hope this edition of *BankLine* has many items of interest for you.

Sincerely,

James W. Bruce, III  
CEO and General Counsel  
American Bank Systems



Our User Conference, originally scheduled for October 23-24, 2024, has been postponed. The conference will now take place in 2025, with the exact dates to be announced at a later time. This decision was made due to the upcoming retirements of two key personnel and to accommodate planned enhancements to some of our featured solutions.

While we regret this change, we believe that the additional time will allow our team to deliver a more exciting and feature-rich conference in 2025.

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## Industry Insights

### MEMBER FDIC - A TWIST ON AN OLD REG!

by Elva M. Coffey-Sears, CRCM, EVP & Chief Compliance Officer



FDR signed The Banking Act of 1933 into law on June 16, 1933, creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and authorizing a temporary deposit insurance fund to provide \$2,500.00 coverage effective on January 1, 1934. The Banking Act of 1935 included a requirement that “Every insured bank shall display at each place of business maintained by it a sign or signs, and shall include in advertisements relating to deposits a statement to the effect that its deposits are insured by the Corporation.” Since that time, there have been many significant changes to deposit insurance coverage, but only a few minor tweaks to the signage requirement ... until now.

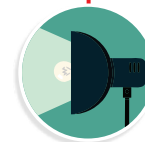
In December 2023, the FDIC published a final rule amending 12 CFR 328 – FDIC Official Signs, Advertisement of Membership, False Advertising, Misrepresentation of Insured Status, and Misuse of the FDIC’s Name or Logo. Consistent with the purpose of the signage and disclosure to provide clear and accurate disclosure to consumers regarding insurance coverage, these amendments are intended to modernize signage and disclosure requirements to support digital channels and alternate physical banking locations and re-emphasize the prohibition to misrepresent FDIC insurance coverage.

Important changes to note include (but are not limited to): the new formatting of, and placement requirements, relating to the FDIC logotype on digital channels; a requirement to continuously display the non-deposit notification on digital channels; inclusion in the regulation of prior guidance regarding signage and separation of deposit and non-deposit activities; new requirements for ATMs providing access to both deposit and non-deposit products and for ATMs placed into service after 1/1/2025; restrictions on the use of the FDIC statement on advertisements referencing both insured deposit products and non-deposit products and for hybrid products (products involving both insured deposit and non-deposit components); and clarifications regarding misrepresentation of FDIC insurance coverage.

Included in these amendments is a **new requirement** that insured depository institutions establish and maintain **written policies and procedures** to achieve compliance with the FDIC signage and advertisement of membership requirements. These policies and procedures “must be commensurate with the nature, size, complexity, scope, and potential risk of the deposit-taking activities of the insured depository institution and must include, as appropriate, provisions related to monitoring and evaluating activities of persons that provide deposit-related services to the insured depository institution or offer the insured depository institution's deposit-related products or services to other parties.”

The amendments were effective April 1, 2024, with a mandatory compliance date of January 1, 2025.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** On April 18, 2024 the Beneficial Ownership (BO) Information FAQs were updated by FinCEN to indicate access to the BO IT system by financial institutions and their regulators is expected to be implemented in the spring of 2025.



## ***CoPilot Loan Origination & Documentation Solution for Community Banks***



***SIMPLE, SOLID, SUPERIOR***

ABS's CoPilot Loans Origination & Documentation Solution is designed to provide community banks with a simple, solid, and superior solution for managing their loan origination. With our solution, community banks can streamline their operations, reduce costs, and improve customer satisfaction. CoPilot is easy to use, reliable, and scalable, making it the perfect choice for community banks of all sizes.

CoPilot is an innovative software solution that easily documents all types of new loans with easy-to-read compliant documents backed by personal 24/7 customer care. Other exciting features include:

- Intuitive workflow to gather just the data needed for the transaction type.
- Robust processing that allows you to make fields required, provides compliance validation at the completion of each screen and includes field-level system help with the ability to add custom field-level help.
- Integrated workflow with optional third-party system interfaces for pulling credit bureau reports, flood determinations, core systems and many others.
- Seamless platform of documentation, exception tracking and document imaging with an interface to our BankManager® Elite software solution and electronic signature via digital authentication.
- Optional Copilot Deposit module available.
- CoPilot Software is available in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.
- Best of all, it is supported 24/7 by the ABS Customer Care department, providing outstanding support that our customers have come to expect for more than 40 years.

## Brunswick State Bank

### Brunswick, Nebraska



*Brunswick State Bank, Brunswick location*

Brunswick State Bank was originally chartered on January 24, 1916. The bank was one of two banks in the bustling village of Brunswick, Nebraska, population approximately 300. The original bank is located in the same building that it occupies today.

In 1984 Brunswick State Bank purchased the Winnetoon Credit Cooperative in Winnetoon, Nebraska. Both offices serve the surrounding communities and support many local organizations and events. Following a devastating storm in 2019 which caused wide-spread damage to much of Nebraska, the Brunswick State Bank worked alongside individuals and communities to clean up, restore, and rebuild. During the COVID pandemic Brunswick State Bank found creative ways to meet customer needs and administer a PPP loan program to help area businesses survive.



*Brunswick State Bank, Winnetoon location*



*Brunswick State Bank, Magnet location*

Brunswick State Bank was a family-owned financial institution until 2007 when a group of Nebraskan investors formed a holding company and purchased the bank. Both locations were remodeled to provide additional space for technology and staff. However, the original exteriors of these buildings from the early 1900s were preserved to honor the rich heritage of their communities. Since that time the bank has grown from 10 employees and \$34 million in assets to 19 employees and assets of \$155 million. In 2024 the Brunswick State Bank will add a third location in Magnet, Nebraska. This location will also be established in a former bank building from the 1900s that had been vacant for many years.

Brunswick State Bank thrives in the rural Nebraska setting. It specializes in serving agriculture and small business customers in addition to consumer banking. Over the past 15 years the bank has adopted state-of-the-art technology for customers' banking needs. Mortgage products were added to provide local home-ownership funding opportunities. Brunswick State Bank continues to partner with its surrounding communities to promote "The Good Life" in Nebraska.

## Banking Supplies

*As we move toward a more digital age, we will be shifting away from paper format and will instead be offering our forms in electronic format. We have also downsized many of our stock tabs. If you would like to know more about electronic forms or would like information about stock tabs still available, contact us at [orders@abs-ok.com](mailto:orders@abs-ok.com).*



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## Tips & Tricks

### CoPilot : Resources Menu

By Jessie Nikkel, Director of Customer Experience/Training



(CoPilot is a loan and deposit account origination system with a user-friendly interface putting you in control. CoPilot Loans helps banks save money and time. Not every loan needs an expensive legal review. Copilot Loans does it for you, providing you with documents and processes that are designed to ensure compliance. CoPilot Deposits is a sophisticated deposit origination system which improves efficiency, accuracy, and compliance.)

The **Resources Menu** available in CoPilot allows for frequently visited websites and/or PDF documents to be accessed within CoPilot as a convenience factor to enhance productivity and efficiency when processing loans or opening accounts.

The Resources Menu can be customized in CoAdmin to add links to new websites or PDF's maintain access to current websites.

To find out more about CoPilot, please contact our ABS Customer Care Team at 405-607-7000 or visit our website at [www.americanbanksystems.com](http://www.americanbanksystems.com).

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## Employee Spotlight

Anthony Libuit  
Software Developer



Anthony is a member of our software development team and has been with American Bank Systems for 12 years. His primary focus is with our BankManager Elite and BankManager Workflow programs. Anthony enjoys writing codes to enhance our products. An example of the quality work he has accomplished is being able to reduce the time to execute a data conversion process from 50 hours to as little as a few minutes.

Anthony was raised in Altus, Oklahoma, located in southwest Oklahoma with a population of 18,413. During his college years, Anthony attended Oklahoma City Community College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and received his degree in Applied Science/Computer Programming.

Anthony is Catholic and very involved with his church. The Lord has blessed him with a loving wife and three beautiful boys. Anthony is talented in woodworking but spends more time with his kids coaching youth soccer. He also enjoys his daily morning reading of a chapter of the Bible to start his day.



## Christmas Salad

*from Carol Parker*

### INGREDIENTS

#### FOR THE SALAD:

- 1 Head of broccoli chopped into florets
- 1 Head of cauliflower chopped into florets
- 1 Red onion thinly sliced
- 2 Cups grape tomatoes halved
- 1/2 Cup sharp shredded cheese (optional)
- 1/2-3/4 Cup crumbled cooked bacon (optional)

#### FOR THE DRESSING:

- 1 Cup Mayo
- 1/2 Cup sour cream
- 2 TBSP cider vinegar
- 1/2 to 1 TBSP sugar
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Salt

### DIRECTIONS

- Add veggies, cheese, and bacon into a large mixing bowl.
- In another bowl, whisk together mayo, sour cream, vinegar, sugar, pepper, and salt.
- Pour over veggies, cheese and bacon and toss together.
- Chill in the fridge at least 1 hour before serving.
- Enjoy!!!!
- If you do not like your salad too wet, cut down on the amount of dressing.

If you have a delicious recipe you would like to share in future ABS BankLine Newsletters, please forward a copy of your recipe to [greed@abs-ok.com](mailto:greed@abs-ok.com)