

# Hill Country Women in Business

December 2005 Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, December 1, 2005**

HCWIB Board Meeting  
The Huckabay Agency  
Allstate Insurance  
1411 S. Main Street  
Boerne, TX 78006  
830-249-2987  
12:30 p.m.  
BYO lunch

**Saturday, December 3, 2005**

Christmas Parade  
Patrice Davison's Home  
127 Vista Verde, Boerne  
830-249-2508  
Float decorating 2:00 p.m.  
Float riding 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 8, 2005**

Christmas Party  
Carolyn Dutson's Home  
126 Kendall Ridge, Boerne  
830-981-8409  
6:00 p.m.

*Reservations required.  
Please call Carolyn Dutson  
at 830-981-8445 by 5:00  
p.m. on Wednesday,  
November 30. No-shows  
will be billed.*

**NOTE:** Carolyn is going to set up for the party on Wednesday afternoon, December 7. Volunteers who can lend tables, tablecloths and time to help are appreciated.

## A message from the president

Hello, Ladies,

I want to personally welcome our new members. November has been a great month with lots of ladies deciding HCWIB was for them. We know we have the best group and it looks like the community is getting to know it as well.

Christmas is right around the corner. Make your reservations now for the

## Join in the holiday magic!

Kick off your holiday season with HCWIB!

First up, join us to ride on the first-ever HCWIB float in the Christmas parade on Saturday, December 3. The fun starts at 2:00 Saturday afternoon when members will gather at Patrice Davison's house (127 Vista Verde Dr., Boerne) to decorate the float. Can't make the decorating party, but want to ride on the float? Then join us at Patrice's at 4:00 p.m. so we can all make our way in unison to the staging area in town. Then it's time to don your Santa hat (we'll provide them) and represent HCWIB proudly. The fun doesn't end when the parade does-- Patrice has graciously invited everyone to a chili supper following the parade.

On Thursday, December 8, put on your holiday finery and head for Carolyn Dutson's home (126 Kendall Ridge, Boerne) at 6:00 p.m. for HCWIB's annual holiday soiree. Peach Tree Café & Catering owners, Shea Ash and Nancy Fitch, will cater the dinner, which sounds absolutely delectable. Enjoy music by Mystic Sister and, for

Christmas party on December 8th. It will be a great time to sit back and relax with good friends and new acquaintances.

Thanks to Sharon Huckabay for the November door prize.

See you at the party,  
Sharon

guaranteed giggles and grins, participate in the Chinese gift exchange (\$10 limit).

The price for this all-inclusive holiday fare is \$25.00 per person, and spouses are welcome. Please reserve your spot by contacting Carolyn Dutson at 830-981-8445 or [cdutson@gvtc.com](mailto:cdutson@gvtc.com) by November 30.

### Christmas Party Menu

Artichoke dip with tomato & scallions served with assorted breads  
Baked brie with cabernet cranberries in puff pastry with crackers  
Smoked salmon with capers, cream cheese, red onion & baby bagels  
Asian chicken lettuce wraps  
Spinach salad with sautéed apples, bacon & spiced pecans  
Penne pasta with prosciutto & asparagus in a light parmesan cream sauce  
Peppered pork tenderloin with yeast rolls & horseradish slaw  
Assorted Christmas sweets for dessert



### **Members on the Move**

*Cynthia McKenna will be attending two ethics workshops in December. One in Austin will focus on ethics and Internet counseling. The other in San Antonio will address ethics and mental health care in treating trans-genders. She will also attend a two-day conference on child abuse sponsored by the Alamo Children's Advocacy Center.*

*Kathy Hubbard and Suzann Woodward will be moving into their new offices at 113 Falls Court on December 7. Kathy will be in suite 100 and Suzann will be in suite 200.*

*Suzann M. Woodward, CPA will host a Christmas Open House on December 14. All HCWIB members are welcome to come and go between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.*

## General meeting minutes

**November 10, 2005**

President Sharon Tschirhart called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.

Patrice Marshall stated that she is looking for volunteers to sell Johnsonville sausage from the Hill Country Family Services mobile unit on 11/16 and 11/25 and 12/2 and 12/3. Johnsonville said they would donate \$1.50 for every sausage sold to HCFS if HCFS recruits 15 volunteers. Call HCFS or Patrice for more information.

The HCWIB Web site is now fully up and running—check it for updates.

We will have a float in the Christmas parade. Meet at Patrice's at 2:00 on 12/3 to decorate the float or be there by 4:00 if you are just riding on it. After the parade, there will be chili and cornbread at Patrice's home.

Becky Zook won the door prize donated by Sharon Huckabay.

Cynthia McKenna needs a ride to HCWIB for the winter months as she is unable to drive after dark during the winter. Please call her if you can carpool with her.

The speaker was Elizabeth Matthews from Pedernales Electric who spoke on identity theft. She said: Never give out personal info; guard your Social Security number and credit cards; add account passwords to all of your accounts, including checking and savings; shred credit card offers; use secure mail box; make arrangements for mail if you are not going to be home; put only your first initial, last name and address on your checks; review your statements promptly for discrepancies; review your credit report at least annually; prevention is the key. For further information you can contact Pedernales Electric at 1-888-554-4732 or their public information department at [www.pec.coop](http://www.pec.coop).

/s/ Patrice Davison-Marshall for  
Sharon Huckabay  
Secretary

## Welcome new members!

Please seek out the following new members and welcome them to HCWIB:  
Julie Galvan – Home Instead Senior Care  
Sarah Hamilton – Access Storage  
Laura Hummel – Hill Country Aesthetics  
Kay Lambert – Appraisal by Kay Lambert  
Becky Zook – Namaste Creekside Retreat

**HCWIB Officers and Committee Chairs:** President Sharon Tschirhart 830-249-0283; **Vice President** Jeanne Buchanan 830-249-9566; **Secretary** Sharon Huckabay 830-249-2987; **Treasurer** Suzann Woodward 830-249-4159; **Website/Publicity** Amy Anderson 830-249-7591; **Chaplain** Leah Coyne 830-537-5658; **Membership** Carolyn Dutson 830-981-8445; **Programs** Patrice Davison-Marshall 830-249-6112; **Telephone** Susan Whipple 830-816-4769; and **Newsletter** Jeanne Buchanan 830-249-9566

## How to succeed in business—listen!

A new book called *Business Class: Etiquette Essentials for Success at Work* suggests 10 steps to better listening. See if these help:

**Ask pertinent questions.** When you want to understand what someone is trying to say, ask clarifying questions.

**Practice empathic listening.** The highest form of listening is when you strive to understand how the speaker feels.

**Listen with more than just your ears.** Nodding occasionally, making eye contact, taking notes, and being fully engaged all demonstrate genuine concern for the person you're speaking with.

**Share personal stories.** Telling a short anecdote about something from your own life that's relevant to the discussion helps to break the ice, and makes you seem more approachable and down-to-earth.

**Paint a visual picture.** Creating a visual image of what the other person is

saying will help you follow what's being said and remember it later on.

**Don't interrupt.** Unless the building is on fire or some other urgent need arises, let people finish what they're saying before you pipe up.

**Pause before you reply.** Don't be afraid to leave some "white spaces" in the conversation. Nobody ever learns anything while they're talking.

**Eliminate distractions.** Don't try to discuss an important subject while either you or the other person is distracted by other tasks.

**Speak with a purpose.** Speak only when you have something important or profound to say. It's often what we don't say that makes a greater impression on others than what we do say.

**Don't give unsolicited advice.** Some people may appreciate your words of wisdom, but others will get defensive and think you're trying to change them.



### **More Members on the Move:**

*Long-term care and Medicare supplements, including Part D drug benefit information, are hot topics these days. Carolyn Dutson, Senior Care Insurance, has offered to provide assistance, clarification, or information about these issues to HCWIB members or their parents.*

*Jeanne Buchanan reports that the new history about Boerne is available at Mocking-bird Books. The book, called Boerne: Settlement on the Cibolo, is the perfect stocking stuffer for Boerne old-timers, newcomers, guests and visitors. The book was penned by Jeanne's husband (and Mockingbird Books owner), award-winning author Jeff Morgenthaler.*

*Happy Birthday, December Babies!  
Tracy Gerber 12/14  
Lisa Pickard 12/18  
Becky Zook 12/29*

## Who owns these pretty smiles?



## Prevention of identity theft requires vigilance

Do they look like they shred their banking and credit card information before throwing it in the trash? Do you think they are connected to the Internet without firewall protection? The presentation by Pedernales Electric Cooperative's Elizabeth Matthews made us all more security aware of our document handling and personal information.

