



June | 2008

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# SPWP

## News

*Society of Professional Women in Petroleum*

*Supporting career women in the petroleum industry through technology and information.*

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### June's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held **Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, at the Marriott Westchase, located at 2900 Briarpark Drive near Westheimer and Beltway 8, at 7:30 a.m. Regrets should be made with **Denise Kraus** by noon on **Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** using the Evite email. If you do not receive an Evite, please contact Denise at 713.237.3510 or [dkraus@spwp.org](mailto:dkraus@spwp.org). If you do not plan to attend, you **must** regret. If you do not RSVP, we may not have space to accommodate your attendance. We welcome all guests to the June meeting. Guest reservations must be made with a credit card (MC or Visa).

**Please remember to turn pagers and cell phones off or to silent alarm during meetings.**

### President's Letter

Dear SPWP Members and Guests,

2008 has certainly turned out to be a busy and eventful year both inside and outside of our organization. I am constantly amazed at the vitality of the petroleum industry at the moment. Who would have ever had such a prediction even a few years ago? This was evidenced by our recent Derricks and Dice event in April. I'm sure by now everyone has heard of its success, and you should all be very proud. Truly the efforts of so many members working hand-in-hand brought it all together for a fantastic evening.

The Scholarship Committee is in full gear with interviews scheduled for June 7th. This year SPWP members will interview nineteen candidates who made the selection process thus far. Having received the applications, I'm sure it will be a long, yet rewarding day. Thank you so much Ladies for all the time and effort you've spent to make a difference in the lives of these young women.

Summer is upon us as I'm sure everyone feels the temperatures rising daily. I will be unable to attend the June meeting due to a business conflict. I hope everyone enjoys the speaker this month, Geoffrey Morris. I will miss seeing everyone in June, but will be back in July for our scholarship awards meeting.

Have a safe summer!

Melissa Marshall, President  
Society of Professional Women in Petroleum

*P.S. A note on member Vicki Mays. As many of you may be aware, Vicki has been battling cancer for two years. Her surgery did not go as planned. Five hours into the surgery, doctors aborted the procedure and were unable to remove the tumor. They are now reviewing "trial treatments" that are starting in July to see if that might provide an alternative path for her. On May 24th, Vicki fell and broke her hip after which she underwent yet another surgery to put her back together. Please continue to keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. I know she cherishes every card, phone call and email.*

## Minutes of the May Meeting

Nancy Bell Scales called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m. at the Westchase Marriott on May 8th.

Nancy introduced the SPWP Board and guests introduced themselves.



Jerri Babin introduced Dr. Amber Walker, a professor at Sam Houston State University. Amber received her BA in communication from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. She went on to study communication at The University of Arkansas where she earned her MA and she completed her PhD at Pennsylvania State University in 2007.

Amber outlined basic communication principles:

1. Communication is unavoidable
2. Communication operates on two levels, contextual and relational
3. Communication is irreversible – there is a no ‘take back’ rule
4. Communication is a process – it changes over time
5. Communication is not a panacea – it is a good tool, but it won’t fix everything

Amber noted that technology and communication are inseparable, and that one must decide the best way to get a message across.

She cited the following communication channels:

- Face-to-face
  - Advantages – communication is interpersonal and has a speed. Communicators also have more control over the receiver’s message.
  - Disadvantages – communication can be unproductive and takes more time
- Telephone
  - Advantages – voice cues can be used and you can receive a faster response as well as verbal cues
  - Disadvantages – you can reach a caller at a bad time
- Voicemail
  - Advantages – you can receive messages as you are receiving them and time is saved. You can also deliver an awkward message to save face
  - Disadvantages – messages are prone to be forgotten or distorted
- Written/Email
  - Advantages – this is a more permanent means of communication that can be referenced. Errors are less likely to occur and messages can be easier to interpret
  - Disadvantages – emails are used too much and can be a drain on productivity. They are also too informal
  - Tips: Make sure you think about your message in advance

as well as the purpose of the overall communication. Also check spelling and grammar!



If you want a more personal tone for your communication, oral communication works best. A face-to-face communication works best for visual communicators. Finally, if a message is complex or a record needs to be made, written communication is the most effective communication method.

You can avoid misunderstandings by being more clear (for example, using unequivocal terms), using lower-level abstractions (specific, observable things), and by using jargon carefully (i.e., not using industry terms to someone that is not in the industry).

Amber wrapped up her presentation and Jerri presented her with a donation from SPWP.

Nancy asked for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Erica Coman made a motion and Sandra Mourton seconded; the meeting minutes were approved.

Nancy welcomed new members Tina Dismukes and Terri Guerrero and presented them with their new member packets.

Nancy gave thanks to all those who made Derricks and Dice a successful fundraising effort with close to 400 in attendance. She reported that she received numerous complimentary emails from guests. She announced that we earned an excess of \$52,000. Lilia Glekel reported that Mr. Miller was extremely honored to be our first honorary chairman for our event. Mr. Miller graciously matched our fundraising monies.

Nancy proposed that Casino Night sponsors be invited to our July scholarship meeting so they could see the outcome of our philanthropic efforts and find out more about our organization.

Mary Campana noted that FHPW announcements could be found in the May newsletter. She mentioned that scholarship applicants were due on May 9th and to pass on the application information (which can be found on their website) to anyone interested with 30 credit hours. The Women of Excellence Gala will be held September 28th.

Priscilla Gagliano was the mystery handshake winner.

Alicia Torben announced that TOCIFT would be selling raffle tickets in June for a bass boat (a \$32,000 value). Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. See Alicia if you are interested in

selling tickets, which are due back June 4th.

Clyde wished a Happy Birthday to all the May ladies and a Happy Mother's Day to all our moms!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.



## June Speaker - Geoffrey Morris

Geoffrey Morris, M.Ed., MBA is a speaker, trainer, and consultant in Houston, TX. His experience has provided him the opportunity to partner with organizations worldwide to implement proven techniques to thrive during transition periods and communicate more effectively. He empowers individuals and business professionals by helping them reach their goals and develop the necessary leadership skills to successfully take control of their lives.

## SPWP New Member Applications

SPWP has received a membership application from the following ladies:

**Name:** Priscilla Gagliano  
**Title:** Sales Representative  
**Company Name:** Allamon Tool Company  
**Sponsored By:** Sue Becknell  
**Interested in the following Committee(s):** Casino and Scholarship

**Name:** Ora Gibson  
**Title:** CEO  
**Company Name:** TECHNIKOS Information Development, LLC  
**Sponsored By:** Evalyn Shea  
**Interested in the following Committee(s):** Golf

**Name:** Sabahat Khan  
**Title:** Business Solutions Manager  
**Company Name:** Caterpillar Inc.  
**Sponsored By:** Alicia Torben  
**Interested in the following Committee(s):** Casino and Scholarship

All requests for SPWP new member applications should be forwarded to Nancy Bell-Scales at: [nbell@spwp.org](mailto:nbell@spwp.org).



## FHPW News & Dates

**FHPW Quarterly Meetings**  
- July 28  
- Oct. 27

**Important Dates**  
The FHPW Women of Excellence Gala will be held September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt

Regency (downtown).

To sign up for the FHPW newsletter, send a blank email to: [fhpw-news-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:fhpw-news-subscribe@egroups.com).

## Happy Birthday to SPWP Members!



Rhonda Wacasey.....6/7  
June Rogers.....6/11  
Gail Williamson.....6/17  
Jerri Babin.....6/22  
Lisa Mellen.....6/22

## Mark Your Calendar



### June

SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, June 12

### July

SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, July 10

### August

SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, August 14

## Board of Directors

### President

Melissa Marshall  
Energy Exports  
281.346.0808

[mmarshall@spwp.org](mailto:mmarshall@spwp.org)

### First Vice President

Melissa Pastrano  
Baker Atlas  
713.625.5883  
[mpastrano@spwp.org](mailto:mpastrano@spwp.org)

### Second Vice President

Jerri Babin  
National Oilwell Varco  
713.369.6338  
[jbabin@spwp.org](mailto:jbabin@spwp.org)



### Treasurer

Erica Coman  
Vetco Gray, A GE Oil & Gas  
business  
281.847.4665  
[ecoman@spwp.org](mailto:ecoman@spwp.org)

### Member Representative

Denise Kraus  
Wilson Supply Co.  
713.237.3510  
[dkraus@spwp.org](mailto:dkraus@spwp.org)

### Secretary

Nancy Bell-Scales  
Kilburn, Jones & Gill, LLP  
713.652.4068  
[nbell@spwp.org](mailto:nbell@spwp.org)

## SPWP Committees & Chairs

### Casino Night Committee

Chair – Nancy Bell-Scales

Co-Chair – Melissa Marshall  
Co-Chair – Janet McAfee

### Scholarship Committee

Chair - Barbara Kender  
Co-Chair - Margaret Hare

### Golf Committee

Chair - Patsy Wells  
Co-Chairs – Lellany Conaway

### By-Laws Committee

Chair - Melissa Marshall  
Co-Chair – Nancy Bell-Scales

### Education/Social Committee

Chair – Evalyn Shea  
Co-Chair - Erica Coman

### Historian Committee

Chair – Vicki Mays

### Hospitality Committee

Chair - Joann Prazak

### Web site & Newsletter

Chair - Melissa Pastrano

### FHPW Delegates

Main - Mary Campana & Denise Kozar  
Alternates – Barbara Davis & Evalyn Shea

Please forward newsletter updates, comments or questions to the editor: [mpastrano@spwp.org](mailto:mpastrano@spwp.org)