

The Monthly Balance Sheet



American Woman's Society of
Certified Public Accountants

of Houston

Volume 32, Number 1

July 2006

JULY'S MEETING

Arbitration and Mediation: Roles and Options for the CPA

Course Objective: This presentation will cover procedural and substantive distinctions among three types of dispute resolution processes (litigation, mediation, and arbitration), while emphasizing opportunities for CPA participation as a disputant, consultant, expert, or neutral (mediator or arbitrator).

Course Level: Basic, no pre-requisites

About the Speaker: D. Brent Wells is President and founder of Wells & Cuellar, PC. Since 1980, Brent has been actively engaged in a commercial litigation practice which has emphasized creditor's rights, collections, defense of consumer claims, and resolution of business disputes. He is Board Certified in Consumer and Commercial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and certified in Creditors' Rights Law by the American Board of Certification. He is also a long-time supporter of alternative dispute resolution and is a Mediator as well as a national Arbitrator panelist for both the American Arbitration Association and the National Arbitration Forum.

A professional member of the National Speakers Association, Brent is frequently called upon as a seminar trainer and speaker by groups such as the National Association of Credit Management, the Texas Society of CPAs, the Texas Manufactured Housing Association, the National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, and the International Energy Credit Association. He has authored materials and presented hundreds of educational programs on topics such as Creditors' Rights in Bankruptcy, Successful Judgment Collection, Defending Against the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act, and the Pros and Cons of Consumer Arbitration.

Speaker:	D. Brent Wells, Attorney at Law
Topic:	Arbitration and Mediation: Roles and Options for the CPA
Date:	July 20, 2006
CPE:	1 hour

*** Reservations Policy ***

Meeting reservations must be called in or canceled by 5:00pm on the Friday **PRIOR** to the meeting. The price for dinner reservations called in after 5:00pm Friday (walk-ins) is \$35. The regular price for members is \$25, for non-members is \$30. For those members on the standing reservations list, the price is \$25 and for students is \$20. Our arrangements chair is Stephanie Sawyer. Her phone number is (832) 338-0311. We cannot accept credit cards for payment. **IF YOU MAKE A RESERVATION AND DO NOT ATTEND, YOU MUST PAY ANYWAY.** We pay for all meals reserved regardless of whether they are used.

President's Letter



A new year always heralds excitement and sometimes apprehension for the future. As the new president of the Houston Affiliate it is in this same manner that I look upon AWSCPA's new year. I am apprehensive because I have known some wonderful past presidents of our group and certainly Jane Tillinghast, our most recent past president who was very effective, left some big shoes to fill. I am excited because I feel that our group is entering a new phase in its life, one of the third generation. As part of that third generation I have talked with many of you, and you all have wonderful ideas to enhance and strengthen our organization. It is only with the commitment and willingness of its members that an organization can grow. Thank you to all who have volunteered and committed yourselves to AWSCPA.

Thank you to all who came to the Charter Renewal dinner. It was a great success. We recognized our founding members who made possible our very existence as an organization. They implemented the strong procedures and traditions that have enabled us to operate as a well run organization, as Jane says, "A well-run machine."

Attendees received a mug and a Texas shaped cookie with "AWSCPA" written on it in honor of our out of town guests. It was a pleasure to host the National Board of AWSCPA and be able to put faces to the names. Mike Goodfriend was the speaker of the evening and he gave an interesting talk on enhancing your performance at work.

The Annual Planning Retreat was held on Saturday, June 24. Thanks to all who took the time out of their busy weekend to attend and assist in giving ideas and direction to the group. Those in attendance were Patty Hunt, Jane Tillinghast, Ellen McMurrey, Stephanie Sawyer, Annette Williamson, Susan Taylor, Uzma Chowdhury, and I. Although Mary Ross was not able to make it, she gave her input to me over a lunch date. We have many new faces in board positions this year and I am very proud of them. We all expect this to be the beginning of a very mutually beneficial relationship. A big "Thank You" to everyone for stepping up to the plate. The planning meeting yielded many excellent suggestions for topics, speakers, and ideas on how to gain new members.

I would also like to thank all of you who responded to our recent survey. Your input has been invaluable in helping the Board decide on the best direction for our affiliate. As a result of the survey we will continue to provide you with quality CPE at monthly dinner meetings. We will strive for informative CPE topics with interesting speakers along with networking opportunities. (Not always an easy task for accountants!)

Lastly, I want to thank you, our Houston Affiliate members, for being members, because you ARE the reason for our very existence. I hope that as an organization we exceed your expectations. I am quite confident that with the great group of woman that make up our board we can do that! We know you have a choice in choosing which professional organizations in which to participate. So thank you for choosing AWSCPA. I look forward to a wonderful 2006 - 2007 year.

Gilda Mendoza
2006-2007 President AWSCPA Houston Affiliate

Member News and Announcements

Welcome – to new member **Sarabeth Boothe** and to new student members **Susan Sexton** and **Stephanie Tate**. Welcome to our guests at the Charter Renewal Dinner, **Sandra Chavez-Sena**, **Bert Medley**, **Dianne Metcalf**, **Cynthia Tate**, **Kuno Trostmann**, and **Brandon Wiggan**. Welcome to our guests from the National AWSCPA, **Mary Cheaney**, **Kim Fantaci**, **Kendra Hutchison**, **Jenifer Kimbrough**, **Jennifer Laudermilch**, **Robin Phaneuf**, **Mary Riley** and **Stepanie Yurus**.

Charter Renewal and Annual Scholarship Dinner – The Houston Affiliate was joined by the National Board for a wonderful party at Ninfa's, organized by **Gilda Mendoza**. The outgoing affiliate President, **Jane Tillinghast**, received a beautiful Waterford clock as her President's gift. She in turn, thanked all her board and committee chairs for their hard work and named **Phyllis Martin** as Member of the Year, before inviting the new affiliate President, **Gilda Mendoza**, to name her new officers. Then outgoing National President **Kendra Hutchison** passed the President's pin to new President **Mary Riley**, before being presented with her own new permanent pin as past-president. The Affiliate annual scholarships were

presented to **Susan Sexton** of the University of Houston Clear Lake and **Stephanie Tate** of the University of Houston Main Campus. We welcome them as new members and wish them the best in their future careers. Our speaker for the evening, **Mike Goodfriend**, CPA, explained to us why "Exceptional Performance is Not Luck", and gave us a model we could use to improve our performance as professionals.

ASWA/AWSCPA Joint Inspired Solutions Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada, Bally's Hotel, Monday, September 18 – Wednesday, September 20, 2006

General Gossip – The Susan B Komen Race for the Cure will be on Saturday, September 30, 2006. **Patty Hunt** has started working contract as a Master Data Analyst at CITGO. **Jane Tillinghast** and **Jill Morell** are attending a luncheon for Senatorial candidate **Barbara Ann Radnofsky** hosted by Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and another hosted by Dianne Feinstein.

Phyllis Martin, CPA*
Financial Services

3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1700
Houston, TX 77046
Phone 713-402-3850
Cell 713-206-6481
Fax 713-961-0153
pmartin@finsvcs.com

AWSCPA Houston Affiliate Title Sponsor



* This firm is not a CPA firm.

THE CALL COMMITTEE

- **Sarabeth Boothe** - Anderson through Cooper
- **Susan Sexton** - Courtright through Hintzman
- **Stephanie Tate** - Hochstetler through Martin-Worthington
- **Ivana Shumberg** - Mathew through Pels
- **Myra Pickett** - Petty-McKinney through Staples
- **Jolly Mathew** - Sternbaum through Yoesting



If you do not wish to be reminded of a meeting by the call committee, contact the member in your range. Otherwise enjoy the luxury of momentarily having a personal assistant remind you to make a reservation for a dinner meeting. If you are on the standing list, use this as a reminder to come to the meeting or to cancel so that you will not have to pay for an unattended meeting.

National Board Meetings

I sat in on the outgoing National Board Meeting, which was held at Merrill Lynch in the Galleria (via connections of **Brenda Banks**) on Thursday, June 15 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and I participated in the incoming National Board meeting which was held at the Hilton on Friday, June 16 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with a working lunch. Both meetings were very professional and focused. We had a timekeeper and an agenda with time allotted for each topic. Reports had been sent out ahead of time to the participants so everything could be reviewed before we discussed it.

The topics covered in the first meeting were Welcome, Review of Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Administrative Update, Conference Updates, Marketing Update, TechCasts, Awards, Scholarship, Board Reports and New Business. I was asked to give a report on the status of the Houston Affiliate, and I did. Kendra most graciously included me when she gave out her President's gifts - a pewter picture frame engraved with AWSCPA logo and 2005/2006 Board of Directors. It is perfect for a picture of me with all my Houston Affiliate Board Members and Committee Chairs. Those present Thursday were **Kendra Hutchison**-President, **Mary Riley**-President Elect, **Jenifer Kimbrough**-Immediate Past President, **Stefanie Yurus**-Secretary/Treasurer, **Mary Cheaney**-Vice President/Member Services, **Jennifer Laudermilch**-Vice President/Marketing, **Robin Phaneuf**-National Director/West, and **Kim Fantaci**-Executive Director. **Nikki Etherington** (National Director - Members at Large) and **Shari Harris** (National Director - East) were not present.

The topics covered Friday were in some cases a continuation of the Thursday discussion. They included Welcome/Introductions, Board Orientation/Updates, Joint National Conferences (Las Vegas & 75th Anniversary in 2008), Visioning Task Force (Review of Goals and Directions), Membership/Marketing Campaigns and Initiatives, Corporate Sponsorships and Exposure Opportunities, TechCasts, Student Affiliates and Affiliations, Affiliate Support, Budget Review and Approval, Update 2006-2007 Action Plan, Future Board Meetings, Old Business and New Business. At the end we also included a short Foundation Board of Directors Meeting. Those present were (remember we had an installation of Officers on Thursday evening) **Mary Riley**-President, **Jennifer Laudermilch**-President Elect, **Kendra Hutchison**-Immediate President, **Stefanie Yurus**-Secretary/Treasurer, **Mary Cheaney**-V/P-Member Services, **Jane Tillinghast**-V/P-Publications, **Ivy Defino**-V/P-Marketing (Ivy flew in from Florida for the day), and **Kim Fantaci**-Executive Director. **Shari Harris**-National Director-East (New York) was somewhere in the process of getting married and not present. Kim said that excuse worked for her. At this point we were still looking for a National Director-West (that position has now been filled by Houston Affiliate Member and Past President **Wendy Lewis**) and National Director-Members at Large. We decided during the meeting to ask **Alex Miller** (Past National President) to be a Director of Student Liaisons since she has been so active in that field and has much experience in the organization. We agreed that face-to-face meetings were much more productive than teleconferences. But, of course, with all of us being in different parts of the country, logistics are a problem. We shall have a teleconference at the end of July and a daylong meeting Thursday after the National Conference. Possibly we may meet in Dayton, Ohio in December, and we plan on meeting for another affiliate's year-end dinner in June. Mary Riley is going to try to speak to each affiliate President at some time during the year, and the rest of us are going to try to call a member at large once a month to get feedback. I shall be interested in what members think would be beneficial in the National Newsletter.

TechCasts - Stephanie Sawyer (Former Call Committee Member now Arrangements Chair) reports that, "Overall it (TechCasts) has been a good experience with knowledgeable speakers, and I will continue to participate."

Jul 13, 2006 "Risk Management for your Accounting Practice"

Jul 27, 2006 "Underwriting Commercial Credits"

Aug 03, 2006 "Negotiating Strategies for Women"

Aug 24, 2006 "Effect of General & Special Powers of Appointment in Estate Taxation"

Sept 28, 2006 "Intelligence First: Substantive Client and Market Intelligence"

**submitted by Jane Tillinghast,
National Vice-President, Publications**

ANNUAL SEMINAR PLANNING MEETING ***JULY 22, 2006***

The 24th Annual Seminar committee is organizing now for February 3, 2007! All members are welcome. If you have lots of ideas to share, we want to hear them. If you want to listen and learn, that's how the rest of us got started, too. There are large jobs and small jobs, complicated jobs and simple jobs. Tell us how much time you have and what you are willing to do, we can find a role to match. The annual seminar is a great learning experience that might well prove valuable in your business or employment. And with our Affiliate, you always have a supportive and dedicated team.

Date: Saturday, July 22, 2006 **Time:** 10:00 AM

Place: Susan Taylor's house, 2306 Briarbrook Dr. (713) 781-7649

Seminar Committee 2006



A message from Rhonda Ryan, our Federation delegate,

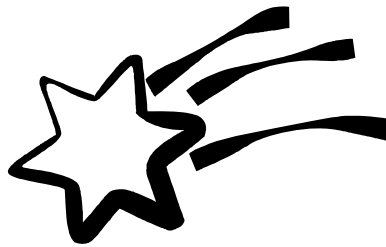


“Remember that *Joan Khosla* is our Affiliate’s Woman of Excellence for 2006. We need a big turn out to support her.”



FHPW QUARTERLY MEETING, MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006 SALUTING
THE 2006 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

“THE SILVER STARS DEBUT”



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

TIME: 5:15 PM Social/ Networking

6:15 PM Refreshments/Business Meeting

6:30 PM Special Presentations by Past Presidents of the Federation of Houston Professional Women

7:00 PM Presentation of the 2006 Women of Excellence

The Federation of Houston Professional Women’s Advisory Council, Federation of Houston Professional Women and the Federation of Houston Professional Women’s Educational Foundation are honored to introduce the 2006 Women of Excellence at the July Quarterly meeting.

If you would like to be a sponsor and/or contributor for the July 24, 2006 event and salute the 2006 Women of Excellence please contact Sheri Parrack at sheriparrack@tmtc2000.com or 713-957-4088 or Myrleen Knott at myrleen_knott@buffaloflange.com or 713-943-9600.



FHPW QUARTERLY MEETING, JULY 24, 2006

RESERVATION FORM

Cost:

\$25 Member Reservations postmarked BY **July 19**, 2006

\$30 Member Reservations postmarked AFTER **July 19**, 2006

\$33 Non-Member Reservations postmarked BY **July 19**, 2006

To attend, complete **all** of the following information (please print).

FHPW Member organization:
Your Name:
<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Organization President <input type="checkbox"/> Woman of Excellence <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Phone:
Email:
Guest's Name:
of Reservations @ \$25
of Reservations at \$30
of Reservations at \$33
Gold sponsor (see website for more information) @ \$50
Silver sponsor (see website for more information) @ \$25
Please make all checks to FHPW Educational Foundation
Total

RESERVATION OPTIONS:

1. Check or Credit Card via mail to FHPW, Quarterly Meeting, P.O. Box 27621, Houston, TX 77277-7621
2. Credit Card via Fax to 713-943-9606 (Myrleen Knott's office fax)

MC, Visa # _____ Exp Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Signature _____

Remember: Reservations will be charged/invoiced regardless of attendance

For additional information, please contact Myrleen Knott at 713-943-9600 or myrleen_knott@buffaloflange.com or visit our web site at <http://www.fhpw.org/>



Houston Affiliate
Fiscal Year 2006 to 2007
Officers and Committee Chairs

AFFILIATE OFFICERS

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
President	Gilda Mendoza	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713) 582-0561	(713) 926-3389
Vice-President	Mary Ross	Maross1977@aol.com	(409) 789-9160	
Secretary	Uzma Chowdhury	anmeer@yahoo.com	(281) 798-8634	(281) 550-9171
Treasurer	Ellen McMurrey	emcmurrey@nwebs.com		(281) 489-1822

Committees and Other Positions

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
Annual Seminar Team	OPEN			
	Team assembles			
	July 22 – see notice			
Arrangements	Stephanie Sawyer	ssawyer@sbcglobal.net	(832) 338-0311	(281) 367-8434
Charter Renewal	Phyllis Martin	pmartin@finsvcs.com	(713) 402-3850	(713) 780-9006
Civic Project	open	Race for the Cure		
Database & Labels	Patty Hunt	pahunt@earthlink.net	(713) 320-8388	(713) 681-2669
Ex-Officio	Jane Tillinghast	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
Fall Mini-Seminar	Anna Marie LaPorte	jalprt@sbcglobal.net	(281) 433-3618	(713) 694-8042
Federation Delegate	Rhonda Ryan	rhonda@rhondaryan.com	(713) 686-2697	(713) 686-2697
	open			
Historian	Sue Bailey	suebailey_nl@yahoo.com	(713) 247-2466	(713) 520-1903
Job Bank	Rhonda Ryan	rhonda@rhondaryan.com	(713) 686-2697	(713) 686-2697
Membership	Annette Williamson	netwilliamson@sbcglobal.net	(713) 501-0039	(713) 862-8988
Nat'l Director-West	Wendy Lewis	wendyl@wt.net	(713) 622-9933	(281)558-8782
Nat'l VP-Publications	Jane Tillinghast	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
New CPA Reception	Frances Weatherly	fweatherly@houston.rr.com	(281) 200-9309	
Newsletter Editor	Susan Taylor	staylor@sbcglobal.net	(281) 233-1354	(713) 781-7649
Programs/Speakers	Mary Ross	Maross1977@aol.com	(409) 789-9160	
Program Cards /Seminar Brochure	Kathryn Harriss	Kharris2@yahoo.com	(713) 320-8388	(713) 681-2669
Publicity	Wanda Llorens	wellor@earthlink.net	(713) 952-5102	(713) 952-5102
Scholarship & Education outreach	Jacqueline Pierson	jtpiersoncpa@yahoo.com	(832) 816-4481	
Spring Mini-Seminar	OPEN			

A Complete Member Directory can be searched or downloaded from the Member's Section of the national website, www.awscpa.org. Our affiliate website, www.awscpa.org/houston, has a schedule of upcoming events.

**AMERICAN WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

c/o Patricia A. Hunt
1415 Hyde Park Blvd. #B
Houston, TX 77006-2503

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 20, 2006

Location: Sheraton Brookhollow

UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker - Topic</i>
July 20, 2006	Arbitration and Mediation: Roles and Options for CPAs – D. Brent Wells, Attorney at Law
Aug 17, 2006	Conducting Effective Meetings – Dianne Metcalf, CPA
Sept 28, 2006	Fall Mini-Seminar Program to be Announced



Sheraton Brookhollow
3000 N. Loop West
Houston, TX 77018

Registration: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm
Speaker: 6:45 pm

Reservations due by: Friday, July 14, 2006