

ASWA FAX RETURN

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

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 57 No. 1

July 2008

Transition Board Meeting

July 22, 2008

Topic: Transition Board Meeting / Planning Session

CPE: None

Where: Briggs & Veselka, 6575 West Loop South, Suite 700, Bellaire, TX 77401

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Menu: Pizza or Brown Bag

NOTE: The transition board meeting is taking place when the regular membership meeting ordinarily would. The board voted to have no regular meeting in July so that members could more easily schedule their vacations, and conserve fuel.

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From the President

By: Kristi DeNardo

I would like to give a sincere thanks to Debbie McKenney for serving as our president for the past year. She led our chapter through a great year. Please be sure to thank her when you see her at our next meeting.

Your officers and directors are busy planning another great year. We want to plan lively, interesting meetings so that your needs will be met. Please e-mail ideas to me at kdenardo@igloocorp.com.

Your committee chairs are in the process of putting together their budgets and seeking committee members. Now is the time for you to decide where you can serve best. The committee list is located in the bulletin. Please email the chair if you are interested in serving. By becoming involved you can strengthen your professional career and make lifelong friends. I can personally attest to this, as I made a number of close friends through the Chattanooga, TN chapter.

The Women of Excellence Awards Gala is Saturday September 27th, and the ASWA honoree is Julianne Dorsett. Our chapter is contributing a "basket" for the silent auction which is a rolling cooler filled with "picnic in the park" items. If you would like to contribute, please bring items to either the transition meeting or the August membership meeting.

This year's National Conference is October 28-30 in Dallas. This is a great conference with lots of networking and CPE and chapter development activities. Please make plans to attend.

Our goal is to help you further your career. If you have any suggestions on how ASWA can help your career, please let me know. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

Kristi

2008-2009 Officers & Committee Chairs

President W 713-584-6451 F 713-935-7701	Kristi DeNardo kdenardo@igloocorp.com C 832-595-5587	Newsletter	Director H 713-591-8282 W 713-333-4340	Jerilyn Barthel jbarthel@gddcpa.com F 713-621-6907	Membership
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Treasurer H 281-478-0778 W 713-374-7784	Brandi Lucher julianne_dorsett@petrochemintl.com C 832-563-3840	Meeting Arrangements			
Secretary C 713-906-8060 W 713-561-6528	Adrienne Brown abrown@uhy-us.com F 713-968-7138				
Past President H 713-927-2679 W	Debbie McKenney debbie.jensen93@gmail.com C 713-927-2679	Student Activities			

Deadline for August newsletter: August 5, 2008 Newsletter Editor: Kristi DeNardo Cell: 832-595-5587 Work: 713-584-6451 Fax: 713-935-7701 Email (home): kldenardo@hotmail.com	Additions and changes to the mailing list should be submitted to Eileen Neucere Home: 281-894-5253 Fax: 281-807-1520 Email: eneucere@earthlink.net
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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.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Standing Reservations

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Jeri Barthel | Brandi Lucher |
| Colene Blankinship | Carrie Morris |
| Adrienne Brown | Eileen Neucere |
| Sonia Calloway | Melanie Norton |
| Kristi DeNardo | Eunice Reiter |
| Julianne Dorsett | Ann White |
| Suzi Martin | |
| Debbie McKenney | |

- July 22—Transition Board Meeting—BVCCPA Meeting Room
- July 22—NO Membership Meeting—summer vacation!
- August 26—Membership Meeting — Briar Club
Speaker: Craig Krause
Topic: Discovering Your Memory Power

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

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.

News You Can Use

Effective July 1, 2008, the Internal Revenue Service raised the standard mileage rates for computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, medical, or moving. The revised standard mileage rate for business is \$0.585 per mile. For medical and moving it is \$0.27 per mile. The IRS acknowledges that the revision is due to the recent increases in the price of fuel. Note that the charity rate stays the same (it is fixed per the “code”) at \$0.14 per mile. Please note that this rate is effective only through the end of 2008.

Women of Excellence Awards Gala

This year’s gala is on September 27th, honoring Julianne Dorsett. We will be contributing a basket to the Silent Auction. Our “basket” will be a rolling cooler with a picnic theme—a bottle of wine, a blanket, sports paraphernalia (Frisbee, etc.), and non-perishable picnic foods. If you have anything to put in the basket, please bring it to the August 2008 meeting or the transition board meeting July 22nd.

Federation of Houston Professional Women

Next Meeting: July 28
Web site: www.fhpw.org

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

ASWA Delegates: Melanie Norton,
Arlene Dilworth

Alternates: Pam Ahlers
Debbie McKenney

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.

Women of Excellence Banquet

Our chapter has reserved two tables for the Awards Gala. Most of the seats are taken, but if you are interested, we can reserve more. Please see Julianne Dorsett, our 2008 Woman of Excellence, for more information. The date is Saturday, September 27th, 2008. The reception/silent auction begins at 5:30, with dinner served at 6:30 at the Hyatt Regency.

Career Center

Please remember to encourage friends and colleagues to register and that there is no 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, 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!



Have you ever told anyone or someone might have said to you: “The best boss I ever had was” You don’t hear that a lot and when I do, I listen up! What makes that boss so good? I say it is when the boss knows how to play to the strengths of his/her staff, manage around their weaknesses, and get the best out of their people.

A great boss is a great coach. They ask questions, they observe, they listen, they create a plan to help that person grow. And, they do this for each person on their staff. They find out the unique abilities of each person and then focus on those abilities—usually their strengths. Most performance reviews are about a person’s weaknesses. We want to help the employee become aware of those weaknesses to help them overcome them. This is really not “good medicine.” Research by Albert Bandura, who some call the father of social learning theory, says that self-assurance (self-efficacy) and not self awareness is the strongest predictor of a person’s ability to set high goals, bounce back from adversity and persist against obstacles. There has been no research to indicate that self-awareness is a predictor of any of these outcomes, and, in some case, it appears to retard them.

To find out a staff member’s strengths, ask them to tell you about the best day at work within the last 3 months. What was the person doing? Why did s/he enjoy it so much. This will get you staff member to begin thinking about and remembering what really excites him/her.

If you want to discover their weakness, ask them what their worst day was in the past 3 months. What was she doing? Why did he hate it so much? Why did they want to stop it?

From here you have a good understanding of the person’s strengths and weaknesses. Now, you can focus on their strengths and make them aware of these. When the staffer succeeds, don’t acknowledge the hard work, acknowledge her/his ability to use their strengths. When you do this, you build a foundation for the staffer’s feeling of self-assurance, which leads to feeling better, more optimistic and more resilient in the face of adversity.

International Insights: The Benefits of Thinking Globally

Understanding international business practices has never been more important for accounting professionals than it is today. In a recent nationwide survey of executives by Robert Half International, 61 percent of respondents said their organizations are doing more international business today than five years ago. Following are two key ways that managers and their teams can gain a more global perspective:

Be familiar with international reporting standards. *The growing convergence of financial reporting standards requires professionals to be proficient with international usage. The generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) used in the U.S. for filing financial reports coexists with the international financial reporting standards (IFRS), which have been adopted by the countries of the European Union and other major nations around the world.*

International committees are working to reduce the differences between the two, and foreign companies listed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission may soon be able to file financial reports using IFRS instead of reconciling their reports with GAAP. In addition, it’s beneficial to have at least a working knowledge of how U.S. corporate governance requirements affect foreign subsidiaries of U.S.-based firms.

Boost your cultural literacy. *Being knowledgeable of and sensitive to cultural differences and customs will help you immensely — regardless of whether you’re a globetrotting frequent flier or you’re part of an international work team. Strive to learn the professional protocol and cultural nuances of the countries in which your firm does business.*

Consult international etiquette books or country-specific guides. (For instance, did you know that exchanging business cards in Japan is a formal process and it’s considered rude if you don’t carefully study a contact’s card when you receive it?) When doing your research, pay particular attention to proper greetings, gestures to avoid, and the appropriate use of first names, last names and honorific titles. And even if your job doesn’t require you to be multi-lingual, foster goodwill and build rapport with your foreign colleagues and customers by learning a phrase or two in their language.

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Return Service Requested

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