

# Current Accounts

NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT WORTH CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS

November 2008

Volume 52 - Number 5

## Monthly Meeting

Michelle Wittenburg

### “Texans for Lawsuit Reform”

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

One Hour CPE

Petroleum Club

777 Main Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**11:30 am Buffet Line**

**11:45 am Business Meeting**

**12:10 pm Speaker**

**1:00 pm Adjourn**

\$25.00 per person

\$10.00 students

RSVP

Laurie Barbee 817-551-4660

[laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com](mailto:laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com)

By **4 p.m.** Friday, November 14, 2008

*Please cancel your reservations if you are unable to attend. If they are not cancelled, you will be charged.*

#### ASWA MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the American Society of Women Accountants shall be 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”

## Speaker Bio

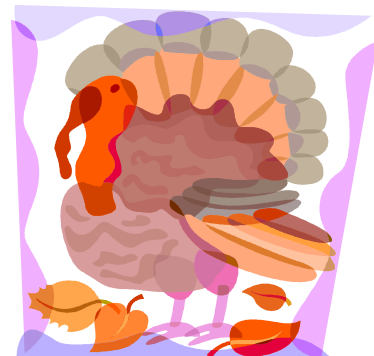
Michelle Wittenburg

Michelle Wittenburg is an active advocate for criminal justice reform and, on a voluntary basis, serves as a spokesman for Texans for Lawsuit Reform.

Michelle has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Tech University and a Law degree *cum laude* from South Texas College of Law. She was an editor of Law Review and an award-winning national Moot Court participant. Prior to graduation, Michelle interned for Third Court of Appeals Justice, Lee Yeakel, now a federal district judge, and Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht.

Michelle currently practices law and provides governmental and political consulting services to business clients and conservative candidates for the Texas Legislature. In her career, she has worked in all three branches of state government including serving as General Counsel to the Speaker of the House, where she led the Speaker's and Texans for Lawsuit Reform's efforts to pass landmark tort reform legislation in 2003.

Michelle, a native Texan from Lometa, now resides in Austin.



# President's Letter

## *A MONTH OF THANKS*

Here we are, already November and the holidays are just around the corner. It is the month to give thanks and it didn't take me long to come up with my list. Needless to say, family is at the top – mine is the *greatest*: children, spouse, the “grands”, the siblings, in-laws and outlaws...at one time or another, I am thankful for them all...Then there are our friends, whether next door neighbors or long-time soul mates. And co-workers, who too many of us see more of, than the family and friends we love the most. (So we really should be thankful for great co-workers!)

I have had several recent experiences, however, that made me go beyond the spirit of your typical thanksgiving. Our Student Night was the best ever. *Thanks* to a great Vice President, Kay Kimbrough, our great new members from Whitley Penn, and the Weaver and Tidwell bunch, we had a great turnout and a superb event! Close to 40 students attended and expressed great interest in our chapter and our host firms.

Being fortunate enough to take a trip to Tokyo (for an international conference), I found myself overwhelmed with *thanks* for “flying the skies” *safely* once again – peace has come a long way since 9/11. (Visiting a foreign country usually makes me very grateful for being a spoiled American, too – wide streets, good coffee, diet Coke, Mexican food)

Upon my return, Jan Bass, Kay and I attended the Joint National Conference of ASWA and AWSCPA – Wow! Were we ever *thankful* for that experience! Ask one of us for details, because we found things we did not even know existed in this organization – a fantastic national organization & great women – lots of them – there were over 300 attendees! The CPE was incredible, with some of the best topics and speakers I've heard in awhile. Also, a strong educational foundation exists that strives to support and encourage women to meet their professional goals. So we are grateful to *all of you* for our local chapter which pushed us into that national setting for several days of discovery and a new perspective on ASWA.

This morning I awoke to the results of our presidential election. Listening to the newscasts over and over, pros and cons, changes to come...it made me realize, that whether your candidate won or not, we should be *thankful* to be in a country where we had two candidates from which to choose, had a voice in our state representation, and the opportunity to embrace change every four years.

So take a few minutes this month to reflect on what is important to you: family, friends, professional life, our country...*whisper your thanks* and hold them all close to your heart.

After all, it is a *Month of Thanks*.

**Jeanne**

# ASWA

(Fort Worth Chapter 059)

October 7, 2008

## **Attendance**

Jeanne Smith, President; Kay Kimbrough, VP.; Gillian Coleman, Secretary; Laurie Barbee, Newsletter; Talana Anderson; Peggy Johnson; Debbie Russell; 23 student guests and 12 ASWA guests.

## **Opening**

Following 30 minutes of networking and eating, the meeting was opened by Jeanne Smith at 6:00 p.m.

## **Meeting**

We were at the offices of Whitley Penn. Carol Nichols spoke about Interview Techniques. We then heard about Whitley Penn's philosophy and work environment and toured the facility. From there we walked to the offices of Weaver & Tidwell where we toured their offices. After more refreshments, we heard about Weaver & Tidwell's philosophy and work environment. Kim Holland discussed the requirement to sit for the CPA exam and preparing for the exam by taking a review course.

## **Adjournment**

Jeanne Smith discussed the benefits of joining a group like ASWA, especially as a student. Door prizes were given away. The lucky students were DuJuanna Nails, Ellen Murphy, Teresa Wilson, Jackie Boehm, Karen Avelar & Claire Stervinou. Claire also won a student membership to ASWA. The meeting was adjourned by Jeanne Smith at 8:30 p.m.

## **Submitted**

Submitted by Gillian Coleman

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## Spotlight: ASWA Fort Worth Chapter Supports The Women's Center

For many years now, the ASWA Fort Worth chapter has supported The Women's Center by collecting items needed for the Rape Crisis Center, such as new teddy bears, undergarments, sweatpants, toiletries and sanitary napkins. We also work with Cummins Southern Plains to adopt a family each Christmas. Jan Bass will continue to accept any type of donation from our members. This year we are also going to support the Jobs Now! Program. They are in need of reading glasses, tote bags, thank you note cards, resume paper and flash drives. Here is an article published in the Fall 2008 issue of The Women's Center Connections:

### **Jobs Now! Program Wins Community Empowerment Award**

Every year, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) recognizes extraordinary programs that contribute to the elimination of sexual violence in Texas. This year, the Jobs Now! Program in the Employment Solutions department of The Women's Center was selected for TAASA's Community Empowerment Award.

TAASA felt that survivors of sexual assault who come to The Women's Center for counseling and healing have the unique opportunity to utilize the many other services provided at the Center. One of these programs is Jobs Now!, a program which can help sexual assault survivors recover from the devastation of the violence they have experienced by helping them find employment and rebuild their lives. Jobs Now! helps people find the best possible job with the skills and experience they possess right now, and teaches skills in promoting oneself, career exploration, resume development, networking and job development. This critically important program boasts an 80% job placement rate and a 90% one year job retention rate.

While there were many nominations, Jobs Now! stood out among the best. Terri Rios, Director of Employment Solutions accepted the award at TAASA's Awards Luncheon at the Westin DFW Airport Hotel in March.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### DFW-Mid Cities

Chapter 113  
Dinner Meeting  
Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
Admiral Inn (former Holiday  
Inn), Brown & 360 in  
Arlington  
Reservations: Leila  
Khoury (817) 571-5126

### Dallas

Lunch Meeting  
Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
MIS Corporate Office  
5310 Harvest Hill Rd #200  
Dallas, TX 75230  
Reservations: Amber Cantu  
972-386-5003  
[amber.cantu@rhi.com](mailto:amber.cantu@rhi.com)

### **Standing Reservations**

The following are on the standing reservation list. If you don't plan to attend the meeting, you must contact Jan Bass to **cancel**. If you do not cancel by the deadline, you will be billed for your meal.

Gillian Coleman  
Jan Bass  
Jeanne Smith  
Laurie Barbee

**Deadline for the next Newsletter is December 2, 2008**

E-mail to:  
[Laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com](mailto:Laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com)

Visit our Chapter Website at:  
[www.aswa-ftworth.org](http://www.aswa-ftworth.org)

### November Birthdays

Nicole Moore – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Heather Moore – 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Dues 2008 – 2009:**

Regular - \$126.00

Retired - \$36.00

Student - \$44.00

Non-member  
Newsletter - \$12.00

### Upcoming Meetings

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Jim Van Grevenhof  
“Individual Tax Update”

January 21<sup>st</sup> – Brian Moon  
“IFRS – Int'l Financial Reporting Standards”

February, March and April  
– TBA

May – Evening Wine Tasting @ Jeanne Smith's home with a presentation by The Women's Center

Mark Your Calendars

April 4, 2009

Victory Over Violence  
Walk / Run  
8:00 am  
Trinity Park Duck Pond

Benefiting  
The Women's Center



**Hit the Membership Jackpot!** and earn free registrations for the 2009 Joint National Conference (JNC) in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 19-21, 2009! The ASWA Membership Committee invites your chapter to ante up for *two* ways to win!

1) **Recruit, recruit, recruit!** – Members recruited from July 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009 will count towards the campaign so if you haven't already started recruiting new members this year, you should get going!

<b>Chapter Size (based on # of members as of 6/30/2008)</b>	<b># of Recruits (needed for each free registration)</b>
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Small (less than 30 Members)	5
Medium (30 to 69 Members)	10
Large (70+ members)	14

2) **Retain your members!** – Chapters that retain at least 90% of their membership count from June 30, 2008 will win a free registration for any chapter member to attend the 2009 JNC.

\*Please note that the first free JNC registration must be used by a first time JNC attendee. Additional registrations may be used by any chapter member.

# 2008 – 2009 Officers & Directors

		<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	Jeanne Smith	817-477-2924	817-882-7708	<a href="mailto:jasmith@weaverandtidwell.com">jasmith@weaverandtidwell.com</a>
Vice-President	Kay Kimbrough	817-692-2786	817-252-4520	<a href="mailto:kay.kimbrough@thomsonreuters.com">kay.kimbrough@thomsonreuters.com</a>
Secretary	Gillian Coleman	817-249-6174	817-551-6916	<a href="mailto:gillian.coleman@alconlabs.com">gillian.coleman@alconlabs.com</a>
Treasurer	Jan Bass	817-222-0646	-	<a href="mailto:janbass@charter.net">janbass@charter.net</a>
Director	Dan Chick	-	817-207-9533	<a href="mailto:dan.chick@edwardjones.com">dan.chick@edwardjones.com</a>
Director	Laurie Barbee	817-346-2080	817-551-4660	<a href="mailto:laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com">laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com</a>
Director	Debbie Russell	817-649-8154	-	<a href="mailto:debbie.russell@radioshack.com">debbie.russell@radioshack.com</a>

## Committee Chairs

		<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Newsletter	Laurie Barbee	817-346-2080	817-551-4660	<a href="mailto:laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com">laurie.barbee@alconlabs.com</a>
Web Master	Tracy Lamkin	817-473-8076	817-640-6820	<a href="mailto:tracy.p.lamkin@cummins.com">tracy.p.lamkin@cummins.com</a>
Membership	Debbie Russell	817-649-8154	-	<a href="mailto:debbie.russell@radioshack.com">debbie.russell@radioshack.com</a>
Parliamentarian	Jan Bass	817-222-0646	-	<a href="mailto:janbass@charter.net">janbass@charter.net</a>
Jobs and Resumes	Talana Anderson	817-917-9803	817-478-4848	<a href="mailto:talana@midland-midco.com">talana@midland-midco.com</a>

## A S W A

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS

Jeanne Smith, President  
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November 2008