

# The Monthly Balance Sheet



American Woman's Society of  
Certified Public Accountants

of Houston

Volume 32, Number 4

October 2006

## OCTOBER'S MEETING

### *New CPA/New Member Dinner "Accounting for Houston's Finances"*

Speakers:	Judy Gray Johnson
Topic:	Accounting for Houston's Finances
Date:	October 19, 2006
CPE:	1 hour

**Course Objective:** To discuss issues of accounting and accountability in planning for Houston's growth and needs.

**Course Level:** Basic, no pre-requisites

**Course Description:** Learn and understand the process of monitoring the funding sources available to insure a sound infrastructure and to meet the growing as well as the daily needs of Houston. Maintaining a high level of accountability at City Hall is key to securing the support of Houston's voters for the upcoming bond election and for the other propositions on the November ballot. Topics will include tax caps, revenue caps, and bond elections. Many of these formulas are based on the published financial statements, meaning that the Governmental Accounting Principles have a direct impact on the choices available to the City's elected officials.

**About the Speaker:** **Judy Gray Johnson** is the Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Houston. She is responsible for the city's annual operating budget, five-year forecast, five-year capital improvement plan, cost allocation plan, and monthly financial reports. She manages the offices of strategic purchasing, audit and operational services, budget and evaluation, and regulatory services.

Judy is also a founding member of our AWSCPA Houston Affiliate as well as a current member. She is featured later in this newsletter under "**Member Spotlight – Judy Gray Johnson**".

### NEW MEMBERS

**SARABETHE BOOTHE**  
**MYRA PICKETT**  
**SUSAN SEXTON**

**ANGELA MARTIN-WORTHINGTON**  
**MARY ROSS**  
**IVANA SHUMBERG**

**AUDREY ORDA**  
**SUSAN SAMPLE**  
**STEPANIE TATE**

### **\*\*\* 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*

It must be something in the air, the winds of change, the start of school, or perhaps the realization that summer is now over. Regardless, for me it means work is beginning to heat up with the start of our fiscal year end, the holidays, etc. It also makes me itch to clean out my house and office, especially my closets, drawers, files, and those projects I've been putting off all year. A few Saturdays ago a friend and I spent the day cleaning out my spare room, which is supposed to be the home office but instead had become a storage room over the last couple of years with everything that fit into that "I'll get to it later" category. It had become so bad that we could no longer see the furniture or the floor in the room. In ten hours we made unbelievable progress. My husband, who earlier had offered to clean it out by backing his truck to the window and throwing everything out, was pleasantly surprised when he was able to walk into the room and actually sit on the sofa unencumbered. Although there are still a few boxes I need to sort through, for the most part the room is now functional. It was an exhilarating feeling to get rid of so much clutter. I truly felt a sense of accomplishment.

A week later at the monthly company breakfast meeting, the president of my company remarked how we all had clutter. It isn't just the papers, books, and other useless stuff we have, but also our processes. The way we do things can also be clutter. Their usefulness gone, surpassed by technology or other advancement. He challenged us to take a good look at our daily work and see if we can get rid of wasted and duplicate efforts.

This cleansing process not only gives us a neater and more organized room, but we are actually able to sit down and work in the room. In other words, the room can now function for the purpose it was originally intended. Sometimes we need to look at the big picture and see what really needs to be done. We need to go beyond SALY to challenge ourselves to function more efficiently. The same can be said with our Houston Affiliate. We want to serve you, our members, more efficiently and give you quality CPE, provide great networking opportunities by enhancing our membership. Therefore, I challenge each of you to come up with ideas you think would help make our organization better and/or increase our membership.

**Gilda Mendoza**  
**2006-2007 President AWSCPA Houston Affiliate**



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## Member News and Announcements

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**Welcome** – to September meeting guest, **Melinda O’Connell**, and to former members **Tangie Cooper** and **Zola Cater**. It was good to see you again.

**September’s Meeting** – **Bob Newhouse** started the Fall Mini-Seminar with an overview of employment law and potential liabilities. **Jeffrey Johnston** continued with an overview of the laws and regulations governing accountants’ professional liabilities and some of the recent enforcement actions of the PCAOB. Both speakers were clearly on top of their subjects, and the participants responded with questions, comments, and with some legal cases, groans, making it a lively meeting. Thank you, **Anna Marie LaPorte**, for organizing this meeting for us.

**University of Houston Speaking Engagement** - U of H at Clear Lake would like to have 3 speakers for Beta Alpha Psi “How Professional Organizations Can Support Your Career Path” on November 10 from 11:30 to 12:30. Each speaker would have 20 minutes to outline their careers and give examples of how AWSCPA has been

helpful. Call or e-mail **Jane Tillinghast** if you are interested in speaking, [jtillinghastcpa@aol.com](mailto:jtillinghastcpa@aol.com).

**Women For Hire Career Expo** – Mark your calendars for October 26 at the Houston-Westin Galleria Hotel. Top employers will be recruiting, and professional woman are admitted free. For more information, go to [www.womenforhire.com](http://www.womenforhire.com).

**Federation of Houston Professional Women** – held their annual Women of Excellence Gala on Saturday, September 16, 2006. Our own **Joan Khosla** was honored at the event. She looked fabulous and did our organization proud! Those in attendance, **Gilda Mendoza**, **Rhonda Ryan**, and **Phyllis Martin**, had a great time at the event and enjoyed seeing Joan get her award. It certainly was an evening of glitz, glamour, and celebration! Congratulations, Joan!! For information on the FHPW contact them at [www.fhpw.org](http://www.fhpw.org).

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### THE CALL COMMITTEE

- **Sarabeth Boothe** – (713) 356-6828 [sboothe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sboothe@sbcglobal.net) Anderson through Chowdhury
- **Susan Sexton** – [susan2890@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susan2890@sbcglobal.net) Courtright through Hsieh
- **Stephanie Tate** – (972) 207-8071 [southgurt@yahoo.com](mailto:southgurt@yahoo.com) Hunt through McMurrey
- **Ivana Shumberg** – (713) 623-8911 [ivana@ws-cpa.com](mailto:ivana@ws-cpa.com) Mendoza through Pozzi
- **Susan Sample** – (713) 651-5458 [ssample@fulbright.com](mailto:ssample@fulbright.com) Raines through Shumberg
- **Jolly Mathew** – (713) 660-7862 [kallour@aol.com](mailto: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. *Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver, the other gold.*

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**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](mailto:pmartin@finsvcs.com)

**AWSCPA Houston Affiliate Title Sponsor**



\* This firm is not a CPA firm.



## Member Spotlight – Judy Gray Johnson

*(Judy is a founding member of the Houston Affiliate of AWSCPA and still maintains an active membership. She is our speaker for the New CPA/New Member Dinner on October 19, 2006.)*

Judy Gray Johnson is currently the Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Houston, a position she was nominated to fill by Houston City Mayor Bill White and confirmed by Houston City Council in January 2004. As the Finance and Administration Director, Ms. Johnson is responsible for the city's annual operating budget, annual five-year forecast, five-year capital improvement plan, cost allocation plan, and monthly financial reports. She manages the offices of strategic purchasing, audit and operational services, debt management, accounting, administrative services, budget and evaluation, and regulatory services. Ms. Johnson was a Deputy Director of the Finance and Administration Department from 1990 to 1993.

In January 2003, Ms. Johnson was sworn in as City Controller, the second highest city official in the City of Houston. As City Controller, Ms. Johnson managed the comprehensive annual financial reports, monthly financial reports, city's investment portfolio, financial reporting, debt management, disbursements, computer systems and auditing functions. Five years prior to the City Controller appointment, Ms. Johnson served as Chief Deputy City Controller (a position second-in-command to elected City Controller Sylvia R. Garcia). As Chief Deputy Controller, Ms. Johnson's responsibilities were equivalent to those in her role as City Controller. Ms. Johnson's service in the Controller's Office began in 1980 as Deputy City Controller under elected City Controller Kathryn J. Whitmire.

In private industry, Ms. Johnson has served as Tax Manager of the firm Miller, Wachman and Company in Boston, Massachusetts; Controller of Dueck Developments in Aurora, Colorado; and Tax Manager of Coopers and Lybrand in Houston.

Ms. Johnson received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Houston. She served as Chair of the Houston Society of CPA's Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee; a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, Government Finance Officers Association, and the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Johnson was a "2003 Woman of Excellence" honoree - an honor bestowed by the Federation of Houston Professional Women for community involvement, career and education.

Married to Michael Johnson, they have two children: Matthew (a junior at Southern Methodist University) and Jaclynn (inbound freshman – University of Southern California).



## ASWA/AWSCPA JOINT NATIONAL COUNCIL

Members **Anna Marie LaPorte**, **Wendy Lewis**, **Phyllis Martin**, **Gilda Mendoza**, **Kathryn Pearce**, **Mary Ross**, and **Jane Tillinghast** attended the JNC in Las Vegas in September. The members who attended ASWA/AWSCPA JNC not only had an enjoyable time in Las Vegas, but all met new people, and came back with exciting ideas to implement in our organization. They also obtained a lot of good CPE. During the JNC, our Houston Affiliate was awarded a Star Affiliate award, and **Dr. Susan Sorensen** from the University of Houston was named Educator of the Year. Dr. Sorensen was nominated by our affiliate. She has presented to our affiliate on international accounting issues and the pros and cons of international outsourcing, and she will be speaking on international tax accounting at our annual seminar in February. For more on the 2006 JNC see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly National Newsletter, which will be published in December. The JNC for 2007 will be held in Orlando, Florida October 24-27, 2007.



### Houston Earns Star Affiliate Award!



The Houston Affiliate was recognized by national AWSCPA for providing consistent quality CPE to their members and guests during the 2005-2006 year. The affiliate offered 23 hours of qualifying CPE through eight dinner meetings, two mini-seminars and one full-day seminar.



Jane and Wendy do Las Vegas!



Gilda, Mary, Anna Marie, Phyllis and Kathryn are ready to party at the JNC.

Anna Marie, Wendy and Jane take advantage of the CPE.





**Houston Affiliate**  
**Fiscal Year 2006 to 2007**  
**Officers and Committee Chairs**

**AFFILIATE OFFICERS**

Position	Name	E-Mail	Work or Cell	Home
President	<b>Gilda Mendoza*</b>	gmendoza@kanaly.com	(713) 582-0561	(713) 926-3389
Vice-President	<b>Mary Ross*</b>	Maross1977@aol.com anmeer@yahoo.com	(409) 789-9160	
Secretary	<b>Uzma Chowdhury*</b>	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	<b>Gilda Mendoza*</b>	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
	<b>Phyllis Martin*</b>	pmartin@finsvcs.com	(713) 402-3850	(713) 780-9006
	Jane Tillinghast	jtillinghastcpa@aol.com	(713) 681-7558	(713) 688-3531
Arrangements	<b>Stephanie Sawyer*</b>	ssawyer@sbcglobal.net	(832) 338-0311	(281) 367-8434
Charter Renewal	<b>Phyllis Martin*</b>	pmartin@finsvcs.com	(713) 402-3850	(713) 780-9006
Database & Labels	<b>Patty Hunt*</b>	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	<b>Annette Williamson*</b>	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	<b>Frances Weatherly*</b>	fweatherly@houston.rr.com	(281) 200-9309	
Newsletter Editor	Susan Taylor	staylora@sbcglobal.net	(281) 233-1354	(713) 781-7649
Programs/Speakers	<b>Mary Ross*</b>	Maross1977@aol.com	(409) 789-9160	
Publicity	<b>Wanda Llorens*</b>	wellor@earthlink.net	(713) 952-5102	(713) 952-5102
Scholarship & Education outreach	Jacqueline Pierson	jtpiersoncps@yahoo.com	(832) 816-4481	
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](http://www.awscpa.org). Our affiliate website, [www.awscpa.org/houston](http://www.awscpa.org/houston), has a schedule of upcoming events.

**Has your contact information changed? Please submit all corrections to [pahunt@earthlink.net](mailto:pahunt@earthlink.net) and AWSCPA at [www.awscpa.org](http://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, October 19, 2006

**Location:** 2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1600

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**UPCOMING MEETING CALENDAR**

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Speaker - Topic</b></i>
October 19, 2006	New CPA/New Member Dinner, Accounting for Houston's Finances, Speaker: Judy Gray Johnson
November 16, 2006	Payroll Accounting Update
January 18, 2006	Annual Tax Update, Speaker: Nancy Evetts, Deloitte Tax LLP



Sheraton Brookhollow  
3000 N. Loop West  
Houston, TX 77092

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

Reservations due by: Friday, October 13, 2006