

The Monthly Balance Sheet



American Woman's Society of
Certified Public Accountants

of Houston

Volume 31, Number 11

June 2006

JUNE'S MEETING



Charter Renewal and Annual Scholarship Dinner *Thursday, June 15, 2006*

Featuring the topic: Exceptional Performance is Not Luck!

This presentation will focus on the keys to exceptional performance and building an expertise. Determine the traits of exceptional performers and how individual CPAs can prepare themselves for opportunities to be seen as an exceptional performer.

Presented by Mike Goodfriend, CPA - Goodfriend & Associates, Inc.

Please join us at Ninfa's Mexican Restaurant.
1650 Post Oak at San Felipe in the Uptown Galleria area



Registration/Networking 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Speaker Presentation 7:00 pm

One hour CPE
Level: Basic
Prerequisites: None

To register call Gilda Mendoza at 713.926.3389, or 713.582.0586, or gmendoza@kanaly.com

A Fiesta Fajita Buffet will be served. If you need a vegetarian plate please inform me when you call to register.

Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members if registered by June 6, 2006
\$40 Walk-Ins and late registration
Standing reservations do not apply.

Help us congratulate our annual scholarship winners, thank our outgoing officers and welcome in our new officers for 2006-2007. As a special treat, we will be hosting Members of the National Board of AWSCPA. Please come to the dinner and give our guests a big Texas welcome!



Annual Scholarship and Charter Renewal Dinner

On June 15, 2006, it will be that time again – time for the Houston Affiliate to say good-bye to year 24 and welcome in year 25. It is time to give scholarships to two deserving university accounting students. Time to present the member of the year award to a member who has gone beyond the call of duty during the year. Time for the 2005/2006 Houston Affiliate President to say good-bye to her board and committee chairs, and time for the 2006/2007 President to install her new board and committee chairs. And because the National board will be our guests this year, it is time for the 2005/2006 National officers to say good-bye and install the 2006/2007 National officers. It will be a great evening to share with friends, business associates, and significant others. A speaker will provide an hour of CPE on a topic of interest to all professionals. Make your plans now and invite your friends.

At the March board meeting, we voted to “mug” every attendee at the Charter Renewal and Scholarship Dinner. What does this mean? Come and find out! You must be present at the mugging to be mugged. No show, no mugging.



RAFFLE JUNE 15TH !! **AWSCPA Civic Project**



As part of our *Annual Scholarship* dinner we will be raffling off a *\$50 American Express Dinner card* and *two gift baskets* for the benefit of these three very worthy organizations:

**The Women's Home
Dress For Success
The Council on Alcohol and Drugs**

Anyone who brings a donation (goods or money) for one of our charitable organizations will receive a raffle ticket.

Do you feel lucky? Then get your donation ready!

As we party with our friends to remember a successful personal and professional year, it is a good time to remember those who have been less fortunate, but who still may find success with a little boost from the rest of us.

NOTE: The cutoff date for reservations is early this month, Tuesday, June 6th.

After June 6th, the late registration price will apply.
Standing reservations do not apply.

President's Letter



This is my last President's Letter for 2005/2006. It has been a good year for me. I have grown in self-confidence as I implemented ideas based on my belief in the organization and not based on trying to please anyone. I hope the organization is stronger. Only time will tell. I hope it has been a good year for you too.

I would like to leave one thought – **Do not throw the baby out with the bath water!**

We need to try new ideas, and we have this year. We added honoring new members at our New CPA Reception and were able to involve some of those new members in the organization. We added a program schedule to our web site to encourage more people to come to the dinner meetings. We created a call committee mostly of new members as a means of introducing new members to current members and to encourage dinner meeting attendance. We tried partnering for one of our positions and found it easier to get two people to do the job than one person.

But when a change is being proposed, try to look at what systems are involved and if those systems are being compromised by the change. Look at the "big picture". And if the change is tried, evaluate the results. For example, one of the biggest complaints is that members do not have time for a dinner meeting and a board meeting. So one year we decided to save time we would skip the introductions at the dinner meetings of the members and only introduce the guests. This did save time. But one of the reasons our members come to the dinner meetings is to meet other CPA's who have similar work and life challenges. And without introducing the members, the guests had a hard time learning the members' names. And members had a hard time remembering the names of new members or infrequent attendees. We saved time, but the price was too high. A better solution was to start introductions earlier and watch the time so the speaker goes on at 7:00 pm sharp, **period!**

President Truman said "The only new history is the history you do not know". It is amazing to me to read about the issues his administration was dealing with fifty years ago and then to open up the newspaper and read about those same issues today.

Likewise our organization has a long history and much experience trying new ideas some of which have never worked although we have tried them again and again. We need the energy and ideas of new members, but we also need to wisdom and experience of the long time members. That is why we need Board meetings - so we can train, involve, and nurture new leaders and their ideas but also have an opportunity to listen to the experience of leaders who have been there. We also need board meetings to evaluate what has been done and is being done, and to communicate with each other. Board meetings take time. But they save time in the long run because they provide a system that keeps the organization alive.

I cannot speak for everyone, but I know that forcing myself to try new positions in AWSCPA has made me grow. I suspect the same has been true for others and will be true for many as long as the organization exists. I am now going to try something new. I have been asked to serve on the AWSCPA National Board. It will mean travel to places I have never been and meeting and interacting with people I have not met. It is a little scary (maybe a whole lot scary), but I have learned coping skills in AWSCPA Houston Affiliate thanks to many of you. I know I shall grow doing this, and I shall enjoy it in the long run because my life will be richer.

Thank you for your help this year and for being you. I know you will support Gilda in the upcoming year. Good night but not good-by.

Jane L. Tillinghast, 2005/2006 President

Member News and Announcements

Welcome – to Spring Mini-Seminar guests **Zola Cater, San Juana Cuevas, Fonda L. Hilburn, Norma Morales and Renesha L. Thibodeaux**. Congratulations, **Renesha**, on becoming a CPA.

Spring Mini-Seminar—**Ann Laufman** and **Fields Leake** gave a basic overview of points to remember when investing, especially from a woman's point of view. **Phyllis Martin** secured a great location at Strategic Financial Group business location and the box lunches and door prizes added to the enjoyment. Many thanks to **Phyllis** for putting the event together.

Sympathy – Our deepest sympathy goes to **Barbara Courtright**, whose father has died.

General Gossip – Former member **Becky Moores** is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer. She is still teaching fitness classes, but may have to cut back on the number per day. She looks good in her new wig. Please keep her in your prayers. Member **Cheryl Sanders** is now **Cheryl Drennan**. She has also changed jobs from Gulf South Pipeline to El Paso Corporation. Congratulations, Cheryl, and best of luck!

AWSCPA Nationals - **Melissa Lynd** has left her position at AWSCPA Nationals. We will miss her. **Fred Young** is helping us temporarily. If you have any questions regarding the national organization, you can call 1-800-AWSCPA1 (297-2721). We have a great support team at Nationals.

ASWA/AWSCPA Joint Inspired Solutions Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada, Bally's Hotel, Monday, September 18 – Wednesday, September 20, 2006. See www.awscpa.org for details.

Federation of Houston Professional Women – Usually the July quarterly meeting is an honorary tea for the Women of Excellence. Details should soon be available on their website at www.fphw.org.

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners— are hosting a seminar titled Principles of Fraud Examination in Austin on June 5-6 for 28 hours of CPE credit. For more information, see www.ACFE.com or call Dianne Lloyd at 1-800-245-3321.

Kforce Professional Staffing presents THE CPE SOLUTION - A monthly series of continuing professional education focused on issues impacting accounting and finance professionals. Professionals will earn 4 CPE credit hours for each session. The cost is paid by Kforce Professional Staffing, parking not included. The June meeting date is June 21, with additional sessions on 7/19, 8/23, 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, and 12/13. The place is the Houston City Club – Greenway Plaza, One City Club Drive. The time is 1:30-5:30 PM. To register, call or email **Olga Dominguez**, (713) 479-3501, odominguez@kforce.com.

Seeking Professionals – Member **Marilyn B. Wist** works for Resources Global Professionals, and she tells us that they are looking for tax accountants and supply chain professionals. Anyone interested can get information from their website at www.resourcesconnection.com. Mention that you heard about them from Marilyn.

THE CALL COMMITTEE

- **Uzma Chowdhury** - (281) 447-8787 uchowdhury@hanover-co.com- Anderson through Cooper
- **Brenda Banks** – brenda_banks@ml.com Courtright through Hintzman
- **Stephanie Sawyer** - (281) 367-8434 ssawyer@sbcglobal.net - Hochstetler through Martin-Worthington
- **Ivana Shumberg**- (713) 623-8911 ivana@ws-cpa.com Mathew through Pels
- **Myra Pickett** – (832) 768-0520 txtaxsmart@sbcglobal.net McKinney through Staples
- **Annette Williamson** - (713) 501-0039 netwilliamson@sbcglobal.net Sternbaum through Yoesting

If you do not wish to be reminded of a meeting by the call committee, contact the member in your range.

Please help us help you. To better address your needs, we are asking you to participate in the following survey. As a means of thanking you for your participation, all surveys returned either by e-mail, U.S. postal service, fax, or in person by June 15th, 2006, will be eligible to receive a \$50 gift certificate and a pewter piggy bank with the AWSCPA logo. The winner will be selected at random during the Charter Renewal and Scholarship Dinner from all entries received. Winner need not be present to win.

1) How long have you been a member of the AWSCPA? _____

2) Why do you attend meetings? CPE_____ Networking_____ Other _____
If other, please explain_____

3) Which time period do you prefer for the meetings? Mornings Evenings Saturdays

4) Most meetings are held at the Sheraton Brookhollow. Is this a good location for you?
Yes____ No____ Suggestions for other locations _____

5) Meetings are now held once a month. How often would you like to have meetings?

6) Would you come to meetings where Professional Development (soft skills) is offered rather than CPE? YES_____ No_____

7) Additional comments or suggestions_____

Thank you for completing the survey. Please fill out your name and address below. If returning survey by US postal service, please mail to AWSCPA c/o Gilda Mendoza, 6434 Brookside Dr., Houston, TX 77023. To return by e-mail, please send to gmendoza@kanaly.com. You may also fax to Gilda Mendoza at 713.296.8598

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____



**Houston Affiliate
Fiscal Year 2005 to 2006
Officers and Committee Chairs**

AFFILIATE OFFICERS

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
President	Jane Tillinghast*	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
Vice-President	M. Gilda Mendoza*	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713) 582-0586	(713) 926-3389
Secretary	Ellen McMurrey*	emcmurrey@nwebs.com		(281) 489-1822
Treasurer	Cynthia Cox*	ccox@cynthiacoxcpa.com	(281) 331-8185	(281) 756-8335

Committees and Other Positions

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
Annual Seminar	Jane Tillinghast	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
	Kathryn Harriss	kharriss2@yahoo.com	(713) 320-8388	(713) 681-2669
	Joan Khosla*	joan@khoslas.com	(713)717-5368	(713)681-6209
	Susan Taylor*	staylor@sbcglobal.net	(281) 233-1354	(713) 781-7649
	M. Gilda Mendoza	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713)582-0586	(713)926-3389
Arrangements	Barbara Courtright*	barbcourtright@houston.rr.com		(713) 991-2355
Charter Renewal	M. Gilda Mendoza	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713) 582-0586	(713) 926-3389
Civic Project	Joan Khosla	jkhosla@x-iss.com	(713) 717-5368	(713) 681-6209
Scholarship and Education Outreach	Varsha Shah	varsha_saraiya@hotmail.com	(713) 585-2647	(713) 465-1102
Ex-Officio	Anna Marie La Porte*	jalprt@sbcglobal.net	(281) 433-3618	(713) 694-8042
Fall Mini-Seminar	Brenda Banks	brenda_banks@ml.com	(281) 374-5328	(281) 812-2413
Federation Delegates	Rhonda Ryan	rhonda@rhondaryan.com	(713) 686-2697	(713) 686-2697
	Nancy Nguyen	nancy.nguyen@ubs.com	(713) 985-3438	(713) 662-9850
Historians	Anne-Marie Suire	asuire@netzero.net	(281) 433-3618	(281) 261-0843
	Sue Bailey	suebailey_nl@yahoo.com	(713) 247-2466	(713) 520-1903
IRS Delegate	Lisa Cropper	lcropper@sbcglobal.net	(281) 996-8017	
Job Bank	Rhonda Ryan	rhonda@rhondaryan.com	(713) 686-2697	(713) 686-2697
Membership	Anna Marie La Porte	jalprt@sbcglobal.net	(281) 433-3618	(713) 694-8042
Database & Labels	Kathryn Harriss	kharriss2@yahoo.com	(713) 320-8388	(713) 681-2669
New CPA Reception	by committee	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
Newsletter Editor	Susan Taylor	staylor@sbcglobal.net	(281) 233-1354	(713) 781-7649
Programs/Speakers	Donna J. Mikulecky	donna.mikulecky@christushealth.org	(713) 812-6882	(713) 664-1727
Publicity	Wanda Llorens*	wellor@earthlink.net	(713) 952-5102	(713) 952-5102
Scholarship	Varsha Shah	varsha_saraiya@hotmail.com	(713) 585-2647	(713) 465-1102
Spring Mini-Seminar	Phyllis Martin	pmartin@finsvcs.com	(713) 402-3850	(713) 780-9006

*** Board Members**

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 Anna Marie LaPorte
811 Pinemont Dr.
Houston, TX 77018

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 15, 2006

Location: Ninfa's Restaurant, 1650 Post Oak at San Felipe

UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker - Topic</i>
June 15, 2006	Annual Scholarship and Charter Renewal Dinner
July 20, 2006	Bankruptcy Reform Legislation – Brent Wells, Esq.
August 17, 2006	Conducting Effective Meetings – Dianne L. Metcalf, CPA



Strategic Financial Group, Inc.
3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77046

Networking and Registration: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00
Speaker Presentation: 7:00

Reservations due by: Tuesday, June 6, 2006