

# ASWA FAX RETURN

American Society of Women Accountants — Houston Chapter No. 33 [www.aswahouston.org](http://www.aswahouston.org)

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 54 No. 4

October 2005

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1 Hour CPE  
October 25, 2005

Topic: Record Retention  
Speaker: Ken Alexander/Joanne Vorpahl  
Prerequisite: None required  
Course Level: Basic

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

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

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

Meeting Prices: \$25 Members with reservations  
\$30 Walk-Ins  
\$30 Guests  
\$15 Students  
\$15 CPE only (no dinner)

Reservations should be placed with Melanie Norton by 6:00 p.m. Thursday October 20 at 713-353-1942 or [mnorton@bvccpa.com](mailto:mnorton@bvccpa.com)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Eileen Neucere

I hope that everyone has recuperated from the high anxiety of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Kathy Pearce and I attended the Joint National Conference in Philadelphia September 28 through October 1, 2005. Everyone there was anxious to be of assistance to the people affected by the hurricanes. Two members of the New Orleans chapter actually managed to attend the conference with all that was going on in their lives. As mentioned in the September Fax Return, National has set up a web page on the national website for acceptance of contributions for affected members. The New Orleans chapter will utilize their chapter coffers to help their members and then National will reimburse New Orleans with any funds raised. National also started the Adopt a Member campaign to get commitments from chapters to subsidize the 2006-07 membership dues for hurricane affected members. I committed our chapter to adopt three members. We have made contact with a couple of the New Orleans members that have been transplanted in Houston and encouraged them to come to the membership meetings so we can get to know them and give them our support.

At the September board of directors meeting, Orapin Duangploy, Student Activities Chair, made a motion to establish the student dinner meeting fee at \$15 for students with a major in accounting or finance. The motion was approved by the board of directors. When making reservations, the student should indicate that she/he is a student. The student will be required to present a valid student ID at check-in for the dinner meeting. The lower dinner fee will encourage more students to attend the dinner meetings so they can get to know more about ASWA. Please encourage any students you know to come with you to the next dinner meeting.

Keep the Bring 3 Get One Free campaign going strong. For the October dinner meeting, I would like to meet or exceed our guest attendance of five that was achieved for the August dinner meeting.

**2005-2006 Officers & Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b> H 281-894-5253 W 281-894-5253	<b>Eileen Neucere</b> eneucere@earthlink.net F 281-807-1520	<b>Database</b>	<b>Past President</b> C 713-459-5874 W 281-313-9400	<b>Ann White</b> ann.white@rbgltd.com F 281-313-9444	<b>Programs</b>
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<b>Vice President</b> H 832-242-5386 W 281-558-1847	<b>Joan Landreth</b> jlandreth@net1.net C 713-542-0198	<b>Member Relations</b>	<b>Director</b> H 713-688-4057 W 713-831-5412	<b>Kathy Pearce</b> papandkap@aol.com F 713-831-8653	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> H 713-927-2679 W	<b>Debbie McKenney</b> mckdeborah@yahoo.com C 713-927-2679		<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>	<b>Melanie Norton</b> nortonmelt@hotmail.com mnorton@bvccpa.com	
<b>Secretary</b> H 713-817-0318 W 713-926-9936	<b>Colene Blankinship</b> coblank@msn.com F 713-831-8653		<b>Publicity</b> H 281-261-8016 W 713-528-2771	<b>Ellie Moore</b> emoore@cddacpa.com F 713-528-6423	

Deadline for November newsletter: November 11, 2005  
 Newsletter Editor: Kathryn Pearce  
 Home: 713-688-4057  
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 Email (home): papandkap@aol.com

**Additions and changes to the mailing list should be submitted to Eileen Neucere**  
 Home: 281-894-5253  
 Fax: 281-807-1520  
 Email: aggie1978@earthlink.net

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.**

**Standing Reservations**

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

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

Please contact **Melanie Norton** to be added or deleted from the Standing Reservations List.  
 713-353-1942 mnorton@bvccpa.com

**Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW)**

Web site: www.fhpw.org

ASWA Delegates:	ASWA Alternates:
Melanie Norton	Pam Ahlers
Kathryn Pearce	Ellie Moore

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Oct 11 Board Meeting—American Gen. Center
- Oct 24 FHPW Quarterly Meeting
- Oct 25 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- Oct 30 “Mad Potter” Special Event
- Nov 8 Board Meeting—American Gen. Center
- Nov 19 “Ellison's Greenhouse” Special Event
- Nov 29 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- Dec 13 Christmas Party

For more information or to sign up, please contact **Melanie Norton** at mnorton@bvccpa or by phone at 713-353-1942.

## 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

## STORAGE

Our historian, Ellie Moore, has had to move all of the old boxes from her work storage facility to her home. She now has over 20 boxes in her living room. We are looking for a place to store all of our old ASWA information. If you have space at your office or in your office/home storage facility, please let Ellie know.

Also if you have any old boxes, please let Ellie know how many you have. We would like to get an accurate count of how many boxes we will need to store. So look in your attic, closet or garage soon.

## FHPW

The Federation of Houston Professional Women is an alliance of women's professional organizations chartered by the state of Texas as a non-profit, non-partisan business league. If you are a member of ASWA then you are a member of FHPW.

The next quarterly event is October 24, 2005. Log on the [www.fhpw.org](http://www.fhpw.org) for more information.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY ANYONE?

The Publicity Committee is looking for volunteers to host the Christmas party in their home or their place of business. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ellie Moore. You will find her information on page two of this newsletter.

## 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](http://www.nsba.org)

## Special Event

Joan Landreth

### Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, October 30 – The Mad Potter - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

We are planning to go to the Mad Potter at 4882 Beechnut @ 610 on Sunday, October 30 from 2 pm to 4 pm to paint pottery for Christmas Gifts, special occasions, teacher gifts, etc. It would also be nice to paint an ornament for our gift exchange at the December meeting. Cost is \$10 per person for 2 hours plus the cost of the item to be painted. Children are welcome and we can stay later if more time is needed to complete your project. For more information visit their web site at <http://www.themadpotter.com/index.shtml>.

**Please let me know if you will be able to join us. My cell number is 713-542-0198.**

Saturday, November 19 – Ellison’s Greenhouse in Brenham, Texas

This is the one everyone’s been waiting for - The trip to Ellison’s Greenhouse for the Poinsettia Celebration. It opens at 10 am and we will meet and carpool to Brenham. There is a \$2.00 charge and everything is under cover so you don’t need to worry about rain. Their web site still talks about 2004 but we have talked to them and 2005 will be just as wonderful as last year. More information will be available later

Ask Colene or Joan about the

Fireman!!!!



## Speaker Bio

Porter & Hedges, L.L.P. is a 90-lawyer, full-service law firm headquartered in downtown Houston. Founded in 1981, its philosophy remains as vibrant today as it was at the firm’s beginning: thoughtful counseling and vigorous advocacy. Its make-it-happen approach to legal matters is based on a thorough understanding of each client’s business, responsiveness to each client’s needs, and the identification of practical and cost-effective solutions to problems as they arise. This is the essence of the Porter & Hedges commitment to produce for each client an exceptional work product as efficiently as possible.

Porter & Hedges, L.L. P.’s clients operate in a wide variety of industries and range in size from NYSE-listed corporations to start-up, venture capital financed companies. Through its multi-disciplinary approach, Porter & Hedges, L.L. P. is able to service its clients in numerous practice areas and industries including banking and financial services, litigation, energy and real estate among others.

Ken Alexander is a partner in the litigation practice of the firm, specializing in business litigation, including mergers and acquisitions, construction, real estate, and antitrust disputes. He is a frequent speaker before business, accounting and legal groups on the proper implementation of records retention policies. Ken is a graduate of Rice University and the Harvard Law School.

Joanne Vorpahl is a partner in the litigation practice of the firm, specializing in employment and commercial litigation, arbitration and mediation, including representation of parties to disputes involving allegations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation, wage and hour issues, unemployment and workers compensation issues, and enforcement and violations of non-competition and other employment contracts. Ms Vorpahl also engages in substantial client counseling and investigation

*(Continued on page 5)*

The ASWA/AWSCPA Joint  
Inspired Solutions Conference  
by Kathryn Pearce

From the Keynote Speaker, Dorothy Leeds, to the many historical sites in Philadelphia, the joint national conference was a success.

The Welcoming reception, held at the National Constitution Center, was awesome. We had a tour of the Abraham Lincoln exhibit that was there and also toured the constitution exhibit. One room that you go through contains bronze statues of all of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Ben Franklin was in a sitting position at a desk and you could sit on his knee for a quick snapshot.

During the Chapter Exchange, we broke up into groups and discussed, Member Recruiting, Member Retention and Leadership Succession. I think some of the ideas are worth pursuing.

There is not enough space to tell you everything so catch Eileen or myself at the membership and we will tell you more.

**Scholarship Fund Raiser**

What is a “Pledged Asset” Pad Thai or “Bean Counter” Brownies or Hot Cocoa “Merger” Mix?

Now is your chance to find out. Ann White has received the cookbooks from the publisher and she will have them at the October Membership Meeting.

**Member Price**

\$10 for one or

\$15 for two

**Sell Price**

\$15 for one

\$25 for tow

Buy some for yourself and take some to sell.

We shared a booth with the San Antonio Chapter at National and we collected \$440.00. The money from this fund raiser will go to the Memorial Fund in memory of Judy McMillian.

**Keeping Life Simple**

**Karen Levine**

Submitted by: Kathryn Pearce

Avoid back and neck tension at your desk. If you work in front of a computer, the following are absolutely critical:

- The screen is at eye level.
- You keep your elbows at a 90 degree angle.
- You keep your feet flat on the floor.
- You avoid glare on the screen from a window or light.
- Your get up and stretch for five minutes every hour.
- You invest in a good desk chair.

In addition to a regular exercise program, get extra exercise by sprinting up a flight of steps rather than using an elevator.

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of employment claims. She was selected as “Texas Super Lawyer” in Employment Litigation in both the 2004 and 2005 Texas Monthly surveys. Ms Vorpahl received her law degree, with honors from the University of Houston Law Center, where she served as Managing Editor of the Houston Law Review. She is licensed to practice in all state and federal courts in the State of Texas, before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and before the United States Supreme Court.

**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.

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

**Return Service Requested**

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