



October | 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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### October's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held **Thursday, October 9<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, September 6<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 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,

October is a busy month with conferences, golf tournaments and many festivals. As the weather hopefully continues to be more like fall, it is a great time to be outdoors. If you have not done so already, consider volunteering for the API golf tournament on the 13th of October. This is a great day to spend out on the course with fellow SPWP members generating donations for our 2009 scholarship fund while supporting our ongoing affiliation with API.

Our October speaker, Dr. Paul Cherukuri, is an assistant professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of surgical oncology. Read his bio inside and be sure to attend the breakfast meeting for this informative presentation on "Nano Technology".

I would like to thank all of the members who took time to remember and recognize the passing of SPWP member, Vicki Mays. Vicki passed away on September 19, 2008 after a three-year battle with cancer. As a long time member, Vicki served as historian chair, contributed to several committees and was also designated our 2008 Woman of Excellence. Our organization will surely miss her presence.

I hope everyone has a great start to the last quarter of 2008. I know I do not have to tell you to stay busy because we all have more than enough to do. So I will tell you to stay safe, happy and take just a little bit of time for yourself! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting and hopefully on the golf course!

All The Best,

Melissa Marshall, President  
Society of Professional Women in Petroleum

## Minutes of the September Meeting

Joan Kraus called the meeting to order at the Westchase Marriott on September 11, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Due to many extraordinary situations, many of the Board were not able to attend this month so a few SPWP past presidents offered their services and support to the meeting including Joan.



First off, Alicia Torben was acknowledged. Alicia introduced Curtis Dennison and Bob Warren with TOCIFT (Texas Oilmen Charity Invitational Fishing Tournament) for a special presentation. Curtis gave a review of the fishing tournament in June and thanked the over 200 sponsors and many volunteers who made it such a huge success. Over \$575,000.00 was raised that will be distributed to 49 individual charities. Curtis presented Alicia and Joan with a check for \$5,000.00 to SPWP for their Scholarship Program. Bob also thanked SPWP on their dedication and support of the Scholarship Program which has helped so many young women in the area to pursue their education and continues to make a big difference in so many young lives.

Sandra Mourton next introduced

the SPWP Nominating Committee consisting of Mary North, Mary Campana Funderburg, the current SPWP Board and herself as Chair. Anyone interested in running for a Board position can contact anyone on the committee. Serving on the SPWP Board is a great way to network, learn more about SPWP as well as develop lasting friendships. SPWP is always looking for dynamic women looking to become involved!

Jerri Babin introduced Vicki Corso with BP. Vicki graduated from Texas A&M with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Growing up, Vicki was mechanically inclined. She was surrounded by males and loved cars. Vicki gave insight as what it is like being a woman in a male dominated industry from the oilfield service company side of the business. Stepping out into an engineering job as a women in 1980 was quite different than today. The oilfield has at a fast peak and the only women were secretaries, a few drafters, cafeteria workers and cleaning crew in heavy machinery manufacturing facilities.

During her presentation, Vicki brought along several of her more "typical" work attire outfits and modeled them for us. Working in a shop environment, the attire consisted of coveralls, boot and hard hats. Having worked at numerous companies, Vicki shared her experiences in the manufacturing

facilities, on the North Slope with roughnecks as well as working on Deepwater projects on offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Vicki still encounters and works with people that she has from many of her previous employers. The amazing paths and friendships still expand every day. Currently, Vicki works at BP as a Staff Employee, or better as known as a "Riser Dudette".



She just finished leading the Well Systems Team on developing ways to bring oil back to Holstein for processing in the Gulf and shortly a new program will be announced by BP in which Vicki will once again be the "Riser Dudette". Finishing her talk, she changed into a skirt with heels for her workday ahead! The saying, "You've come a long way, baby" really applies!

Vicki summed up the "Points on How to be a Riser Dude or Dudette"... It's 7 easy points to remember:

1. Play like a boy. Be a team player and leave it on the field.
2. Be willing to take a risk.
3. You must have support – God, family and friends, in that order, are your greatest as-

sets.

4. Find a Mentor! Or go grab one!
5. Have a sense of humor and know when to draw the line. And don't be afraid to tell them 'no' or 'stop'.
6. Always learn.
7. Don't burn bridges.

Jerri thanked Vicki and presented her with a SPWP appreciation gift.



Joan asked for an approval on the minutes in the newsletter. Lou Kilgore made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Erica Coman seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Evalyn Shea reminded everyone that the Women's Global Leadership Conference will be November 13 & 14 at the Westin Galleria. There is a \$100.00 discount for SPWP members who register. More information can be found at [www.wglnetwork.com](http://www.wglnetwork.com).

The Mystery Greeter for the morning was Evalyn Shea and Gina Crawford was the morning handshake winner.

Mary Campana Funderburg introduced new member, Lyn

Oakes to SPWP. Lyn is an Account Manager with Cenergy International.



The Federation of Houston Professional Women will hold their gala on Saturday, September 27 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Women of Excellence Program will follow honoring many outstanding Houston women including SPWP's Woman of Excellence, Vicki Mays.

Joan announced that Nancy Bell Scales and her husband Roger welcomed Andrew David Scales into the world on September 2nd at 9:10 a.m. Both Mom and Baby are doing well now.

Lilia Glekel announced that the SPWP Golf Tournament will be on Monday, November 3rd at Windrose. It will be all day and volunteers are needed morning, afternoon and all day. Please send an email to her if you are able to volunteer.

Erica Coman reminded everyone that members need to be current on dues in order to vote at the SPWP November Business meeting. Please get with her on any outstanding dues issues.

The API Golf Tournament is October 13th at Kingwood. Anyone wanting to volunteer for the event needs to send an email to Melissa Marshall. Lellany Conaway also announced that API is having a raffle for their golf tournament for \$2,500.00 in travel at \$10/ticket.

Sandra wished everyone a very "Happy Birthday" from Clyde for all the SPWP September birthday girls!

Joan adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

## October Speaker - Dr. Paul Cherukuri

Dr. Paul Cherukuri is an assistant professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center in the department of Surgical Oncology and Experimental Therapeutics. He is also a visiting scholar at Harvard University in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical biology and an adjunct professor of Chemistry at Rice University.



Dr. Cherukuri received his B.S. in physics at the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. in physics

ical chemistry at Rice University under the supervision of Nobel Laureate, Prof. Richard E. Smalley and Prof. R. Bruce Weisman. His research is focused on developing advanced nanoscale diagnostic and therapeutic devices by utilizing the electrodynamic response of nanoscale materials in biological systems.



## FHPW News & Dates

The FHPW Conference is in October. FHPW is helping to sponsor "The Texas Conference for Women" on Oct. 16th at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For more info visit: [www.TXConferenceforWomen.org](http://www.TXConferenceforWomen.org)

## Next Quarterly Meeting

- Oct. 27

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!



Nancy Bell....10/13  
Mary Campana....10/30  
Carla Cooper.....10/16

Rachell Gatewood.....10/13  
Lou Kilgore.....10/19  
Mary North.....10/30  
LaDonna Wagoner.....10/23

## Calling All Members! Are You Ready for Board Service?

It's election time! Not only for the United States Government - but for Houston's Society of Professional Women in Petroleum (SPWP).

The Nominating Committee, comprised of the 2008 SPWP Board of Directors, and Mary Campana, Mary North and Sandra Mourton (Chair) - is working to come up with a slate of candidates for election at the November meeting. We want to hear from YOU! Perhaps you might have been thinking of joining the Board, but not sure what is involved - so below is a list of the Duties of the Officers:

### President

The president will be the executive head of the Society, and when present shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors. She will coordinate the activities of the various committees and officers, and perform all other duties pertaining to her office. Upon leaving office she will be placed on the Past Presidents Advisory Committee.

### 1st Vice President

The 1st Vice President shall

assist the President in all aspects of the President's position and shall be the coordinator of the Communications Committee.

### 2nd Vice President

The 2nd Vice President shall assist the President and the 1st Vice President as required, and will be the director of program and education, to organize and arrange monthly meetings and special events for the Society.



### Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary will be the keeper of the membership records and the minutes of the monthly meetings. These minutes will be forwarded to the members on a regular basis. She shall also be responsible for the minutes of the Board meetings.

### Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the accounts of the Society, together with the end of the year financial statements and all aspects of the Society's legal, tax and financial requirements. The Treasurer shall submit monthly financial statements to the Board of Directors. All records and docu-

ments in the custody of the Treasurer will be open at all times to inspection by any active member of the Society.

## Member at Large

The Member at Large will act as the voice of the members of the Society within the Board of Directors, and shall be available to assist fellow officers as requested. In addition, member at large will be the parliamentarian for the Society at all meetings of the Society to assist in conducting meetings according to Roberts Rules of Order under which this Society is established.

Note: All Board members shall be required to serve on one or more of the Society committees during their term of office.

Note that the term of office for each director is one fiscal year beginning January 1, and ending December 31. No officer can serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office, except for the treasurer who may serve up to four consecutive terms.

Ladies – please consider this great opportunity to meet more SPWP members and network – and consider running for a board position. Please contact before the October meeting!! Sandra Mourton (Committee Chair) at: (w) 281-544-2424, (h) 281-655-4100 e-mail: smourton@aol.com for more information.

## Mark Your Calendar



**October**  
SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, October 9

**November**  
SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, November 13

**December**  
SPWP Meeting  
Thursday, December 11

## 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  
and Terri Guerrero

**By-Laws Committee**  
Chair - Melissa Marshall  
Co-Chair – Nancy Bell-Scales

**Education/Social Committee**  
Chair – Evalyn Shea  
Co-Chair - Erica Coman

**Historian Committee**

**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)*

CELEBRATING OUR 9TH YEAR

★ THE ★  
**TEXAS**  
CONFERENCE FOR  
**WOMEN**

★  
HOSTED BY  
GOVERNOR  
RICK PERRY  
& FIRST LADY  
ANITA PERRY  
★

"In past conferences the women who have spoken exude a high level of confidence. It is great to come and see women who are confident, have accomplished so much, have stepped out on a dream, and have achieved their goals. It lets you know, 'yes I can do this.'"

**Marsha Johnson,**  
Area Real Estate Manager

"The Conference always takes me from my daily hectic schedule, and allows me to realize the goals I have reached and the goals I would like to set for myself."

**Rhonda Simank,**  
Alcoa Inc.

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CO-CHAIR  
SPONSORS



**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2008**

**GEORGE R. BROWN  
CONVENTION CTR  
HOUSTON**

## SPREAD THE WORD!

GET READY TO BEGIN **THE NEXT CHAPTER OF YOU** AT THE NINTH ANNUAL TEXAS CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN, OCTOBER 16, 2008 AT THE GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER IN HOUSTON.

Hosted by Governor Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry, the Texas Conference for Women is a non-profit, non-partisan, one-day annual conference that features more than 75 renowned speakers sharing inspirational stories and leading seminars on the issues that matter most to women, including health, personal finance, business and entrepreneurship, career resources, work-life balance, media, and more.

The Conference offers incredible opportunities for business networking, professional development, and personal growth.

### WHO SPEAKS AT THE CONFERENCE?

#### 2008 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED TO DATE INCLUDE:

- **CHERIE BLAIR**, a leading human rights attorney and wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair
- Navy SEAL **MARCUS LUTTRELL**, author of New York Times bestseller, "Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10"
- **MEG WHITMAN**, former president and chief executive officer of eBay

#### PAST KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- **CARLY FIORINA**, former Hewlett Packard CEO & Chairman
- **MAYA ANGELOU**, celebrated poet and author
- **ANN RICHARDS**, former Texas Governor
- **MELINDA GATES**, philanthropist
- **CONDOLEEZZA RICE**, U.S. Secretary of State
- **MARTHA STEWART**, media powerhouse
- **ELIZABETH VARGAS**, ABC News anchor
- **NANCY BRINKER**, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Founder

In addition to the dynamic program, hundreds of exhibitors showcase a wide variety of products and services, providing a unique opportunity to connect like-minded individuals and organizations.

### HOW DO I ATTEND?

For registration, conference information and speaker updates, visit the Texas Conference for Women's Web site at [www.TXConferenceForWomen.org](http://www.TXConferenceForWomen.org). The Conference draws a sell-out crowd, so register early to make sure you get your seat!

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

To learn more about the Texas Conference for Women, please contact us at: Texas Conference for Women, P.O. Box 12944, Austin, TX 78711. Phone: 866-375-1785, Fax: 866-747-2957. e-mail: [info@TXConferenceForWomen.org](mailto:info@TXConferenceForWomen.org).

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT [www.TXConferenceForWomen.org](http://www.TXConferenceForWomen.org)