

ASWA FAX RETURN

American Society of Women Accountants — Houston Chapter No. 33 www.aswahouston.org

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 55 No.

October 2006

Membership Meeting

1 hour CPE
October 24, 2006

Topic: "Louisiana Sales/Use Tax"
Speaker: Larry Joseph and Maria Wood
Pre requisite: 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 p.m. Dinner
7:00 Speaker

Prices: \$25 Members with reservations
\$30 Guests and walk-ins
\$15 Students
\$15 CPE only (no dinner)

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Observation by Arlene Dilworth.

Technically, the 2006 Joint National Conference was a professional conference centered around two objectives:

- 1) Continuing Professional Education (CPE)
- 2) Raise scholarship funds

However, to the first time participant it looked more like a reunion. In all my years attending CPE functions, I have never seen so much hugging going on! The group was warm and inviting. There were lots of old friends exchanging life's highlights throughout the event.

As a delegate for the Houston Chapter, I had the honor and privilege of attending the annual ASWA business meeting, where I was able to witness, first hand, the National Association conducting business. It was a very formal process, just getting into the room for the meeting was a highly structured process. In retrospect, two things about the meeting really stick in my mind. First was the high number of awards bestowed upon the Houston Chapter, which simply confirmed what I had concluded for myself. The Houston Chapter is an outstanding group of women! Second, the majority of the delegates had been members of ASWA for more than five years. Two of the women present had been members for over forty years. Since the association is only as good as its members, it said a lot to me about the level of dedication by the women involved.

In closing, I would like to express a special Thank You to Kathy Pearce who made a special effort to introduce me to as many people as possible, answered endless questions, and was all around great company! Kathy, the conference was a very different CPE experience, thank you for making me feel like I belonged!"

2006-2007 Officers & Committee Chairs

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Deadline for November newsletter: November 10, 2006
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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	Eileen Neucere
Jeri Barthel	Debbie McKenney
Colene Blankinship	Melanie Norton
Adrienne Brown	Kathy Pearce
Sonia Calloway	Eunice Reiter
Julianne Dorsett	Ann White
Suzi Martin	

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 10 Board Meeting—American Gen.
- October 21 Breast Cancer Walk
- October 24 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- October 24 Chocolate Bar Special Event
- November 14 Board Meeting—American Gen.
- November 28 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- December 12 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 regarding where to send the acknowledgement.

I apologize for being so late with the newsletter and hope that in the future you will get the newsletter much earlier.

Kathy Pearce

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.

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. Web site: www.nsba.org.

A Panel Discussion on Accounting Opportunities

Orapin Duangploy set up a panel discussion at the University of Houston—Downtown Campus and six ASWA members were on the panel with Ruth E Ransom of Robert Half acting as moderator. Each panelist spoke approximately 10 minutes about the opportunities at their company and about the job descriptions. They also allowed time for questions. The students were great and they had some really good questions.

The panelists were Jodi L. Probst PWC, Debbie McKenney SOX Consultant, Kathy Pearce AIG SunAmerica Asset Management, Colene Blankinship PetroChem Inspection Services, Inc., Shirley Cusack Shell Oil Company and Jerilyn Barthel Briggs & Veselka Co.



2006-2007 Membership Campaign & Recruiting Counts Contest

The ASWA National Board recognizes that our members have been the foundation of our organization since 1938, promoting personal and professional development, networking, and long-lasting friendships. The ASWA National Membership Committee is excited to announce the 2006-2007 membership campaign and "9 in 9" contest to recognize your efforts in "spreading the word" about ASWA and inviting other dynamic women to join our organization.



© Disney

The 9 in 9 contest!

In addition to recognition and thank you awards at each level of recruitment in the Recruiting Counts club, we want to recognize chapter's collective efforts through the new "9 in 9" contest!

Every chapter that recruits 9 new approved members in the 9-month contest period (September 1st, 2006 through May 31st, 2007) will receive one *free* conference registration* for the 2007 ASWA / AWSCPA Joint National Conference, to be held at Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida
October 25-27, 2007

The ASWA "Recruiting Counts" Club

The National ASWA Board of Directors and Membership Committee recognize that every time you recruit a new member, you are not only supporting your local chapter but you are also enriching ASWA on a national level. In a desire to recognize your efforts, we launched the ASWA "Recruiting Counts" Club in 2004-2005. After recruiting just 2 new members, you become an official "Recruiting Counts" club member and receive the "Recruiting Counts" lapel pin. Recruit even more members and receive more valuable thank you gifts!

Recruiting Level	Number of Members Recruited 7/1/06 - 6/30/07	Thank You Award
Rhinestone	2 to 4	Lapel Pin
Sapphire	5 to 7	Portfolio & \$25 gift cheque
Ruby	8 to 10	Attaché & \$50 gift cheque
Diamond	11 to 14	Anniversary Clock & \$75 gift cheque
Emerald	15 or more	Plaque & choice of JNC registration or \$300 gift cheque

* Chapters that recruit more than 9 members will receive a free registration for every 9 members recruited. The first free conference registration must be used by a first-time conference attendee.



I believe there is a sub-culture in each organization that consists of at least one person, the devil's advocate. No matter what you do, how you hire/fire, they is usually 1 per business, if not more! And the devil's advocate (DA) it seems, is there to make your life miserable. What ever great concept you have come up with, the DA is there to shoot it down, show what's wrong or why it won't work.

Whatever it is, the DA finds a way to stop innovation in its tracks. What's interesting is that I have seen an owner of a business use the DA to stop change, not as a way to hurt his business but as a way to settle for less in his business. You see, you might have wondered why anyone would hire and keep a DA on staff! Now you know! They are used either covertly or overtly.

Others use the DA differently. Let's say you're in a bad mood and your attitude sucks! So you arrive at work and everyone else is feeling great. You hate that! So what do you do at the staff meeting?

You nudge your DA to get to work and put a big "doggy downer" on any ideas brought up. So the atmosphere gets so negative at the meeting because attitude is a contagious disease. Now everyone is crabby and now you feel a lot more comfortable. The DA did his/her job again.

Be on the look out for the DA at any business, store, office. If you think there is a hiring problem, think again. DAs are constantly being used in covert or overt action by people to stop change. If you want your organization to be on the cutting edge of change, call the DA on his process and let him/her know when enough is enough.

Just keep this in mind. It was written by Teddy Roosevelt (I added the "she" part)

It is not the critic who counts, not the wo/man who points out how the strong wo/man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the wo/man in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantlywho knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends him/herself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if s/he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his/her place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have never known



American Society of Women Accountants

*Houston Chapter
Teams up with*



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
Suits to Self-Sufficiency

Help someone get a job
leading them to independence
and self-sufficiency
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A CALL TO ALL MEMBERS!

In the spirit of giving we are incorporating a *Dress for Success Suit Drive* with our annual Holiday Party scheduled for December 12, 2006!

Dress for Success has been serving clients since 1997. The organization provides women with an appropriate suit for interviewing. After the woman finds a job, she can return for additional clothing that can be mixed and matched to make several outfits, providing her with the foundation for a professional wardrobe.

Finding a job is only one step in a woman's journey towards economic independence; remaining employed and building a rewarding career are just as important. Dress for Success also provides the Professional Women's Group Program to aid women in employment retention.

Through the Career Corner, Dress for Success promotes confidence and professionalism by offering women career guidance, the chance to acquire technology skills and assistance in their job searches. Additionally, Dress For Success developed an initiative that focuses on the crucial first 30 days of employment, during which newly-hired women face many potential challenges.

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AND HELP THIS WORTHY CAUSE and

HAVE A GOOD TIME DOING IT!

ATTEND THE DECEMBER 12, 2006 MEETING

AND BRING THOSE SUITS TAKING UP SPACE IN YOUR CLOSET

BRING:

- Suits: Coordinated, contemporary, interview – appropriate skirt and pant suits.
- Pants: Career appropriate, all sizes, basic colors (black, navy, brown, taupe).
- Skirts: Career appropriate, all sizes, basic colors (black, navy, brown, taupe).
- Blazers: Career appropriate, all sizes, basic colors (black, navy, brown, taupe).
- Blouses: Professional Blouses, shells, short-sleeved, long-sleeved, all sizes
- Shoes: Career appropriate, close toed, closed heel, basic colors (black, navy, brown, taupe)
- Handbags: Career appropriate, basic colors (black, navy, brown, taupe)
- Scarves: All shapes and sizes, all colors
- Pantyhose: New only, basic colors, day sheer, all sizes

DO NOT BRING:

- Suits: Casual suits, evening suits, suits that are stained, suits in need of mending, outdated suits
- Pants: Casual pants, capris, jeans, shorts
- Skirts: Casual skirts
- Blazers: Casual blazers, outerwear jackets
- Blouses: Casual blouses
- Shoes: Sandals, tennis shoes, mules, white shoes, open toe shoes
- Handbags: Casual handbags, clutches, evening bags
- Scarves: Outerwear scarves
- Pantyhose: Used pantyhose
- Dresses of any kind
- Belts
- Undergarments
- Men's clothing or suits

MEMBER NEWS

From Orapin Duangploy

Through People to People International, I was one of the twelve ASWA members [and one non-member] who visited China last November as the Women in Accounting Professional Delegation. Lixin University (Shanghai, China) wrote me in April this year inviting me to visit them again. They "are eager to have someone who knows the Accounting Education in the USA to help [them] to improve [their] education system design".

I will stay with them from Dec. 1 - Dec. 24 to teach an intensive accounting course on Business Combinations, to conduct weekly seminars with their accounting faculty on various financial accounting topics, and to give an "open speech" to experts from other well-known universities in Shanghai and accounting professionals on Convergence of US GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Hi Dr. Duangploy:

I really want to thank you for bringing in all these great speakers and putting UHD out there. We definitely need recognition. Please let me know if you can get me a speaker for our next meeting on October 17 at 2:30pm. Again, please let me know if PAS can help you out in anyways, we are always here for you.

Thank you
Abbas Mirza
PAS-President

Federation of Houston Professional Women

Next quarterly Meeting: October 23, 2006

Speaker: Judy Hallet—Documentary Filmmaker
Producer-Director-Writer

Location: At H.E.S.S Building
5430 Westheimer

Web site: www.fhpw.org

ASWA Delegates: Melanie Norton, Kathryn Pearce
Alternates: Pam Ahlers, Eileen Neucere

BITS & PIECES:

When you reach for the stars you may not quite get one, but your won't come up with a handful of mud either.

Leo Burnet (1891-1971)
Advertising Executive

The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.

Anna Quindlen—Writer

Nobody will believe in you unless you believe in yourself.

Liberace (1919-1987)
Pianist

Federation of Houston Professional Women (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. Each FHPW member organization, although diverse in style and structure, has professional or businesswomen members focused on education, networking, specific careers or community service. FHPW offers quarterly events designed to bring its diverse membership together to promote a place of POWER and INFLUENCE. Quarterly events are open to both members and guests and allow Houston professional women the opportunity to network, have some fun and learn something new.

If you are a member of ASWA then you are automatically a member of FHPW.

ASWA
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Return Service Requested

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Kathryn Pearce, CPA**

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