

# 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. 56 No. 8

March 2008

## Membership Meeting

**March 25, 2008**

Speakers: David Smith and Pamela White

Topic: The Valuation Process and Purposes

CPE: 1 hour Level: Basic Prerequisites: None

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 p.m. Speaker

Early bird reservations by Wednesday 5:00 pm prior to meeting:

Members and 1st time guests	\$30
Returning guests	\$35

Late reservations and walk-ins:

Members and guests	\$35
Returning guests	\$40

Administrative Policy: Per ASWA standing rules, if you register and do not attend, you will be charged for the regular meeting price.

Reservations need to be made by the Wednesday preceding the meeting. Special dietary requirements available upon request

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## President's Message By Debbie McKenney

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** ASWA is happy to present the American Society of Women Accountants Educational Foundation's (ASWAEF) scholarship program.

In addition to the National Scholarship Program, the Houston Chapter of ASWA will be offering scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to selected candidates.

Both the National and Local Scholarship Committees will consider the following when making their selections:

- **Leadership**
- **Character**
- **Communication Skills**
- **Grade Point Average**
- **Financial Needs and Circumstances**

The eligibility requirements, outlined by the American Society of Women Accountants Educational Foundation, provide that the applicant:

- **Shall be either a part-time or full-time student pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree in Accounting or an equivalent post-baccalaureate certificate of accounting.**
- **Shall have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90-quarter hours with a declared major in Accounting.**
- **Shall be attending an accredited college, university or professional school of accounting.**
- **Need not be a member of ASWA**

Applications must be postmarked by **March 31, 2008**. I encourage all qualified candidates to apply.

Kind regards,

Debbie McKenney  
ASWA President-Houston Chapter

2007-2008 Officers & Committee Chairs

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Deadline for April newsletter: April 1, 2008

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**Additions and changes to the mailing list should be submitted to Eileen Neucere**

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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**

Jeri Barthel	Debbie McKenney
Colene Blankinship	Eileen Neucere
Adrienne Brown	Melanie Norton
Sonia Calloway	Eunice Reiter
Kristy Daniels	Ann White
Kristi DeNardo	
Julianne Dorsett	
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**

- March 15 Mad Potter
- March 25 Membership Meeting — Briar Club  
Speakers: David Smith & Pamela White  
Topic: The Valuation Process & Purposes
- April 22 Membership Meeting — Briar Club
- April 22 Chocolate Bar —after meeting
- May — Spa Party at Ann White’s —date TBA
- June 24 —New Member Orientation/Getting to Know ASWA with dinner meeting massage
- August 26—Membership Meeting — Briar Club  
Speaker: Craig Krause  
Topic: Discovering Your Memory Power

## 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.

### Charitable Project

Please remember to gather your sample toiletries when you travel and donate them to Miryam's Hostel which is on the second floor of the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. It is a place where 6 – 8 women can spend the night, wash their clothes, take a shower and sleep in a bed. Then they are back out on the street. It is sponsored by Magnificat House which is affiliated with the Catholic church. They can use toiletries, towels, twin bed sheets, pajamas etc.

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

## MARCH MEETING

### David Smith & Pamela White

David Smith earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration ("MBA") degree from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. Mr. Smith has eighteen years of financial consulting and financial services experience including eight years in the appraisal of businesses, business interests, intangible assets and the computation of commercial damages. Mr. Smith has earned the Accredited Senior Appraiser designation in Business Valuation from the American Society of Appraisers and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charter holder. He currently serves as an officer/board member of the Houston Chapter of the American Society of Appraisers and is a member of the Association for Corporate Growth and the Houston Estate and Financial

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March Meeting (continued from page 3)

Forum. Prior to joining Hill Schwartz Spilker Keller, he held positions within Bank One's Private Client Services group, Vaughan Nelson Scarborough & McCullough, Comstock Co. and Howard Frazier Barker Elliott.

Pamela White received her MBA and a Master in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. White is a CPA licensed by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. She is a member of Houston Chapter of TSCPA and serves on its Litigation and Valuation Services Committee. She serves as the Treasurer for the Houston Chapter of the ASA. Ms. White is a member of HEFF and a Candidate Member of the ASA. Prior to joining HSSK she performed business valuation and audit services for BKD, LLP, a regional public accounting firm. Overall, Ms. White has over ten years of experience in financial services and accounting, and more than four years of experience in business valuation and consulting.

### Career Center

Please remember to encourage friends and colleagues to register and that there is not cost to individuals to post their resumes. Members can help by letting their HR Departments at work know about the site. Using the site is a win-win-win-win proposition because 1) employers gain access to a pool of specialized job seekers, 2) individuals seeking employment in accounting and finance can easily connect with employers/recruiters looking for candidates with those skills, and 3) the ASWA raises funds that it uses to 4) provide scholarships to worthy individuals.

Support a worthy cause by spreading the news about the ASWA Career Center today!

### Current Fundraiser

Our chapter has been registered with the Current Fundraiser Online program. It is very simple—all you have to do is shop online at [www.CurrentFun.com](http://www.CurrentFun.com), and when you check out, select:

State: **Texas**    Organization: **ASWA – Houston**    City: **Houston.**

Our chapter will receive a check quarterly for 50% of online sales that are attributable to our organization. Tell your friends and relatives, and help raise money for our scholarship fund. You can do some of your Christmas shopping, saving some money for yourself and getting some great products, and at the same time, contribute to the scholarship fund. What a deal!

**We received a check for the 4th quarter of 2007 in the amount of \$31.50!**

### Change in Meeting Reservations Policy

The Briar Club instituted a new policy in February 2008. The Catering Department needs all guarantees 3 business days prior to the scheduled event. The original guarantee number may be increased prior to the event; however, The Briar Club will institute a policy of a 30% up-charge for all guarantee increases within 24 hours of the event. The Chef will automatically prepare extra meals in the amount of 5% over guarantee for any function with fewer than 100 guests. For example, for a guarantee of 20, 1 extra meal will be prepared.

There is a minimum guarantee number of 20 in the ASWA Chapter 33 contract. Should the actual guarantee number or attendance fall below 20, The Briar Club has the right, at its discretion, to hold ASWA responsible for that minimum guaranteed number.

The Briar Club has instituted this policy change because The Briar Club has seen a severe jump in guarantees 24 hours prior to events for some other groups. This puts a strain on the Chef and the Banquet Staff to make sure that everyone gets served.

What does the above policy change from the Briar Club mean for ASWA Meeting Reservations? Simple....If you want to attend a meeting and ensure that a meal will be available for you, advance reservations are a MUST! To qualify for the standard meeting fee, your reservations must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the **WEDNESDAY** before the meeting. This deadline is a day earlier than it used to be. Put a reminder on your calendars now! If you miss the advance deadline and still plan to attend, make a reservation anyway so the guarantee number can be adjusted. Better late than never!

## Federation of Houston Professional Women

### Call for Nominations: 2008 Women of Excellence Awards

The Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW) and the FHPW Educational Foundation hold a Women of Excellence Awards Gala each year to honor outstanding business women from FHPW member organizations and to raise funds to support scholarships for women in our community.

The deadline for a member organization to submit the name of its Women of Excellence nominee is tentatively March 31, 2008. ASWA Chapter 33 is now accepting nominations from the membership for the ASWA 2008 Woman of Excellence. Nominations should be communicated to Debbie McKenney, President of ASWA Chapter 33, before Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

#### Federation of Houston Professional Women

Next Meeting: March 31  
Web site: [www.fhpw.org](http://www.fhpw.org)

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

#### 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.



Many of you have heard me talk about how to move from being a whiner to a winner. Some of you may have tried my ideas. Here's another one that I hope you try and feel free to share it with your colleagues.

Take some time out of your day and create a "whine list." This is not about alcohol consumption so I did not misspell whine. A "whine list" is a list of excuses you create for yourself, usually subconsciously, to justify being a victim or your procrastination. Here's how to begin. You will want to take a piece of paper and draw a line vertically down the middle. On the left hand column, write "whiner" and in the right column write "winner." Then, think how your life will be 10 years from today if you surrender to your whine list and write down what your life will be like in the left column. Next, think of what your life will be like 10 years from now, if you take actions to change from being a whiner to a winner and write that down in the right hand column.

Next, take some time to review both columns and identify the "break thoughts" you will achieve by taking action rather than whining. Call or e-mail a friend with those "ah-ha" moments! If you want, send them to me and I will list them in the next SUCCESS e-newsletter!

This is a great way to do a reality check just in case you suffer from the imposter syndrome.

**Listed are some hard learned points to live by when thinking about a career:**

1. Be flexible and be willing to do anything
2. Keep your mind open to new options and ideas
3. Work hard—dedication, eagerness, responsibility can go a long way toward overcoming lack of experience
4. Address problems immediately—they never go away and they never get better without being addressed
5. Be willing to modify your goals as your environment changes—nothing ever stays the same
6. Weigh the pros and cons of everything you do—what will you give up and what will you gain?
7. Always be on the lookout for opportunities
8. Dress and perform the job you want, not the one you have
9. Get involved in an organization (ASWA is a great one) so that you start networking and making contacts early in your career
10. Pick your battles carefully
11. Never burn bridges—hopefully you will have a long career and you never know who you will run across in your future
12. Never compromise your values
13. Always go with your gut
14. Try to work for great people who are interested in helping you advance your career
15. Be supportive of those you work with and work for
16. Don't be a know it all— if you know it all, it will show without you having to broadcast it
17. Strive for an appropriate work/life balance but be willing to sacrifice a little when necessary to achieve your long term goals

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