

ASWA FAX RETURN

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

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 54 No. 11

May 2006

Scholarship Luncheon and Recruiting Event

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by: Eileen Neucere

May 16, 2006

Speaker: Eunice Reiter
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: 11:30 a.m. Networking:
12:00 Lunch

Prices: \$45 Members
\$30 Guests

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I am proud of what our chapter has accomplished so far this year. Our chapter has one of the highest member retention rates for medium sized chapters in the organization. National has asked our chapter to participate in a conference call to present our ideas for their idea retention exchange. I congratulate all of you for all of your hard work to make our chapter strong and active.

So far this fiscal year, we have added twelve new members, enticed three former members to return, and welcomed three members transferring from other chapters. This means that our chapter will receive two patches for our banner for member retention and member recruitment at the National conference this fall. If we can add at least two more members before July 1, 2006, National will award us a free National conference registration for a new member. Since I know our scholarship and member recruitment luncheon on May 16, 2006 will be a success, I'm sure we will achieve that goal and perhaps also a second free conference registration.

Join us in our success and bring a friend to the luncheon. Let's keep the momentum going to carry us through the next fiscal year.

2005-2006 Officers & Committee Chairs

President H 281-894-5253 W 281-894-5253	Eileen Neucere eneucere@earthlink.net F 281-807-1520	Database	Past President C 713-459-5874 W 281-313-9400	Ann White ann.white@rbgltd.com F 281-313-9444	Programs
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Deadline for June newsletter: June 2, 2006
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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	Kathy Pearce
Colene Blankinship	Eunice Reiter
Julianne Dorsett	Ann White
Ellie Moore	Lisa Wilson
Suzi Martin	
Eileen Neucere	
Debbie McKenney	
Melanie Norton	

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

- May 9 Board Meeting—AmGen Center
- May 16 Scholarship/Recruitment Luncheon—Briar Club
- June 10 Transition Board Meeting—Lisa Wilson’s
- June 27 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- July 11 Board Meeting—American General Center
- July 25 Membership Meeting—Briar Club

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.

“You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and to be vibrantly alive in repose.”

*Indira Gandhi
(1917– 1984)*

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

(continued from page 4—Upcoming Events)

and eat lunch before returning back to Houston later in the day. Just for your information the Antique Rose Emporium has many different kinds of plants other than roses. They have herbs, annuals, perennials and vines just to name a few. Below is a link to their web site. I will be getting a head count at the April meeting and will send an email later to determine how many will be making the trip.

<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com/>

Upcoming Events

Loaves and Fishes

In May we will be volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes shelter. The shelter houses 12 women each night. They provide them with a meal, a shower, a bed and wash their clothes. As in the past, we will be collecting linens, soaps, toiletries, first aid supplies, women's clothing and food (just to name a few of the items they need). If you can't make it to the shelter to help, please bring anything you wish to donate to the May luncheon and we will make sure the items get to the shelter. Travel size items are preferred, but large bottles are also appreciated.

May 27 – Loaves and Fishes 9am 2001 Congress (see below for link)

The Loaves and Fishes shelter provides Houston's homeless people a meal every day for lunch. Volunteers are needed to make this happen and we are going to be there on Saturday, May 27 at 9am. We cook the meal, set the tables and serve the food along with giving them a sack lunch to eat at a later time. Everyone always has a great time but we need to give the organizers a head count. Please let me know if you can join us - (friends and family are always welcome). Joan Landreth 713-542-0198 or jlandreth@net1.net.

http://www.helpthehomelesshouston.com/html/magnificat_houses.html

Antique Rose Emporium

June makes one think of roses and what better way to celebrate the month than with a trip to the Antique Rose Emporium. We will be going on Saturday, June 17th. Mark the day on your calendar now and plan to join us for a relaxing and enjoyable trip. We will carpool to the nursery

(Continued on page 3)

NW Area Days

The 2006 Northwest Regional Conference is set for June 16 and 17 on the campus of Seattle University. We are very excited about the technical sessions and other activities. You will be able to choose from among 28 topics to get 16 hours of CPE. There is also an exciting Fun Night set on Friday at The Garage, a mod-ish and super-funky bowling alley and billiard parlor.

The Registration Brochure has complete information about technical sessions and other activities. Please see the posting on the website - <http://www.aswaseattle.com/entryDetails.cfm?eId=130> Information about the speakers is also posted.

Accommodations are available at the Silver Cloud Inn on Broadway, a short walk from the daily sessions on campus. Hotel reservations must be made separately with the hotel by May 14, 2006, 1-800-590-1801. You could also stay on campus Friday and Saturday night. Seattle University Dormitory Housing reservations must be received by May 25, 2006, using the proscribed form (available at the website).

Early bird registration is due by May 12, 2006 for a price of \$300. This includes 16 hours of CPE, breakfast and lunch each day, attendance on Friday night at The Garage. Even at full price, this is a great deal. See the Registration Form for all the details. Please print out the form and mail back the completed form.

If you need to talk with someone, please call Tina Polf, 425-116-1500 (days) or Susan Goegebuer, 206-824-4715 (evenings). You can also email Tina Polf at TinaPolf@aol.com, put ASWA NWRC in the subject line.

Membership Corner

American Society of Women Accountants

Advocating, enhancing and celebrating the value that women in accounting and related fields bring to the profession and to society.

Join our professional, non-profit organization of more than 100 chapters and 4000+ members across the US.

We have members who are employed in general, tax and management accounting, internal and external audit, and many other fields, in addition to, public, private, industry, non-profit and government arenas.

Optimize your career and balance your life. ASWA offers leadership and networking opportunities, educational programs, focus on work/life balance, and scholarships for new and returning students.

For more information about ASWA Houston Chapter please contact Lisa Wilson at comberge@yahoo.com. Please provide your complete mailing address so an application packet can be mailed to you.

Benefits of Membership in ASWA

Opportunities to develop leadership and business management skills through participation in chapter committees and other activities.

A place to learn public speaking and continue to gain confidence in public speaking.

Networking and mentoring opportunities with peers and other professionals.

Learn parliamentary procedure and conduct productive and effective meetings.

Chapter meetings where presentations are made on technical accounting, managerial tax, computers, women's issues, "quality of life" issues and related non-technical subjects.

Low cost, high quality CPE at local, regional and national meetings and conferences. .

Monthly chapter newsletters that will help keep you abreast of local and national society events.

The chance to develop strong personal and professional relationships for business development, camaraderie and mentoring.

Develop a host of no-cost business consultants just a phone call away.

National contacts for networking and professional information.

Working Late Too Often?

If you're working late more than you'd like to, you may be working for a company that has a culture to put in more time than necessary. Yes, more time than necessary! Most people don't need to work overtime 7 days a week. It's not smart, it's not healthy and it's not necessary.

The amount of work you have to do will generally equal the length of the workday. In other words, if it's the company culture to work from 8am to 10pm at night, people will have enough work to keep them there that long. Now, they could have finished earlier but why should they? They don't want to break with the culture and be an outcast so effectiveness and efficiency go out the window.

People who live in this type of corporate culture take more breaks, spend more time on useless phone calls, on the internet or sending emails. But you can't blame the workers. It's a corporate culture thing and change has to come from the higher ups. Senior level management needs to see that it is a culture and that it needs to be changed. Many of the big accounting firms are seeing droves leaving their world because they're no longer willing to work in that type of corporate culture. They can start their own company and see how much more they can accomplish in less time because they have something better to do—be with family members, volunteer, classes, etc. They won't be willing to take the extra breaks because they know they don't have to stay as long.

To make a culture change, make it a game. If you're the boss, ask your staff to finish work and leave 1 hour earlier. Then continue on from there. You might be surprised to see how much more work gets done in less time. Forget the caffeine and adrenaline and focus on effectiveness and efficiency.

© Linda Talley, 2001

REST AND RELAXATION (from Keeping Life Simple) by Karen Levine

Try to stay focused on the present. Remember that old adage: "The past is history, the future a mystery, but today is a gift, which is why it is called the Present."

Time Management

Denise Landers

During the last 25 years, our leisure time has declined by 37% while our work week has increased by a full day.

Spending 10 to 15 minutes every morning mapping out your day can save up to 6 hours a week.

Americans as a whole waste more than nine million hours each day looking for lost and misplaced articles, amounting to a national loss of nearly \$150 million per day.

An average interruption during the work day consumes ten to twenty minutes in getting back on track, not counting the actual time with the interrupter.

The typical businessperson experiences 170 interactions per day and has a backlog of 200-300 hours of uncompleted work. Effective time management is critical.

80% of our interruptions usually come from 20% of the people with whom we work.

Americans spend 1.3 billion hours a year preparing tax information.

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

Web site: www.fhpw.org

ASWA Delegates:

ASWA Alternates:

Melanie Norton

Pam Ahlers

Kathryn Pearce

Eileen Neucere

Next quarterly Meeting: July 24, 2006
At H.E.S.S Building 5430 Westheimer

Speaker: TBD

Plan to attend.

ASWA
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Kathryn Pearce
4714 West 43rd Street
Houston, Texas 77092

Return Service Requested

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Kathryn Pearce, CPA**

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Empowering Women In The Accounting and Financial Professions Since 1938