

ASWA FAX RETURN

American Society of Women Accountants — Houston Chapter No. 33

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 53 No. 6

January 2005

SCHOLARSHIP INFO

Scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year will be given by the Houston Chapter as well as by ASWA thru the American Society of Women Accountants Education Foundation (ASWAEF).

Contact Debbie McKenney for more information on the Houston Chapter Scholarships.

Information regarding the National Scholarships are on page 7. The National Scholarship submissions must be done through the Chapter. More details will be forthcoming.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Ann White

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and rang in the New Year with lots of good cheer. Now it is time to get back to the grind stone and finalize the year end books and prepare all the W-2’s and 1099’s.

As for ASWA I would like to start out 2005 by asking each and everyone of you that read this Fax Return for a favor...to provide the Houston chapter with at least one name and address (email, home or business) of a family member, friend, co-worker, associate or colleague that we can send information to on the benefits of membership with ASWA. Remember we want to enable women in all fields of accounting and finance to achieve their personal, professional and economic potential and to contribute to the future of the profession. We would like to invite them to the Public Relations Luncheon to be held in May for a brief history of the chapter, an inspirational talk and the many benefits ASWA has to offer.

Your help is needed to keep this chapter alive. With all of the changes taking place in the accounting field it is more important now than it ever was to be a part of an organization like ASWA. We offer education, inspiration, networking and fun.

God Bless,
Ann White

Empowering Women In The Accounting and Financial Professions Since 1938

2004-2005 Officers & Committee Chairs

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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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- 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
- June Installation of Officers
- Sept 28-
- Oct 1 ASWA/AWSCP A Annual Conference Philadelphia, PA

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
1 hour CPE
January 25, 2005

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

Topic: Income Tax Update

Speaker: Paul Ralph, CPA, CFP
 Ralph & Ralph, CPA's

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 1/20/05 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 generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month except December (holiday party) and May (annual luncheon).

SPEAKER PROFILE

Paul Ralph has been in public accounting since 1970 after serving 4 years in the Air Force. He is married and has three children. He passed the CPA exam and became a CPA in 1972. He and his dad formed Ralph and Ralph, CPA's in 1980, so this year is their 25th anniversary.

His dad retired in 1988 and his son and daughter-in-law, both CPA's are now in the firm. The firm prepares all kinds of tax returns and also does financial statement audits. Mr. Ralph passed the CFP exam and became a CFP in 1982 and has taught the tax preparation course at the University of Houston in the Executive Development Department for 16 years.

In addition Mr. Ralph is going to attempt his 15th Houston marathon.

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 Joan Landreth's mother by:
Johanna Flott

In memory of Orapin Duangploy's daughter, Tippy by:
Johanna Flott

In memory of Kathy Pearce's mother-in-law, Ruth by:
Ann White
The Houston Chapter

In memory of Darlene Taylor's mother by:
Ann White

Thanks to each of you who made contributions at the Christmas party and with your dues remittance. This support will allow us to award generous scholarships in 2005.

MEMBER NEWS

Our sympathy goes out to those who lost loved ones this last year including:

Darlene Taylor on the loss of her mother, Kathy Pearce on the loss of her mother-in-law, Joan Landreth on the loss of her mother, Orapin Duangploy on the loss of her daughter, And to the ASWA family and Robin Hartman on the loss of Judy McMillian, our friend and former Houston Chapter president.

Lelon Crump, Colene Blankinship's brother, passed away at his home January 7, 2005

OFFICE RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

By: Linda Talley

Business can be stressful and there are some things you can do at your desk in order to reduce that stress and keep you focused, in balance and productive. Here are some ideas:

1. Get a book on desk-based yoga or do controlled stretching exercises.
2. Bring fresh flowers to work.
3. Burn scented candles.
4. Get a fish aquarium. And, remember to keep it cleaned!
5. Listen to relaxing music (nothing with words). Use headphones and only for 15 minutes at a time.
6. Pray.
7. Read something inspirational.
8. Stop negative internal chatter by turning off the tape (becoming mindful).
9. Create a mantra, affirmation that focuses on what you want and repeat it till you feel at peace.
10. Look in a mirror and repeat, "I like myself!" 10 times!

Make sure your organization will allow some of these items. If they don't allow all of them, pick and work with the ones they will allow.

From Linda Talley's SUCCESS Newsletter November 2004.

IRS - Mileage Rates for 2005

Beginning Jan. 1, 2005, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 40.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven, up from 37.5 cents a mile in 2004;
- 15 cents a mile when computing deductible medical or moving expenses, up from 14 cents a mile in 2004; and
- 14 cents a mile when giving services to a charitable organization.

GREETINGS FROM PATTY HUNT

For those of you who don't know the story...Patty Hunt has been a continuous member of AWSCPA since the 80's in 5 different states. That's a lot of networking over the years!!! She was a member of the AWSCPA Houston Affiliate 1996 thru 2004. She is now a Member-at-Large in Knoxville, TN since there currently aren't any active AWSCPA or ASWA groups in the Knoxville area.

Patty moved to Knoxville, TN in August 2004 to join her husband Joe Milton. He resigned from the Houston power company in April 2004 where he worked for 22 years (various name changes, ending in Reliant Resources). He started his new job as Principal Engineer at Environmental Systems Corp (ESC) in April 2004. Joe complied with his new employer's wish to be living in Knoxville by July 2004. Meanwhile Patty was determined to stay behind until Joe's house was sold in Houston. Luckily his house sold toward the end of August 2004, so their time apart wasn't too long.

Joe and Patty had all their belongings moved to a self-storage unit near Knoxville, while they enjoyed the comforts of renting a fully furnished luxury condo in downtown Knoxville. They did this to find out if they liked living downtown. Turns out they love the "walk everywhere" lifestyle of downtown living. They are buying a condo just a few blocks away from where they rent now. Their move-in is planned toward the end of January 2005. Patty's contact information is:

pahunt@earthlink.net
865-540-4494 home
865-850-8041 cell

Please keep in touch. I miss you all very much. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity the ASWA Houston Chapter provides. Unfortunately there aren't any active ASWA or AWSCPA groups in the Knoxville area; however, I joined the TN Society of CPAs. Great turnout for their monthly meetings (135-150 people). I plan to get active on committee work after our home life settles down a bit. And I hope to land an out-of-home paying job downtown, too! Wouldn't it be great to walk to work every day?

Best wishes to all for a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Special Events for February and March

By Ellie Moore

Feb 19 Murder by Chocolate

Please join us in Kemah for this event. Watch for more details in the next newsletter or contact Ellie Moore.

March Donation items for Loaves and Fishes

In April we will be cooking and serving lunch at the Loaves and Fishes shelter. This shelter sleeps about 12 women each night. They could use anything from linens to soaps, toiletries to first aid supplies, women's clothing to food items. The list is endless. They allow the women to get their clothes washed, shower, eat and sleep for a night. Travel size soaps and shampoos are great, but large bottles are also welcome. The beds are twins, but I am sure any linens and towels are appreciated. Plan on bringing your items to the monthly meeting if you cannot attend next month and we will make sure all donations get to the shelter.

Please let me know if you can assist with any 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.

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS

Officers, Director and Committee Members will be needed for 2005-2006. Please consider serving. If you are interested, please contact Ellie Moore who will be serving as chair.

HOLIDAY PARTY

By Colene Blankinship

The ASWA Houston Chapter Annual Holiday Party was held at the Accountemps office on Post Oak December 14, 2004. Although only 9 were in attendance, the spirit of friendship and fellowship was in abundance. Melanie Norton donated the food, and what a spread it was! Although everyone has an opinion as to which food item was their favorite, mine was split between the boiled shrimp and the chocolate delights.

After eating we had a great time with the Ornament Exchange.

We raised \$390 for the Memorial Fund of which \$40 came from the wish cake. An additional \$165 was raised for Loaves and Fishes Shelter.

What is a "phishing" e-mail?

"Phishing" is a term used to describe fraudulent e-mail designed to steal your identity. These imposter e-mails may appear to come from MSN® or other reputable companies, but are actually from thieves masquerading as legitimate businesses. The e-mail will ask you to disclose, on a phony Web site or in a phony dialog box, personal information, such as your account data or Social Security number. The thieves then steal that personal information to harm your good name. Depending on the information you may have provided, they can access your accounts, open new ones, steal your funds and even commit crimes—all in your name.

How the thieves steal your personal information. Phishing e-mails typically suggest that if you do not update your personal information, your account will be closed. The e-mail instructs you to click on a link that redirects you to a fake Web site. These "spoofed" sites look official and include logos and fonts used by the companies they imitate.

You can learn more about phishing from the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/bcp/conlin/pubs/alerts/phishingalrt

ASWAEF 2005 – 2006 Scholarships

All scholarships will be awarded in April, 2005

Certification Scholarships

Purpose: To support the exam fees of any one of the following certifications: CPA, CFP, CFE, CIA, CMA or CVA.

Criteria: Scholarship awards are presented to ASWA members only. Candidates are those who have passed any part of the exam between 3/19/04 and 3/18/05.

2-Year College Scholarships

Purpose: For those attending Community, State or 2-Year Colleges towards an accounting or finance degree.

Criteria: Scholarship awards are presented to community college students entering their second year of an Associates Degree Program who have completed 15 semester hours or the equivalent by time of application deadline. Candidates must have a minimum cumulative college grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent), and be majoring in accounting or finance. Scholarship candidates will be reviewed on leadership, character, communication skills, scholastic average and financial need.
Please Note: 2-Year scholarships are selected and awarded in April, 2005 for the upcoming 2005-2006 academic school year.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Purpose: To support the costs of attending 3rd, 4th or 5th year towards an accounting or finance degree.

Criteria: Scholarship awards are presented to students who have completed their sophomore year of college (or 60 semester hours or the equivalent by time of scholarship award) and are majoring in accounting or finance. Scholarship candidates will be reviewed on leadership, character, communication skills, scholastic average and financial need.
Please Note: Undergraduate scholarships are selected and awarded in April, 2005 for the upcoming 2005-2006 academic school year.

Submission requirements for all candidates; must be submitted in triplicate:

1. A completed Application Form. (For certification candidates only: A copy of the letter indicating passing and the receipt indicating proof of payment for the certification exam fees must accompany the application form.)
2. Seventy-five (75) word essay from the candidate. The content of the essay should be on career goals and objectives, what impact the candidate wants to have on the accounting world, and what the candidate most likes about accounting.
3. One personal reference.

In addition, for both 2-Year and Undergraduate Scholarships:

4. Academic Transcript from school, showing academic performance and credit hours obtained. Please provide one [1] original and two [2] copies.
5. Two references from accounting faculty.

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

Return Service Requested

**Printing and Postage Compliments of
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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.**

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

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Melanie Norton
Kathryn Pearce

ASWA Alternates:

Pam Ahlers
Ellie Moore

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