

ASWA FAX RETURN

American Society of Women Accountants — Houston Chapter No. 33

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 53 No. 4

October 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ann White

Where do we go from here? With the presidential election just around the corner, it's time to decide who will control the next four years. Bush or Kerry? Republican or Democrat? God or Government?

Having just moved into a new rental residence with unforeseen problems, I need all the tax cuts I can get so I know who I will vote for; do you?

I know who I'm voting for but I also know who is in control of my life; I hope you do too.

FHPW QUARTERLY MEETING

October 25, 2004

Topic: Politithon

Location: H.E.S.S. Building
5430 Westheimer (between Chimney Rock and Yorktown)

5:15 p.m. Social/Networking/Vendors/
FHPW Table

6:15 p.m. Dinner/Business Meeting/
Networking

7:00 p.m. Panelists: Dr. Robert Stein and
Dr. Tim Nokken

Cost:

\$25 reservations postmarked BY **Oct. 15**

\$35 reservations postmarked AFTER **Oct. 15**

DEADLINE for VENDORS' tables, **Oct.15**

For additional information, please contact Chris Noble at 713-520-0033 or chris@marnoble.com or visit the web site at <http://www.fhpw.org/>

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events—p.5

Calling all Chefs—p. 7

FHPW Quarterly Meeting—p. 1

Job Bank—p. 9

Joint National Conference Fundraising —p. 8

Memorial Fund Information—p. 4

Membership Meeting—Oct. Program—p. 3

National Nominating Committee—p.3

President's Message—p. 1

Officer & Committee Chair Info—p. 2

Special Events for Oct. & Nov.—p. 5

Speaker profile—p. 7

Spirit of Women Documentary—p. 8

Stressed Out?—p. 6

Regional Director Visit

Wendi Taber, ASWA South Central Regional Director from San Antonio will be attending our October dinner meeting. It's not very often that we get visits from a member of the national board so I hope that we can show our ASWA spirit with a large attendance.

Empowering Women In The Accounting and Financial Professions Since 1938

2004-2005 Officers & Committee Chairs

President H 713-974-6360 W 713-528-2771	Ann White awhitetx@yahoo.com awhite@cddacpa.com F 713-528-6423	Past President C 281-684-5495 W 713-528-2771	Ellie Moore Member Relations Meeting Arrangements emoore@cddacpa.com F 713-528-6423
President Elect H 281-894-5253	Eileen Neucere Database aggie1978@earthlink.net	Director H 713-926-2679 W 713-681-8481	Deborah McKenney Membership dmckenney@immucor.co F 713-681-2223
Vice President H 281-469-0970 W 713-353-1942	Melanie Norton Publicity nortonmelt@hotmail.com C 281-381-3781	Job Bank H W 713-623-4700	Karen Amoroso Karen.amoroso@accountemps.com F
Treasurer H 832-445-0578	Lisa Wilson lmwilson@msn.com	Newsletter C 713-817-0318 W 713-924-9763	Colene Blankinship coblank@msn.com F 713-926-9960
Secretary H 713-688-4057 W 713-831-5412	Kathryn Pearce kathryn_pearce@aigvalic.com F 713-831-8653	Programs	Vacant

Deadline for October newsletter: November 3, 2004
 Newsletter Editor: Colene Blankinship
 Home: 713-817-0318
 Work: 713-924-9763
 Fax: 713-926-9960
 Email (work): colene_blankinship@petrochemintl.com

Additions and changes to the mailing list should be submitted to Eileen Neucere
 Home: 281-894-5253
 Work: 713-681-8481 X 3006
 Email: aggie1978@earthlink.net

Standing Reservations

Loyce Anderson	Melanie Norton
Colene Blankinship	Kathy Pearce
Ellie Moore	Eunice Reiter
Eileen Neucere	Ann White
Debbie McKenney	

The Chapter will bill for reservations that are not cancelled by noon Thursday prior to the meeting.

Please contact **Ellie Moore** to be added or deleted from the Standing Reservations List.
 281-684-5495 emoore@cddacpa.com

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING
1 hour CPE
October 26, 2004**

Time: 5:30 p.m. Networking
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Speaker

Topic: **Texas State Sales & Use Tax Update and Planning Opportunities**

Speaker: Trisha Fortune (see page 7)
Ryan and Company, Inc.

Get up-to-date on all of the changes that have been made, that will be made and those that are still pending such as taxing accounting services.

Prerequisite None Required

Course Level: Basic

Method: Discussion with Outlines Provided

Administrative Policy: Per ASWA standing rules, if you register and do not attend you will be charged the \$25.

Where: The Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane
(corner of Westheimer and Timmons Lane)

Parking is available in the member parking area across the street from the Briar Club.

Meeting Prices

- \$25 Members with reservations
- \$30 Members who do not make reservations
- \$30 Guests
- \$15 CPE only (no dinner)

**RSVP by 10/21/04 to Ellie Moore at:
281-684-5495 or emoore@cddacpa.com
Reservations need to be made by the Thursday preceding the meeting. Special dietary requests available on request.**

The chapter meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month except December (holiday party) and May (annual luncheon).

NATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Door to Opportunity is Open ---ASWA Needs You! The Nominating Committee of 2004 – 2005 is seeking qualified, dedicated and energetic members to serve on the 2005 – 2006 Board of Directors. ASWA seeks candidates who are regular members in good standing and have served, or are currently serving, on their chapter’s board of directors. Individuals should be focused on the new strategic direction of the association, with an outcomes based mentality that steers ASWA to greater aspirations. Board members are expected to strengthen and steer ASWA’s programs and services, while collaborating with their peers to enhance the association’s public standing.

Nominees must be able to attend two in-person board meetings annually; one held in conjunction with the annual conference, and should have the support of their chapter, employer and family.

The Nominating Committee will interview candidates in Chicago, Illinois during ASWA’s 64th Annual Conference, November 10-12. To nominate yourself or someone else, please print and fill out the [biographical information sheet](#) and fax it to headquarters at 703-506-3266. Nominations must be received by November 1st.

CPE Contact:

Ann White
c/o Collector, Dart, DiCampli & Assoc.
3000 Richmond Ave, Suite 270
Houston, TX 77098

Official National Registry Statement

ASWA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State Boards of Accountancy have the final authority on the acceptance of individual courses of CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be addressed to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors: 150 Fourth Avenue, Nashville, TN 37219-2417. phone 615-220-4200. Web site: www.nsba.org

Houston ASWA Memorial Fund

The Houston ASWA Memorial Fund was chartered in 1973 with the two-fold purpose of:

- Providing scholarships to deserving accounting students
- Furthering the mission of the American Society of Women Accountants -- "To enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional and economic potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession".

The Memorial Fund receives contributions, in lieu of flowers, for members and their loved ones during times of grief. We receive contributions to celebrate special occasions and in honor of special people.

Please consider the ASWA Memorial Fund as an opportunity to honor or to memorialize the people in your lives.

Contributions should be made payable to:

ASWA Memorial Fund
 c/o Eunice H. Reiter
 5005 Woodway, Suite 200
 Houston, TX 77056-1789

If your contribution is in honor or in memory of someone, be sure to include information regarding where to send the acknowledgment.



THANK YOU

The ASWA Memorial Fund acknowledges with gratitude the following contributions:

In memory of Judy McMillian by:

- Eileen Neucere
- Carolyn Stoll
- Kelly Bennett
- Nan Drescher
- Loyce Anderson
- Orapin Duangploy
- Eunice Reiter
- Pam Ahlers
- Colene Blankinship
- Melanie Norton

In memory of Orapin Duangploy's daughter, Tippy:

- Colene Blankinship
- Melanie Norton

In memory of Joan Landreth's Mother by:

- Colene Blankinship
- Eileen Neucere
- Ellie Moore

In honor of her Dad's birthday by:

- Ann White

In honor of her parents' 50th anniversary by:

- Eileen Neucere

And, as always, we appreciate contributions which Ann White makes each and every month in honor of the Houston Chapter.

Please know that as of mid-October, the Fund has received \$1,050 in Judy's memory, and we shall be able to award a scholarship in her name next spring.

Eunice H. Reiter, Trustee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Special Events for October and November

By Ellie Moore

2004

- Oct. 23 Loaves & Fishes (9 a.m.) cook and serve lunch at the shelter
- Oct. 25 FHPW Quarterly Meeting (see page 1)
- Oct. 26 Membership Meeting—Texas Sales Tax Update (rescheduled from July), Trisha Fortune, Ryan & Company
- Nov 10-12 ASWA/AWSCPA Annual Conference Chicago, IL
- Nov. 16 Membership Meeting—Sarbanes-Oxley, Speaker Mandy Spencer, Matrixcio
- Nov. 18 “The Spirit of Women” Documentary (see page 8)
- Nov. 20 Ellison’s Greenhouse, Brenham, TX—Poinsettia tour
- Dec. 14 Holiday Party

October 23 9 am Loaves and Fishes – across the street (I-45) from Minute Maid Park

Loaves and Fishes is a shelter that feeds the homeless daily. A lot of the work is provided by volunteers. We gather and start around 9. We prepare the meal, set the tables and serve. Sack lunches are also prepared for them to take. Last April we served around 300 lunches and sent out about 125 sack lunches. The work is minimal and the company is fun. We need a head count to make sure we have enough help. Friends and family are welcome. There is plenty for kids to do if you want to bring them along.

Nov 20th 9 am Ellison’s Greenhouse – Brenham, TX

Are you ready for the holidays? Is your house full of color? Come with us on a trip to Brenham to see poinsettias in 17 varieties and 25 colors.

This tour is available both Sat. and Sun. It is open from 10 – 4. Parking is available along the road and the cost is \$2 per person with these proceeds going to the 4H Club. They have snacks and drinks, so we may want to bring picnic items with us.

Lectures are given from Texas A & U Ag. Dept and various growers around the area. The drive is expected to be about 1 hour from Houston. It is my understanding that you can purchase the plants, at a fraction of the cost from stores, and they have gift items available. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can coordinate the meeting place so we can ride together and or follow each other.

2005

- Jan. 8 Mid year planning meeting and scrap booking (10 a.m.)
- Jan. 25 Membership Meeting—Tax Update
- Feb. 19 Murder by Chocolate
- Feb. 22 Membership Meeting—HR Forensics, Dan White—a case study on corporate crime
- March 22 Membership Meeting
- April 23 Loaves & Fishes (9 am.) cook and serve lunch at the shelter
- April 26 Membership Meeting
- May Public Relations Luncheon
- Sept 28-
- Oct 1 ASWA/AWSCPA Annual Conference Philadelphia, PA

Please let me know if you can assist with either of these events. We wouldn’t want to start without you.

As always, bring a friend. Ellie Moore 281-684-5495 or emoore@cddacpa.com.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Ellie Moore at emoore@cddacpa.com or by phone at 281-684-5495.



STRESSED OUT? By Linda Talley

We become a statistic, due to stress, because we feel like we're missing something or our intentions have been thwarted. What's happening with you when you feel like something is missing in your job, your personal life, your heart, your soul? When you feel like something is missing—it usually is! Don't deny it—find out what it is and handle it, otherwise, you tense up, get cranky, react at work and probably go home at night, kick the dog and yell at the kids. Yep, it's called stress! It's kind of like a cracked foundation on your home. If you discover it's cracked, you fix it. Do the same for yourself. There are usually 5 areas where we "miss" something: 1. Time 2. Standards 3. Boundaries 4. Resources 5. Money.

To repair these cracks, take the following steps:

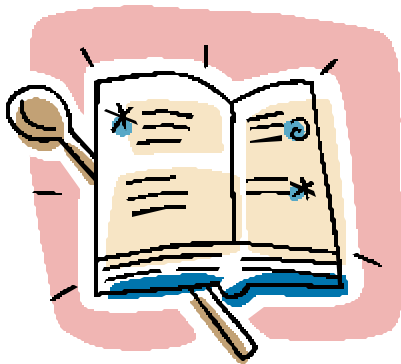
1. When you find that you don't have enough time, begin to build a reserve of time by changing how you deal with time. Stop speeding, running red/yellow lights. Let people cut in front of you in the grocery line, bank line, getting on the freeway. Try this, you may be pleasantly surprised. You can't control time but you can manage how you respond around time.
2. What may be missing are your standards—what you stand for. If you don't have standards (personally and professionally), set them. If you have them, raise them. By they way, values are business standards about how everyone acts in the workplace. Does your business have values?
3. Boundaries may be missing—what people may or may not do around you. If you're being sucked dry of energy by toxic people who are surrounding you, enlarge your boundaries and share these boundaries with people around you and ask them to honor these new boundaries. If you are always taking on more work than you can handle and saying nothing to your boss or doing someone else's work because it's easier that way, you will stress out. Boundaries protect your physically and emotionally. Don't drop the ball here, your life may depend on it!
4. Most people don't have a lot of resources. Make a list of the resources, as in people, places, suppliers, etc, you need now and in the future. If you don't have the slots filled, begin to fill in the names. For example, I have the name and number of the computer repair person (the PC Dude). I'm ready if the need arises. I have my hair stylist, my accountant, my handyperson, my printer, my coach. I'm still looking for the right lawyer. Yes, even a lawyer is a resource.
5. We probably all need/want more money. Money is power (not strength) and it buys a lot of things. Start saving, get a second job, cut expenses. See how little you can live on. Make it a game. When you don't have what you need, you get stressed out. Don't let that happen. Stop the stress by acknowledging what's missing and then handle it. Don't become a statistic.

CALLING ALL CHEFS

By Ann White

The Houston Chapter is putting together a cookbook of your favorite recipes. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will benefit the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The cookbook will be titled **COOKING THE BOOKS**. We would like for your recipe to be given a clever name incorporating the theme such as “In the Red Velvet Cake” or “Bottom Line Brownies”; you get the idea. If you can’t come up with a clever name, we can help. We would also like to include some short stories that you may have about your experiences with ASWA. If you don’t have a recipe to submit but have a story you want to include that would be great too. If your favorite recipe is from a published cookbook, it is okay to submit it. The ingredient are not copyrighted. However, you will need to rewrite the directions in your own words.



Recipes can be submitted by email to awhite@cddacpa.com, by fax to (713) 528-6423 or by US Mail to Ann White c/o Collector, Dart, DiCampli & Associates, 3000 Richmond Ave., Suite 270, Houston, TX 77098.

The recipes will be entered into a software program designed for recipes so it doesn’t have to be pretty, just readable. If you would like the recipe returned, just let us know and we will gladly mail it back.

There is no limit to the number of recipes you may submit. The more recipes we get, the better the cookbook will be and the more money we can raise for scholarships.

Deadline for submissions is October 31, 2004.

SPEAKER PROFILE

Trisha C. Fortune, CMI
Senior Manager – Transaction Taxes
Ryan & Company, Inc.
Austin, Texas

Ms. Trisha C. Fortune is a Senior Manager in the Austin practice office of Ryan & Company, Inc. where she specializes in multi-state sales and use tax audit representation, reverse audit representation, research, and tax planning. Trisha has over ten years of experience in state & local tax, and started her career as a sales and use tax auditor for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. She spent eight years working in public accounting specializing in providing state & local tax services including multistate research, multi-state planning, and state & local tax education. She was responsible for strategic sales tax restructuring for a five state region and practice leader for a Houston sales and use tax practice of one of the national accounting firms. Since starting her career with Ryan & Company, she has narrowed her practice focus to primarily Fortune 500 companies in the manufacturing, refining, and oil and gas industries. In addition to client service, Trisha lectures on various state and local tax topics for clients and through national education seminars such as the National Business Institute, Lorman Education Services and the Institute of Professionals in Taxation.

Trisha is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and is a certified public accountant licensed in Texas. She is a certified member of the Institute of Professionals in Taxation.

Ryan & Company, Inc.

Ryan & Company is America's largest independent state and local tax consulting firm. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, the firm provides a comprehensive range of state and local tax services on a multistate basis, including audit defense, tax recovery, tax decision automation, dispute resolution, and strategic planning. With more than 350 professionals and associates in 15 locations throughout the United States, Ryan & Company serves many of the world's most prominent Fortune 1000 companies.

**“THE SPIRIT OF WOMEN”
DOCUMENTARY
November 18, 2004**

My name is Melissa Krauser and I am the Development Coordinator for the Houston Area Women Center (HAWC.) HAWC provides shelter and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Houston and the surrounding area. Our mission began concurrently with an event that happened in 1977, the first National Women's Conference held right here in Houston. The Conference was the first federally funded, national gathering of women to talk about and act upon issues of concern to women.

Delegates from all fifty states and the U.S. territories convened to debate and vote on a 26 plank program for a National Plan of Action that included such issues as Battered Women, Child Abuse, Disabled Women, the Equal Rights Amendment, Minority Women, Older Women, Reproductive Freedom, Sexual Preference and other issues in which they had never had the opportunity to influence national policy.

In the spirit of education and outreach, we will be celebrating the twenty-seventh anniversary of this event by screening the documentary "The Spirit of Women" on November 18, 2004 at the Verizon Wireless Theater at Bayou Place. The film chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the conference attendees as they carried out the charge of developing the National Plan of Action to advance the rights and improve the status of the American woman. The original Texas delegation, as well as other conference attendees and VIPs will be at the screening. The screening is also open to the public.

Please find the link to the website for "The Spirit of Women." It is my sincere hope that you, as well as some of your supporters, might join us in this event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at either the email address, or number below.

Many thanks for your time!

www.mediaprojects.org/SpiritWomen.htm

A Note From the JNC Headquarters

We are writing to solicit your help with a joint fundraising activity for the ASWA Educational Foundation and the AWSCPA Foundation. Participants at the Joint Inspired Solutions Conference slated for November 10-12, 2004 in Chicago and hosted by the American Society of Women Accountants (ASWA) and the American Woman's Society of CPAs (AWSCPA) will have the opportunity to join friends and colleagues at the JNC's first-ever live auction and raffle.

This one-and-half hour live auction and raffle will feature items donated by affiliates, chapters, firms and individuals from across the country with all proceeds going to the Foundations.

In order for us to provide participants an exciting event with wonderful bidding and raffle opportunities, we need the support of our members, chapters and affiliates. We are asking for donations that would work with the live auction and raffle format. Donations with at least a \$100 value are needed and we are encouraging chapters, affiliates and members to join forces to donate some really spectacular offerings.

Ideas include electronics, gift cards from specialty retailers or fine restaurants, sporting event packages, gift baskets or weekend get-a-ways. There is no limit to the creativity!

The live auction will take place immediately following the Awards Gala on Friday, November 12 at the InterContinental Hotel. The ASWA Educational Foundation was created to enhance recognition, philanthropic pursuits, and industry research in support of women in accounting and related fields. The AWSCPA Foundation was created in 1982 to support the research and educational activities of the AWSCPA and provide scholarship opportunities for women in the accounting profession.

If you are able to donate an item to the event, please complete the commitment form located at the following link:

www.aswa.org/files/public/CommitmentForm.doc and return it to the JNC's Live Auction/Raffle at the address noted by October 29, 2004. Items may be brought with you if you are attending the JNC or mailed to the auction and raffle site.

On behalf of both Foundations, we truly appreciate your support and dedication to the profession.

JOB BANK

Position Available—Controller

We're Jetstream of Houston, a leading maker of high quality waterblast equipment and accessories for commercial and industrial cleaning. We're also part of Federal Signal Corporation, a \$1 billion NYSE-listed company. We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced Controller at our Houston, Texas production facility.

As our Controller, you will manage the activities of the accounting department to ensure that information is prepared accurately and on time. We'll count on you to be a business partner with all functional areas, which means we expect you to manage by wandering around, not just sitting in an office. The better you understand the business, the more capable you'll be in advising us on decisions that have a financial impact. We'll count on you to form strategies, but we'll also expect you to roll up your sleeves.

As part of the management team you will:

- Formulate and execute strategic plans
- Develop and coordinate operating plans
- Monitor accounting procedures and controls
- Coordinate control and documentation of international credit instruments
- Oversee process improvements in all areas of the finance department
- Develop new revenue and cost strategies
- Develop distributor reports dealing with payment history, net worth, and their rating in comparison to other distributors

In order to be successful in this position, you will need:

- Bachelor's degree (MBA preferred)
- 5-7 years' experience in supervisory financial position in manufacturing environment
- CPA or CMA certificate preferred
- Operations and cost accounting experience is a plus

Maybe you're ready for the next step in your career. If so, we'd like to hear from you! To learn more about us, we invite you to visit us at www.waterblast.com and www.federalsignal.com. Because we are committed to a diverse workforce, we especially encourage qualified women and minorities to apply. Please send your resume and salary history to our off-site recruiting department.



ASWA
American Society of Women Accountants
c/o Collector, Dart, DiCampli & Associates, P.C.
3000 Richmond, Suite 270
Houston, Texas 77098

Return Service Requested

**Printing and Postage Compliments of
Collector, Dart, DiCampli & Associates, P.C..**

The FAX RETURN is the newsletter of ASWA Houston Chapter 33. It is published monthly, except December. You can receive the Fax Return by email or by snail mail. **Please let the editor know which form you would like to receive the newsletter.**

ADVERTISING RATES

The ads are to be emailed to the newsletter chair no later than the 1st of the month in which the ad is to appear.

\$300/ year—full page
\$160/ year—1/2 page
\$ 10/ month—business card size

The Fax return is published monthly except December.

Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW)

Web site: www.fhpw.org

ASWA Delegates:

Melanie Norton
Kathryn Pearce

ASWA Alternates:

Pam Ahlers
Ellie Moore

ASWA National Headquarters

800-326-2163

Web site: www.aswa.org

Email: aswa@aswa.org

Region 4—South Central Area Directors—
Mary Henn Burns, CPA—mehurns@ppco.com
Richelle A. Richoux, CPA—rrichoux@ekclcpa.com
Wendi C. Taber, CPA—taber2@cs.com