

ASWA FAX RETURN

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

Member of *The Federation of Houston Professional Women*

VOL. 56 No. 1

September 2007

Membership Meeting

September 25, 2007

Speakers: Kathryn Pearce, CPA and Colene Blankinship, CPA

Topic: Parliamentary Procedures & Facilitating Meetings

CPE: 2 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 Speaker

Prices: \$25 Members with reservations
\$30 Guests and walk-ins
\$15 Students

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Debbie McKenney

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer. We have some great events and activities planned for ASWA as we move into the fall. One in particular that I would like to highlight is the **Controllers Roundtable**.

This is a new event for our Houston Chapter and will be September 18, 2007, 11:30am-1pm at the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel. The topic covers how to negotiate the best deal, qualifies for 1 hour of CPE and should be a great opportunity for discussion. By offering this lunchtime meeting, we hope to give our members, along with their colleagues, another opportunity to participate in the organization in addition to our monthly dinner meetings. I encourage you to attend and bring a guest! Many thanks to Arlene Dilworth for all of her efforts in organizing this event.

Further details on this event and other ASWA activities are included in this newsletter. You may also check out our website at <http://www.aswahouston.org/> for more information.

Please make your reservations for the **September** meeting with Ann White at (713) 459-5874.

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.

Reservations Notice

For the month of September, please make your reservations with Ann White.

Her e-mail is annwhite61@gmail.com. Her new work phone number will be (713) 528-2771. She may also be reached at (713) 459-5874 (cell).

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.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Kathryn (Kathy) Pearce, CPA is an Assistant Vice-President in the Mutual Fund Administration Department of AIG SunAmerica Asset Management Corp. AIG SAAMCo is an Investment Management Company and is the advisor for the SunAmerica Retail Mutual Funds and the SunAmerica Annuity Mutual Funds. AIG SAAMCo is also the Administrator for the VALIC Annuity Mutual Funds. Fund Admin monitors the third party accounting firm which handles the day to day accounting and daily calculation of the net asset value per share for the 155 funds in the three complexes. The department completes IRS diversification testing as well as other SEC required tests. The department handles all of the financial reporting for all 155 funds from the preparation and coordination the printing of the quarterly N-Q's, Semi-annual and Annual reports as well as the filing of these documents with the SEC. The department completes all management reporting for the funds as well

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SPEAKER BIO

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as completion of the quarterly board reports for the three Mutual Fund Boards.

A member of the Houston Chapter of ASWA since 1995, Kathy has served the chapter in various capacities including president of the chapter. Kathy had served on the board for many years until this current year.

Kathy is very involved in her church and loves to read and to work on her scrapbooks

Colene Blankinship, CPA is the controller of PetroChem Inspection Services, Inc., a quality inspection service company providing services to the refining and petrochemical industries. The "PetroChem" name has been synonymous with quality inspection services in the refining and petrochemical industries for over 30 years. As a leading provider of visual inspection, both on-stream and turnaround, PetroChem is one of the largest employers of API inspectors in the United States. In addition to inspection capabilities, PetroChem provides comprehensive traditional non-destructive testing such as ultrasonic, magnetic particle, radiographic, and eddy current. A specialist in advanced technology, PetroChem pioneered long-range guided wave ultrasonics and is a leading provider of advanced NDT services such as computerized radiography and ACFM (alternating current field measurement).

A member of the Houston Chapter of ASWA since 1986, Colene served the chapter in various capacities including 2 terms ten years apart as president. In 1994 she co-hosted the ASWA-AWSCPA Joint Annual Conference in Houston. Everyone still talks about Houston, the longhorn steers, line dancing and "Eating Dessert First".

Colene's ASWA service also includes Area Director, National Director and National Secretary. In addition she has held positions as Treasurer and Director of the Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW) and served on the board of EFWA.

JNC Delegates

Based on our chapter size of 85 members, we have 5 allowable votes in the annual business meeting at the Joint National Conference. Kristi DeNardo, Melanie Norton, and Christine Spray have agreed to serve as delegates, with Debbie McKenney serving as alternate. Kathy Pearce and Colene Blankinship are also planning to attend National.

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.

August Meeting Report

We had an informative (if damp) membership meeting in August at the Briar Club.

Arlene Dilworth gave an update on the Controller's Corner.



Our speaker was Fritz Attermeier, a board-certified tax attorney and certified public accountant.

Mr. Attermeier spoke on "Texas Margin Tax". Mr. Attermeier compared the new margin tax to the Texas franchise tax which it replaced, and gave several useful examples of the differences as well as samples of computation. I certainly benefited, and believe everyone took away some information that will be useful in the workplace.

Member on the Move

ANN WHITE HAS A NEW OLD JOB!

Effective September 17, 2007, Ann will be returning to work with Ellie Moore at DiCamppli & Associates, PC. They made her an offer she could not refuse. For those of you that don't know, she previously worked for "The Company" for 14 years prior to her departure in June 2005. "The Company" started out as Collector & Dart, PC. Then when Ellie became a partner it was Collector, Dart & Moore, PC. Ellie retired to raise her son and the name changed to Collector, Dart & Associates, PC. Ellie obviously missed everyone and came back after a while but did not choose to become partner again. Shortly before Ann's departure the original partners decided they were ready for a break and a new partner was found and the company name changed again to Collector, Dart, DiCamppli and Associates, PC. During her absence the name was changed one more time to what it is today. Even with all of the name changes the characters remained the same. Ann can be reached by email at annwhite61@gmail.com or cell phone at (713) 459-5874.

Getting to Know Our Officers—Arlene Dilworth, Director, Publicity Chairperson

S. Arlene Dilworth, CPA, CTP, owner of Total BackOffice Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Dilworth is a CPA and a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) with a Master of Science degree in Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration. She has served in many roles throughout her career, including CFO & Controller, and worked in a variety of industries.

Ms. Dilworth decided to start Total BackOffice Solutions, Inc. out of her desire to do something meaningful, something she could feel good about for the next 20 – 30 years of her career. Total BackOffice Solutions, Inc. offers both accounting and human resource administration services to businesses that do not otherwise have the resources for full time professional accounting and HR personnel. All services are delivered online, so client information is available 24/7. With an online service model, there are no geographical limitations or concerns about office hours or time zones. Services are tailored to meet the needs of each client. The Company's focus is running the back office operations like clock work in the background so business owners can focus on what they do best.

Ms. Dilworth joined ASWA in order to meet like-minded people, build business relationships, meet future employees, earn continuing education credit, and hopefully improve the quality of life for a few kindred spirits.

Federation of Houston Professional Women

Next Meeting: September 29, 2007

Location: Hyatt Regency Downtown

Web site: www.fhpw.org

1200 Louisiana at Polk

ASWA Delegates: Melanie Norton, Kathryn Pearce

Alternates: Pam Ahlers, Eileen Neucere

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.



If I asked you to tell me exactly what actions you were taking to achieve what you were achieving, could you? Could you identify current actions and projects that you are working on and what specific steps you are taking? If not, how do you know if you are moving forward, backwards or just staying in the same place and creating a mess?

What you are doing, on a daily basis, gives you milestones with which to measure your progress forward. Many sales people hate to do this but it is a critical step to take because for everyone in the workplace today, change is inevitable and if you can't articulate where you are today and how you got there and what you are doing to stay there or move ahead, you are dead in the water, so to speak.

Do you have a model that says, this is what I do to succeed or move forward or to achieve my goals? Most people are resistant to this because they are resistant to change. Change is necessary in every life and on a regular basis. If you are not taking the time to articulate where you are and what needs to change in order to grow, develop or succeed, you are shooting yourself in the foot because things are changing, especially in business.

Change or grow stale and perhaps lose. Set aside some time each month or even week to look at what got you there and what it will take to move you ahead. Darryl Royal, former head coach of the University of Texas Longhorns said "You got to dance with who brung ya." I say, give them one dance and see if they are a good partner. If not, figure out a way to move ahead!

QUOTES

"The way to learn to do things is to do things. The way to learn a trade is to work at it. Success teaches how to succeed. Begin with the determination to succeed, and the work is half done already."

"Leadership appears to be the art of getting others to want to do something you are convinced should be done."

Vance Packard

"I wish there was a knob on the TV to turn up the intelligence. There's a knob called 'brightness,' but it doesn't work."

"The only real training for leadership is leadership."

Anthony Jay quotes

"The blessing of an active mind, when it is in a good condition, is, that it not only employ itself, but is almost sure to be the means of giving wholesome employment to others."



ASWA Educational Foundation's Dress for Success Drive!

As part of the ASWA Educational Foundation's mission to promote and advance financial literacy, the Foundation has developed a relationship with Dress for Success. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Please plan to support the Foundation's first Dress for Success event that will be an "Accessory Drive" at the upcoming 2007 JNC in Orlando. To support this great cause, please plan to bring one or more of the following accessories and undergarments with you to the conference:

- 1) New or gently used purses (black, tan, brown - neutral colors only please)
- 2) New or gently used jewelry (conservative, small, tasteful - earrings, necklaces, watches/bracelets)
- 3) New bras - must be new with tags still on, and must be in neutral colors and smooth front styles. Only band sizes 36 and up and cup sizes C, D, DD are needed.

And don't forget that you can always send these donations along with a chapter member if you are unable to attend the JNC!

Joint National Conference Orlando, FL

The Joint National Conference is just around the corner, meeting at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. The dates are Thursday, October 25 through Saturday, October 27, 2007. Attendees can select from up to 70 hours of CPE to earn 24 hours of credits at the conference. Earlybird registration (by 9/24/07) is only \$495 for ASWA members, and includes admission to all educational sessions, exhibits, luncheons, refreshment breaks, receptions, pre- and post-conference sessions, and handout materials.

The conference also offers many opportunities for networking with other accounting professionals.

Bring the family, as there are more than 95 attractions to keep the leisure travelers busy.

Want a Free Registration to the 2008 Joint National Conference?

Got plans October 28 – 30, 2008? If not, then plan on packing your bags for Dallas that week for the 2008 JNC! As an incentive to retain members, National will be awarding a free 2008 JNC registration to the chapters that achieve 95% retention or higher for the 2007-08 year.

ASWA
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Return Service Requested

**Printing Compliments of
Kristi DeNardo**

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Empowering Women In The Accounting and Financial Professions Since 1938