

The Monthly Balance Sheet



American Woman's Society of
Certified Public Accountants
of Houston

Volume 32, Number 8

March 2007

MARCH'S MEETING

Technology Update

Speakers:	Sheryl Greiner & Daryl Koehn
Topic:	Technology Update
Date:	March 15, 2007
CPE:	1 hour

Course Objective: During the Technology Update session, Sheryl Greiner and Daryl Koehn of CompSol, Inc. will present the information technology side of business by discussing such topics as:

- Knowing when to upgrade your computer hardware and software
- Securing your computer network
- Remotely accessing your office computer(s)
- Conducting technology assessments
- Technology in the flattening world

Course Level: Overview

Each day, businesses are confronted with decisions regarding repairing or replacing existing computer hardware, purchasing extended warranties, and/or uplifting the "standard" service warranty to include next business day, same day, or 4-hour response service commitments. Furthermore, the release of Windows Vista and Office 2007 has businesses wondering what, if any, workflow improvements or efficiencies would be realized from upgrading. At the same time, businesses need to know how to secure and protect their networks from hackers and viruses while the demand for office mobility and twenty-four hour accessibility means allowing remote user connections.

To keep current on information technology issues, businesses must either conduct their own technology assessments or hire information technology specialists to provide this service for them. Knowing when to perform the work in house and when to seek outside help can definitely contribute to your productivity and the business earnings. Finally, understanding technology in the economically flattening world will help sustain your business while competing for market share.

*** 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 Stepanie 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

About the Speakers:

Sheryl L. Greiner

Sheryl is the CEO, President and 100% Owner of CompSol, Inc. which she founded in 1993. While responsible for all aspects of managing and operating a corporation, Sheryl is primarily responsible for Business Development, Operations Management, and Project Management. Sheryl also provides New Technology Research and Assessments to CompSol's Customers.

Sheryl brings 20 years of management, sales, networking and system design expertise to CompSol. Her technical expertise is derived from a varied project background with organizations of all sizes, ranging from National Accounts (NASA, CompuCom, Jacobs Sverdrup, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, United Space Alliance) to Regional Accounts (The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, State of Texas Department of Transportation, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Jim R. Smith & Company). Sheryl's niche is helping customers meet their business workflow objectives by creatively integrating computer technologies.

Sheryl graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Her technical knowledge includes computer languages, databases, operating systems, networks, and web servers. She is comfortable with a variety of design methodologies including Traditional Life Cycle Development, Joint Application Design, and Rapid Application Design. Sheryl also works with a wide variety of commercially available software applications.

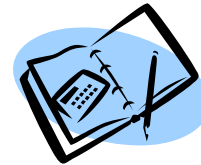
Daryl L. Koehn

Daryl has been an Independent Consultant to CompSol, Inc. since 1993 and has recently founded KMJ Consulting, Inc. which is a telecommunications and information technology consultancy firm. As the CEO of KMJ Consulting, Daryl is focused on helping his customers identify areas in which they can gain efficiency while cost-effectively using technology to increase their market share. Daryl's areas of expertise are Network Design and Consulting, Outside Plant Engineering, Local Exchange Carrier Service Provisioning, and Project Management.

Daryl brings 14 years of Information Technology / Telecom Industry experience to CompSol. His technical expertise is derived from a varied project background with organizations of all sizes, ranging from National Accounts (ChevronTexaco, Baker Hughes, Schlumberger-DMS) to Regional Accounts (The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Demlow Marketing, and Jim R. Smith & Company). Daryl's niche is optimizing existing network infrastructures, leveraging existing network elements when implementing new design strategies, and effectively managing new infrastructure deployments while designing solutions that reduce the network management and maintenance costs.

Daryl graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Systems from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. His technical knowledge includes computer architectures, networks, languages, databases, operating systems, and web servers. He is skilled in Local and Long Distance Voice and Data, Metro Area Network Design, Wide Area Network Design, and Copper and Fiber facilities. Daryl also works with a wide variety of commercially available network and software applications.

President's Letter



On February 15th the board of the Houston Affiliate of AWSCPA met to discuss the outcome of our annual seminar and to initiate plans for the upcoming new program year which begins in June. A recap of the seminar is needed to help us plan for next year. We continually strive to improve our seminar whenever possible. This is done by reviewing the evaluations for suggestions for improvements. We want you to know that we do listen and if it is feasible and reasonable we try to accommodate. It is this continual quest for improvement that has made our seminars such a success. If you have suggestions that did not get put on an evaluation sheet please consider being a part of the committee next year. We can always use the help. We also decided on a change for the summer program and to do something different for the fall mini seminar. Due to the usually low turnout for the July meeting and the loss of our speaker for the April meeting (formerly Data Management), we decided to move the July speaker to April. The April topic will now be "Tax Effects of Long-Term Care" presented by Cheryl Watkins. There will not be a July program. Instead we will have a program break and use this time to have a planning retreat for the 2007-2008 year. The third item is one that I am very excited about. It is the decision to hold a mini conference on leadership in place of our usual fall seminar. Personally, I think this is a program that definitely is needed. Many of us are the only female members of management and we have not always had the opportunities to develop mentoring relationships that can give us some leadership training. Many thanks to Wendy Lewis, a former AWSCPA Houston Affiliate president and current National Board member for submitting details on this conference and coming up with potential speaker names.

I would also like to add some personal observations as a result of this meeting. While our membership numbers continue to stay steady, we have had a decrease in the number of members who actively participate in our organization. It takes many members with many different talents and skills to run this organization. Therefore, I really want to encourage all of you to consider participating if you are not doing so at this point. It will definitely be a rewarding and truly learning experience. At this time we are in the process of nominating new board members. The following positions are available: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Director, and Board members at large. Committee chairwomanships for the annual seminar, spring mini seminar, and scholarship are also available. Please consider one of these positions. Your local affiliate needs you.

We are in desperate need of a Scholarship chairwoman for the current year. As many of you know, we give out scholarships from the money earned at the Annual Seminar to deserving college students at our Charter Renewal dinner in June. Therefore, time is of the essence. The scholarship applications need to be distributed by next month so that there is ample time for the students to submit their application and for the decision to award the scholarship to be made. Due to personal circumstances at this time, I do not have the time to perform this additional duty. I am afraid that if no one steps forward at our next meeting, our tradition of handing out this scholarship will be in jeopardy and that would be a shame. Please consider giving of yourself at this time. This job is perhaps one of the most rewarding that our organization has. If you want to feel that you have made a difference in someone's life, this job is for you.

Gilda Mendoza
2006-2007 President AWSCPA Houston Affiliate

Member News and Announcements

Member News – Our President, **Gilda Mendoza**, is pregnant. Congratulations, Gilda! We told her that taking the President's position was a good way to stack the odds.



Board Meeting – We had 103 participants at the annual seminar. Evaluations have not been fully tabulated but seem good. **Wendy Lewis** suggested that we host a leadership conference in the fall. We have decided to combine it with the New CPA reception. A nominating committee for next year has been formed. If you wish to take a committee position next year please inform **Mary Ross, Gilda Mendoza**, or **Jane Tillinghast**.

Federation of Houston Professional Women – The quarterly meeting will be held April 23, 2007. The speaker is Gail Schubert, Attorney by

Day, Volunteer Firefighter by Night. For more information or to register, go to www.fhpw.org. The FHPW annual travel trip is from June 11th through June 21st and the destination is Panama City, the Panama Canal, the Azuero Peninsula, and San Blas. **Jane Tillinghast** will be going.

National News – The 74th Joint National Conference is October 25-27, 2007 at Coronado Springs Resort Orlando, Florida. The next TechCasts are:

April 26, 2007 "Are You A Human Helicopter? Ten Steps To Go From Hovering To Soaring!"

June 14, 2007 "Annuities – What Every Accountant Should Know"

June 21, 2007 "Cultivating Wisdom for Success: Resilience – Leadership – Reframes"

August 23, 2007 "Effect of General & Special Powers of Appointment in Estate Taxation"

September 13, 2007 "When Fraud Finds You"

Has your contact information changed? Please submit all corrections to pahunt@earthlink.net and AWSCA at www.awscpa.org.

Proposed Fall Leadership Conference

Chairperson: **Wendy Lewis**

Proposed Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007

Proposed Time: Registration: 7:30AM, Program 8:00 – 11:50AM

Proposed Location: Conference Center at 1330 Post Oak Blvd.

Opening Speaker: **Dr. Elizabeth A. Fletcher**, Associate Dean of Business, University of Houston

Volunteers are needed for:

Speaker contact and commitment

Facilities arrangement

Catering arrangement

Acquisition of books

Follow-up with speakers for bios, handouts and A/V

Development of brochure

Mailing labels printed and affixed

Postage and mailing

Membership table staffing

Registration table staffing

Hostesses/monitors for each speaker

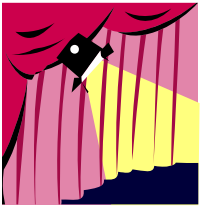
Preparation & collection of evaluation form

Preparation & distribution of CPE form

Speaker gifts

Hostess for follow-up meeting

Please contact **Wendy Lewis** at 713-622-9933 or wendy@jrsmithco.com if you wish to assist.



Member Spotlight - Susan Taylor

I originally wrote this for Jane Tillinghast for the National newsletter, because they wanted a bio from someone who works for a government, but then she turned around and insisted that I should reprint it here.

My name is Susan Taylor, and I work for the Houston Airport System, a department of the City of Houston. My official title is Systems Accountant IV, though I am not a systems expert. Until recently, I was the manager of the General Accounting section of the Finance division and my main responsibilities were supervision of the general accounting staff, debt accounting, preparation of the Airport Fund Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and preparation of the annual financial reports to the FAA. About eight months ago I gave up everything but the debt accounting to my best assistant so that I could have more time to be the division trouble-shooter. We have recently converted to SAP and I spent a lot of time helping the capital assets section to get ready for conversion. Next I will be helping the division to clean up after conversion and will be helping with a new bond sale.

I have been working for the City of Houston ever since I left Rice University in 1976 with a Master of Accounting degree. I had 39 semester hours of accounting related courses, and in all that time I think I had had about 60 minutes of government accounting. This was before GASB, and government accounting was pretty primitive in a lot of ways. I had not intended to be a government accountant. Almost all of my classmates went to the big public accounting firms. But I was desperately shy and stupid in job interviews, and my grade point average was nothing to brag about, so the City of Houston Controller's Office was the first place to offer me a job. Back then, the City was still in the oil boom, and pay and benefits were good. I accepted with a sigh of relief.

At first I was actually ashamed to tell my former classmates where I was working. But gradually, new City Controllers began bringing some really sharp people into the department, and I found my first true mentor. Government accounting standards were changing too, getting more and more standardized, complex and challenging. I learned, I found myself part of a good team, my attitude changed and I became truly proud of my work. I have now spent 20 years in the Controller's Office, and 10 more years in other City departments. I usually switch actual assignments every two to four years, going to wherever there is a problem or emergency. I have done just enough management to know that I don't like it and would rather keep my hands dirty. I enjoy puzzles to figure out, I enjoy spreadsheets, and I enjoy detail.

I earn less than I probably would in corporate accounting, but I enjoy the job security and the defined benefit pension that go along with a government job. A government can have budget problems that force layoffs, but most of the time layoffs are rare. And while a small town may be annexed, a big City or state will not be bought out, or merged, or go out of business. My husband's company has been bought, it has changed all its product lines, and they have layoffs every other year. But if his paycheck stops, mine will continue.

The Houston Affiliate of AWSCPA has been an important part of my professional life. In my early years with the City, it was hard to get management to support my CPE in any way, especially before it was mandatory. I needed affordable CPE outside of working hours, and the Houston Affiliate provided up to 20 hours. Now when the City is willing to support my CPE, I am often too busy to get away during the day, and the Houston Affiliate is still my most convenient option. But I have needed AWSCPA for more than CPE. In my early days with the City, I had few professional colleagues, and very few that I could talk to comfortably. At Affiliate seminars, I met women with similar problems, interests, and outlook, and it really felt good. I also watched

Member Spotlight, continued

members exchanging job tips and knew that I had a network if I ever needed one. Now I go to Affiliate meetings knowing that my friends, and new potential friends, will be there. Working as an Affiliate officer has helped my self-confidence and ability to communicate.

In 1977, I hung my certificate right over my desk, and still was sometimes mistaken for my boss' secretary. Someone actually told me I was too pretty to be an accountant. I think that the workplace is mostly past that now, and that the National AWSCPA is no longer needed to help us defend our place in the profession. But I do feel that the Affiliates can be very supportive to individual members, and that National support is very important to the Affiliates, especially the weaker ones. I am also pleased that AWSCPA supports education. I have seen several talented women held back for lack of a college degree. As for CPE at the National level, I intend to try my first TechCast this month.

Thank you, AWSCPA, for all you have done for me!



THE CALL COMMITTEE

- **Sarabeth Boothe** – (713) 356-6828 slboothe@sbcglobal.net Anderson through Chowdhury
- **Susan Sexton** – susan2890@sbcglobal.net Courtright through Hsieh
- **Stephanie Tate** – (972) 207-8071 southgurl@yahoo.com Hunt through McMurrey
- **Ivana Shumberg** – (713) 623-8911 ivana@ws-cpa.com Mendoza through Pozzi
- **Audrey Orda** – (832) 640-9020 orda@stthom.edu Raines through Shumberg
- **Jolly Mathew** – (713) 660-7862 kallour@aol.com Staples 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.

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Fax 713-961-0153
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AWSCPA Houston Affiliate Title Sponsor



* This firm is not a CPA firm.

Kanaly Trust Company is looking for a temporary controller to work from the end of May to mid July. Duties would include GL, monthly closing, and payroll administration. Knowledge of ADP a real plus. This is an excellent opportunity if you are doing contract work or are semi-retired. Please contact **Gilda** at 713.561.9338 for more information.



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 anmeer@yahoo.com	(409) 789-9160	
Secretary	Uzma Chowdhury*	uchowdhury@hanover-co.com	(281) 798-8634	(281) 550-9171
Treasurer	Ellen McMurrey	emcmurrey@sbcglobal.net		(281) 489-1822

Committees and Other Positions

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
Annual Seminar Team	Gilda Mendoza*	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713) 582-0561	(713) 926-3389
	Barbara Courtright	barbcourtright@houston.rr.com		(713) 991-2355
	Kathryn Harriss	Kharriss2@yahoo.com	(713) 320-8388	(713) 681-2669
	Phyllis Martin*	pmartin@finsvcs.com	(713) 402-3850	(713) 780-9006
	Jane Tillinghast	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
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
Database & Labels	Patty Hunt*	pahunt@earthlink.net	(713) 447-1115	(713) 524-2428
Ex-Officio/ Call Committee	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
Federation Delegate	Brenda Banks	brenda_banks@ml.com	(281) 374-5328	(281) 812-2413
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/Member Reception & Dinner	Frances Weatherly*	fweatherly@houston.rr.com	(281) 200-9309	
Newsletter Editor	Susan Taylor	staylora@sbcglobal.net	(281) 233-1354	(713) 781-7649
Programs/Speakers	Mary Ross*	Maross1977@aol.com	(409) 789-9160	
Publicity	Wanda Llorens*	wellor@earthlink.net	(713) 952-5102	(713) 952-5102
Scholarship & Education outreach	OPEN	OPEN		
Spring Mini Seminar	Brenda Banks	brenda_banks@ml.com	(281) 374-5328	(281) 812-2413

***Board Member names are in boldface.**

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.

Has your contact information changed? Please submit all corrections to pahunt@earthlink.net and AWSCPA at www.awscpa.org.

**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, March 15, 2007

Location: Sheraton Brookhollow 3000 N. Loop West

UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker - Topic</i>
March 15, 2007	Technology Update, Speakers: Sheryl Greiner & Daryl Koehn
April 19, 2007	Tax Effects of Long-Term Care, Speaker: Cheryl Watkins
May 17, 2007	New Pension Protection Act, Speakers: Yvette Webb & Brenda Banks



Sheraton Brookhollow
3000 N. Loop West
Houston, TX 77092

Registration: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm
Program: 7:00 pm

Reservations due by: Friday, March 9, 2006