

# ASWA FAX RETURN

American Society of Women Accountants — Houston Chapter No. 33

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 54 No. 2

August 2005

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1 Hour CPE  
August 23, 2005

Topic: Safe Driving on the Internet  
Speaker: Richard Diggins (see page 4 for bio)  
Prerequisite: 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 Dinner  
7:00 Speaker  
Meeting Prices: \$25 Members with reservations  
\$30 Walk-Ins  
\$30 Guests  
\$15 CPE only (no dinner)

Reservations should be placed with Melanie Norton by 6:00 p.m. Thursday August 18 at 713-353-1942 or mnorton@bvccpa.com

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: **Eileen Neucere**

Well, summer vacation is about over and school will soon be in session. I hope everyone took time this summer to take a vacation and relax. After 27 years of working in industry with work dictating my vacation schedule, I am now self employed and had the opportunity to take most of the month of July to vacation with my children in the Rocky Mountains. It was wonderful! I want to thank Ann White for presiding over the July membership meeting in my absence.

On Saturday, August 27, 2005, our organization has the opportunity to give back to the community. We will be cooking and serving lunch at the **Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen**. I promise that you will enjoy yourself and learn something good about humanity. If you wish, you can bring linens and toiletry items for the ladies that stay in the shelter above the soup kitchen, or you can bring canned goods and staples to help stock the soup kitchen pantry. They are also always looking for meat, so if you know of a hunter that wants to clear out his freezer, think of Loaves and Fishes. If you can't join us on August 27 but want to donate something, you can bring it to the membership meeting on August 23 and I will be happy to get it to the soup kitchen for you.

We want to increase the name recognition for ASWA. The Board of Directors set a goal of a minimum of two guests for each membership meeting. To facilitate that goal, the Board has voted to begin a new program called **"Bring Three, Get One Free."** For every three guests a member brings, the member gets a free dinner meeting.

**2004-2005 Officers & Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b> H 281-894-5253 W 281-894-5253	<b>Eileen Neucere</b> eneucere@earthlink.net F 281-807-1520	<b>Database</b>	<b>Past President</b> C 713-459-5874 W 281-313-9400	<b>Ann White</b> ann.white@rbgltd.com F 281-313-9444	<b>Programs</b>
<b>President Elect</b> H 832-445-0543 W 713-499-7623	<b>Lisa Wilson</b> comberge@yahoo.com C 713-301-3145	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Director</b> H 713-660-8728 W 713-221-8596	<b>Orapin Duangploy</b> duangployo@uhd.edu F 713-226-5238	<b>Student Activities</b>
<b>Vice President</b> H 832-242-5386 W 281-558-1847	<b>Joan Landreth</b> jlandreth@net1.net C 713-542-0198	<b>Member Relations</b>	<b>Director</b> H 713-688-4057 W 713-831-5412	<b>Kathy Pearce</b> papandkap@aol.com F 713-831-8653	<b>Newsletter</b>
<b>Treasurer</b> H 713-927-2679 W	<b>Debbie McKenney</b> mckdeborah@yahoo.com C 713-927-2679		<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>	<b>Melanie Norton</b> nortonmelt@hotmail.com mnorton@bvccpa.com	
<b>Secretary</b> H 713-817-0318 W 713-926-9936	<b>Colene Blankinship</b> coblank@msn.com F 713-831-8653		<b>Publicity</b> H 281-261-8016 W 713-528-2771	<b>Ellie Moore</b> emoore@cddacpa.com F 713-528-6423	

Deadline for September newsletter: September 1, 2005  
 Newsletter Editor: Kathryn Pearce  
 Home: 713-688-4057  
 Work: 713-831-5412  
 Fax: 713-831-8653  
 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	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 **Melanie Norton** to be added or deleted from the Standing Reservations List.  
 713-353-1942 mnorton@bvccpa.com

**Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW)**

Web site: www.fhpw.org

ASWA Delegates:	ASWA Alternates:
Melanie Norton	Pam Ahlers
Kathryn Pearce	Ellie Moore

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Aug 9 Board Meeting—Eileen Neucere’s House
- Aug 23 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- Aug 27 Special Event-Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen
- Sept 10 FHPW Women of Excellence Gala
- Sept 13 Board Meeting—American Gen. Center
- Sept 27 Membership Meeting—Briar Club
- Sept28-
- Oct 1 ASWA/AWSCPA Annual Conference Philadelphia, PA

For more information or to sign up, please contact Melanie Norton at mnorton@bvccpa or by phone at 713-353-1942.

(continued from page 1 Presidents message)

Remember, the guests do not have to be accountants; they can be friends, neighbors, co-workers and bosses. This is your chance to let them know how great ASWA is, and the Houston Chapter in particular.

Hope to see you and your guests at the membership meeting on August 23.

**GOT A GOOD OPENING?**

Linda Tally

I have shared this idea with hundreds, if not thousands, of people and here's your chance to get it, too! You've got to have a good opening, otherwise, people (read that as in prospects, customers, possible referral sources) will turn off. It's not only for a good sales pitch, it's also about those networking opportunities! In Sarah and Paul Edwards's book, "Getting the Business to Come to You" they suggest you use this format:

"Do you know \_\_\_\_\_." What I do \_\_\_\_\_."

Now all you have to do is fill in the blank.

If someone comes up to me and asks me what I do, I used to say, "I'm a professional speaker." They would give me this nice, "Oh how interesting!" Yea, I could tell they were real interested! When I learned about this format, I tried it and got great response! So now I say: "Do you know that most people want a magic pill to cure all their problems. What I do is show you how to grow yourself from the inside out." Sometimes I say: "Did you know that most people blame their bad luck, bad timing, upsets, etc on other people? What I do is show you that winning is an inside job."

If you create interest with these statements, people are naturally attracted to you. They will want to know more. This is the attraction principle at its best!

<http://www.lindatalley.com/main.htm>

**FPHW**

Chris Noble, FHPW President has made the following requests of each member organization:

- Have all members of the organization sign up for the FHPW news group. (Go to FHPW.org, select News Subscription, and follow simple directions)
- Attend the quarterly events. Reservation forms may be downloaded from the FHPW website ([www.fhpw.org](http://www.fhpw.org)). The next event will be held on October 24. Be sure and get your reservations in early.

**Joint National Conference**

During the Joint ASWA/AWSCPA Inspired Solutions Conference, there will be an ASWA By-laws forum. This will be held on Wednesday September 28 from 3:10 to 4:00 p.m.

Please see the attachment to this newsletter for the complete by-law amendments.

The national conference is always energizing so we hope to see some of you in Philadelphia.

**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.nasba.org](http://www.nasba.org)

## Special Event

August Meeting - Donation items for Loaves and Fishes

In August 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 August meeting and we will make sure the items get to the shelter. Travel size items are preferred, but large bottles are also appreciated.

August 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, August 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](mailto:jlandreth@net1.net).

### South Central Regional Conference

SA was such a blast. Who knew you could actually fit your day into an 8 hour period, work with people who are completely opposite of you and be a better boss by listening.

The seminars were insightful, the town was so much fun with the Spurs winning, and the people were awesome. It was fun to see and visit with members from other cities and states again.

Ellie

## Speaker Bio

With over eleven years of IT experience, Richard Diggins has been providing quality IT solutions for the commercial and petrochemical industries. He began his career at Fiesta Mart over their IT department for ten years. He presently works for PetroChem Inspection Services as the Director of Network Administration. His special area of knowledge is Oracle Databases as well as a vast knowledge in all aspects of networking. Currently he has beta tested and developed a pilot program for Microsoft to be on Exchange 2003 and Server 2003.

Richard grew up in Friendswood, Texas. After graduating from Friendswood High School in 1992, Richard completed many certification classes including, but not limited to Oracle ED and MSCD. He is a member of Microsoft and has received many awards in his field including Oracle DB Manager and MCP awards. He currently resides in Pearland, Texas with his beautiful wife Angela of 2 ½ years and enjoys gaming and cycling.

## JOB OPENING

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC), a coalition of 38 churches that serves the working poor and those in crisis in southwest Houston, is in search of a Business Director with an accounting degree to join our professional staff. This position maintains financial records, oversight and reporting; oversees facilities/facility maintenance; and supervises administrative support staff. Ideal candidates will have a minimum of five years accounting experience; a CPA preferred, but not required.

Send a cover letter and resume by:

Email: [ccsc@ccschouston.com](mailto:ccsc@ccschouston.com)

Fax: 713-961-1548

Mail: P. O. Box 27924, Houston, Texas 77227

## Member News:

by: Orapin Duangploy

Sawasdi Ka! Greetings from Thailand—the land of smiles, the host of the 2005 Miss Universe Pageant, and the country where the 1997 Asian crisis started. While the fiascos of Enron and WorldCom brought forth the enactment of the Sarbanes Oxley Act in the U.S., the 1997 financial crisis in East Asia, triggered the interest on the importance of good corporate governance.

Thammasat University, an “ivy-league university not only well known in Thailand but also in South Asia, has recognized the importance of integrating Corporate Governance and Professional Ethics into the accounting curriculum at the graduate level since the 1997 crisis. I was fortunate enough to be the pioneer in teaching this course for the May 21 to August 27 semester.

The Corporate Governance and Professional Ethics is a required accounting graduate course. I have 61 students; at least half of them work for the Big-4. Fortunately, I have a teaching assistant who is actually a lecturer to assist me. The class meets once a week on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. The lecture is in English, but the discussion is in Thai and English.

The Sarbanes Oxley Act is of great interest to the Thai students. Undoubtedly, Enron and WorldCom are classic cases students discussed and referred to in the course. Conflicts of interest, failure to identify and manage ethics risks, unreliable financial data, lack of effective monitoring, weak internal control, and the growing importance of the role of stakeholders in corporate governance are topics covered. The OECD Principles of Corporate Governance are applied as a international benchmark. The traditional dominance of family business in the structure of the Thai corporate ownership appears to be the culprit of the recent financial scandals. The management team happened to be the siblings of the Deputy Commerce Minister who later had to resign because of the pressure from the media.

Overall, regulators have paid greater attention to the importance of good corporate governance as well as adequate disclosure and transparency, in addition to effective surveillance and risk management system. As a matter of fact, good corporate governance is imperative since the economy of Thailand heavily depends on foreign investments. Research has indicated that investors are willing to pay a premium of 25% on good corporate governance.

Undoubtedly, I enjoyed this new challenge despite the enormous preparation required to customize the syllabus for the Thai environment. Although the majority of my class appears to be relatively less outspoken, they are more respectful than my students in the U.S. They have excellent technology skills and have given me quite a few pointers for an efficient PowerPoint presentation. Last but not least, just like the growing trend in the U.S., the majority of my students (about 80%) are female accountants.

**The WELCOMING Corner!!!!!!****New Members****Suzi Martin**

Suzi is 56 years old and has been married to Jimmy for 36 years. Suzi has two married daughters, a 14 month old grandson named Coleson and another grandchild due in March. Suzi was fortunate enough to be a stay at home mom for 17 years before getting back in the work force. She worked for Hill & Parker, LLP and Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, LLP in the accounting departments for 12 years, the last 7 ½ years as Billing Supervisor. Today Suzi works for PetroChem Inspection Services doing billing, payables and receivables. Her number one interest is her grandson Coleson. She enjoys watching movies with her husband, crocheting and attending bible studies. Suzi joined ASWA with her daughter Julianne Dorsett and she looks forward to meeting everyone.

**Julianne Dorsett**

Julianne is 27 years old and resides in Deer Park with her husband Matt of 5 years and their 14 month old son Coleson Brice. Julianne works at PetroChem Inspection Services where she does billing and payables. She has been with PetroChem for the past 4 years and has been in the industry for the past 7 years. When Julianne is not working she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. Julianne sings on the praise team at Clearpoint Baptist Church, bowl, and does crafts. Julianne and her husband also enjoy drag racing their Mustang. Julianne is very excited about being a member of ASWA and looks forward to being an active part in the organization.

**Jaima Abercrombie**

Jaima graduated from Sam Houston State University with a major in Accounting and Economics (undergraduate) and Business Administration (graduate). After college she worked for Ernst & Young and then Sysco Foods. Jaima now works for Morgan Garris Consulting, a small accounting consulting firm in Houston. Her hobbies include quilting, reading, and hanging out with friends. Jaima picked up quilting from her mother and grandmother and has now finished 4 quilts! She recently started playing golf in order to spend more time with her husband.

**Keeping Life Simple  
Rest and Relaxation**

Keep a good book, some relaxing tapes, lotion and a pad and pencil near your bed. You may wake up from a dream that is well worth writing down.

Buy yourself some flowers. They'll brighten up your day and aide from that, its fun to do something nice for yourself.

Help yourself to relax by practicing square breathing. Breath in to the count of four, hold it for the count of four, exhale for the count of four and pause for the count of four. Now do it all again....and again....and again.

**Continued New Member****Lori Williamson**

Lori is Canadian and has been living in Houston for 3 years. She is a Chartered Accountant (CA) with both public and industry experience. Currently, Lori works for a consulting company. Her hobbies include cooking, traveling, sailing, biking and jogging when the weather is not quite so HOT!!!!

**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.

**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 WomenAccountants -- “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.

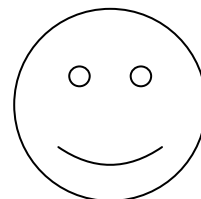


**FHPW  
Women of Excellence Gala**

Every year the member organizations of FHPW are asked to honor one of their members as their Woman of Excellence. This year the board has decided to honor Judy McMillian as the ASWA Woman of Excellence. The Federation has agreed to posthumously honor Judy.

A lot of our members can tell you about Judy but what I remember the most is her calm demeanor and quite voice. When we would sit and complain about something or someone, she would just smile and not make any comment. She was patient with everyone and when there was a community project, she was there to support ASWA in the rain or sunshine.

If your would like to attend the banquet, please let us know at the August meeting. The Gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on September 10, 2005. For more information, go to the Federation web-site [www.fhpw.org](http://www.fhpw.org).



The ASWA Memorial Fund acknowledges with gratitude the following contributions:

To honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. J David White by Eileen Neucere

To honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Barhorst by Eileen Neucere

In memory of Kathy’s Pearce father-in-law Paul Pearce Sr. by Joan Landreth

In support of the Memorial Fund by Ann White

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

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**ASWA National Headquarters**

800-326-2163

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[jvassar@deloitte.com](mailto:jvassar@deloitte.com)

**Empowering Women In The Accounting and Financial Professions Since 1938**