

# Professionally Speaking



## News and Information for Members of The Professional Group

34 Years of Women Making a Difference in Business and the Community  
"Celebrating Dynamic Connections!"

1982-2017

The purpose of The Professional Group is to provide women of diverse professions with opportunities for building relationships and networks of personal and business associations through informative monthly presentations, professional development programs, educational and social activities, and philanthropic endeavors.

**JANUARY 2017**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**Speaker: Senator John Whitmire**



**Topic: Legislative Agenda for Texas in 2017**

As the Texas Legislature begins its 85th regular session on January 10, 2017, what should Texas residents be anticipating? Will it be related to school financing, higher education, property tax reform, border security, mental health issues? How much money will be available? Does the transfer of power in the US Government impact Texas?

TPG has an amazing opportunity to hear directly from the "Dean of the Texas Senate" only days before he makes the journey to Austin for the beginning of this biennial event. Invite your friends to start the TPG year off with this interesting meeting.

Senator John Whitmire represents the 15th Senatorial District comprised of north Houston and parts of Harris County. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 1982 after serving 10 years in the Texas House of Representatives. With over 32 years of service in the Texas Senate, Senator Whitmire ranks first in seniority and is the "Dean of the Texas Senate."

Senator Whitmire serves as Chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and works to bring about needed changes to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. He is also a member of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee and the Senate Finance Committee where he is committed to finding appropriate solutions for funding the state's many agencies and programs.

Meetings are held at **The Junior League, 1811 Briar Oaks**, on the **first Tuesday of each month** except as otherwise scheduled. Join us for a breakfast buffet and conversation at **6:45 a.m.** Free parking is available in the attached garage. As a courtesy to our speaker and others in the audience if you have to leave early, please sit at a table in the back of the room during the breakfast meeting. *Professionally Speaking* is distributed monthly by The Professional Group for its members and current guests. All submissions to the TPG Newsletter need to be sent in a Word document to **Kim Jenkins, VP/Newsletter**, [kjenkins@bentransact.com](mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com) by the due date—always the Thursday following the Breakfast Meeting. Please mention TPG in the subject line. *The deadline for submission of articles and advertising for the February 2017 newsletter is at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2017.* *Professionally Speaking* is designed and published monthly by **Vicki S. Henrichs of Henrichs Publishing**. Contact [vicki164@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki164@yahoo.com) Visit the site [www.letterwise.net](http://www.letterwise.net)

# President's Message

---

## *Important Things Start Today*

*As the New Year begins, it seems natural for us to think back on the year that has passed and remember the good and not-so-good times. We typically make resolutions, learn from our mistakes and envision the good we want to see in our lives and in the lives of others.*

*Important things start today! Most of us have learned that we can hope and dream for things we want but until we take action, not much happens. I love the line by Paulo Coelho in *The Alchemist* that describes what happens when a person goes after a goal with full commitment and takes action, "The whole Universe conspires to make it happen..." What actions will you take this year?*

*For me, becoming President of The Professional Group was a big step, and it has been a long journey. I remember all the way back to 2004 when I became a member (for the second time) through today—2017! There were times when I considered not renewing my membership, but something always kept me coming back. That something is the long-term friendships I've formed. The activities, networking and monthly meetings are all wonderful opportunities when we can take action to get to know each other better, work cooperatively and share in good times. An important thing for me and our board to start today is envisioning a dynamic year ahead for our group of accomplished, caring, interesting and generous women. Setting the goals for our group is definitely not a one-person job. It takes all of us.*

*What do you see for your time this year as a member of TPG? Whether you've been a member for only a short while or for years, think of how our group can support you better, have more fun or participate in meaningful activities that build friendships and business networks. One action I encourage you to take is completing the Membership Survey.*

*The 2017 TPG Board will gather in January to discuss themes and goals for the coming year and to evaluate the survey. Your participation is critical in helping us to shape the year ahead.*

*One of my personal goals is to see our membership grow. The past few years have had some attrition, and I'd like to reverse that trend. Why, you ask? Because with a motivated group of women comes an abundance of opportunities, personal and business connections and all manner of positive influences. Take action this year to invite a friend or colleague.*

*I'm honored to serve TPG as President, and I want to express many thanks to all the ladies who held positions and served on the 2016 Board: Julie Barry, Cindy Jennings, Kathleen Fenninger, Cat Webster, Angela Vabulas, Melissa Okonski, Deb Korkmas, Rhonda Parker, Trish Felt, T.J. Jeter-McAvoy, Dawn Sabo, Kim Jenkins, and Martha Raymond. It takes a team to keep our organization thriving and growing.*

*Warmest wishes for a Happy New Year!*

*Lynda Broussard*

*President 2017*



# The Professional Group 2017 Board of Directors

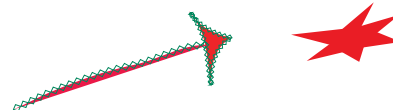
President	Lynda Broussard	<a href="mailto:lynda@broussard-ad.com">lynda@broussard-ad.com</a>
Executive Vice President	Kathleen Fenninger	<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Fenninger@comcast.net">Kathleen.Fenninger@comcast.net</a>
VP Education	Linda Bridges	<a href="mailto:bridges_linda@swbell.net">bridges_linda@swbell.net</a>
VP Finance	Kaitlyn Sharp	<a href="mailto:kaitlyn.Sharp@gmail.com">kaitlyn.Sharp@gmail.com</a>
VP Guests and New Members	Sally Andrews	<a href="mailto:sallyandrew@andresprobatelaw.com">sallyandrew@andresprobatelaw.com</a>
VP Meeting Coordinator	Cindy Jennings	<a href="mailto:cjennings@carltonstaffing.com">cjennings@carltonstaffing.com</a>
VP Member Communications	Debra Korkmas	<a href="mailto:dkorkmas@edens.com">dkorkmas@edens.com</a>
VP Networking	Teresa Doyle	<a href="mailto:Teresa.doyle@comcast.net">Teresa.doyle@comcast.net</a>
VP Newsletter	Kim L. Creque-Jenkins	<a href="mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com">kjenkins@bentransact.com</a>
VP Philanthropy	Trish Strangmeyer Felt	<a href="mailto:trishsphoto@yahoo.com">trishsphoto@yahoo.com</a>
VP Programs	Mary Magin	<a href="mailto:mary.magin@gmail.com">mary.magin@gmail.com</a>
VP Special Projects	Claudia Ruggerio	<a href="mailto:cgwoods@gmail.com">cgwoods@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Lauren Miller	<a href="mailto:lmiller@bentransact.com">lmiller@bentransact.com</a>
Ex-Officio/Nominating	Julie Barry	<a href="mailto:jbarry@moodylawgroup.com">jbarry@moodylawgroup.com</a>

## **RENEW YOUR TPG MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

*Where else can you build wonderful friendships, hear engaging speakers, and participate in such a variety of interesting and fun events? Now is the time to renew your membership with TPG. Your current membership will expire on December 31, 2016. Membership dues remain the same as last year, only \$100. After January 1, 2017, the price to renew will increase to \$125.*

*To renew, log into the TPG website. You will see a red "RENEW" at the top right of your screen (next to the "Welcome, Your Name"). Click on the link to process your renewal. You will be directed through several screens. We're looking forward to a great 2017, and we want you to be a part of it!*

*If you need help, please contact Deb Korkmas, VP, Member Communications, [dkorkmas@edens.com](mailto:dkorkmas@edens.com) and she'll be happy to help you with the process.*



## **Members On The Move!!!!**

*New job, new address, new husband, new outlook on life.....If you have news about yourself, your family, or your company, we would love to share it in the newsletter. Maybe you've recently received an award or been accepted to head a project; maybe you've had a grandchild or taken a fabulous trip. We want to get to know you better!*

**Email Kim Jenkins at**

**[kjenkins@bentransact.com](mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com)**

*to be included in upcoming newsletters!*





## ANNOUNCING!

**A new program for TPG Members:**

**Monthly Sponsorships —**

**\$100 to be a TPG Monthly Sponsor**

One (1) TPG Sponsor will be featured at the monthly Breakfast Meetings. Such Sponsor will be able to present a 60 second “elevator speech” about their business and shall receive a full-page Company write-up and logo in the monthly TPG newsletter for such month. Sponsors may also place Company “swag” goodies with business cards at every table at their breakfast meeting.

Now accepting monthly Sponsors for June through December 2017.

### **Guidelines:**

Participants may sign up for only one sponsorship within a six-month period.

The \$100 fee must be paid when reserving a sponsoring month.

The \$100 fee is non-refundable if the participant cannot fulfill that monthly commitment.

Participants may not switch or trade with someone for another month without the Board’s permission.

For more information, please contact **Rhonda Parker** at

[rap@attorneyresource.com](mailto:rap@attorneyresource.com) or **972-984-0654**.

**— See our January sponsor next page. —**



### *A Reminder from the TPG Caring and Concerns Group*

The Chair for the Caring and Concerns Committee, a sub-committee of Philanthropy, is

**Kim Jenkins**

She can be reached by email at [tpgcaring@yahoo.com](mailto:tpgcaring@yahoo.com) (checked daily)

If you need assistance, or if you know a member who may have a need, please let her know.





# 5 Trends in Home Remodeling in 2017

By Sandra Crook, Sales and Design

*Greymark Construction Co.*

## 1. Movement towards a more durable countertop material – Man Made Quartz



Homeowners are inspired by natural beauty in countertops, but are moving towards a more durable material, manmade quartz. These materials have made the list of most desirable, due to its stunning design without the upkeep of marble, granite and natural stone. Ceasarstone's marble like Noble gray and Cambria's Roxwell are inspired by white with gray, black and charcoal veins.

## 2. Ways to improve hot water consumption – Tanked vs Tankless Water Heaters



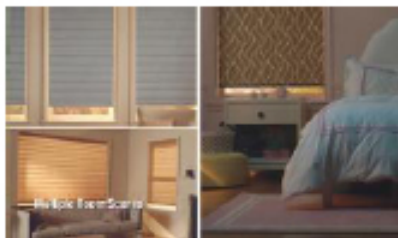
You may have wondered about your hot water on demand or lack of it? Tankless water heaters only deliver hot water when you need it (unlike traditional water heaters, which maintain a storage tank full of hot water whether you need it or not). The catch with the tankless is that it runs on electricity, therefore power is needed to use it. It's more efficient, using less power, smaller in size, can be placed inside or outside, creating more space in the house.

## 3. Virtual Reality – 3D Modeling

You've dreamed, found your inspiration and are ready to remodel your kitchen! But it's hard for you or your spouse to visualize what the interior would look like. Your experienced design build remodeler can take you on a virtual reality walking tour of your space, whether it's a room, kitchen or addition before you build.



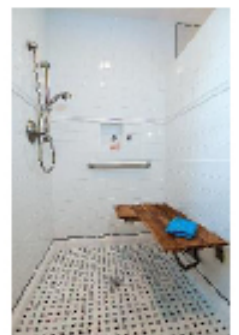
## 4. Home Automation



From locking your house, to turning on the lights, you can control your safety, your heating and AC, you can control all of these and more with a wall control system to controlling it from your app on a smart phone or tablet. If you want to sleep late after a long trip, your window shades can be controlled from your smart phone while you're in your driveway driving in to the garage.

## 5. Aging in Place – Staying in Your Home!

Whether it's for you or a parent, when considering an update to your home, you should think ahead and plan to widen room doors, bathroom doors, consider creating a curbless shower for potentially rolling a wheelchair into the shower. Adding grab bars to a tub or shower is an easy fix to allow for a safe entry and exit. Under counter storage is easier to reach than accessing an upper cabinet. Comfort height toilets are not only more comfortable and easier to get up from, they have many options for dual flush, heated and soft close seats.





Greymark  
Construction  
Company  
*Design+Build/Remodel*

2211 Norfolk #626  
Houston, Texas 77098  
713.722.7226 tel  
713.722.9269 fax  
832.788.0086 mobile  
sandra@greymarkconstruction.com  
greymarkconstruction.com

**Sandra Crook**  
Sales/Design



<http://greymarkconstruction.com>

[www.nikkylawellphotography.com](http://www.nikkylawellphotography.com)  
nikky@lawellphoto.com  
713.523.4916

Family • Children • Events

[www.nikkylawellphoto.com](http://www.nikkylawellphoto.com)



**Marlena Berger**  
REALTOR®, ABR, GRI  
Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist  
[www.HoustonHomesForSale.com](http://www.HoustonHomesForSale.com)  
*Making Dreams Come True!*

713.398.0170  
Marlena@MarlenaBerger.com

**Better Homes and Gardens** REAL ESTATE | **GARY GREENE**

©2012 Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Better Homes and Gardens® is a registered trademark of Meredith Corporation licensed to Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Franchise is Independently Owned and Operated.

<http://www.HoustonHomesForSale.com>

*Celebrate special occasions with...*

**Elaine's Florist & Gift Baskets**

- Dazzling Floral Arrangements
- Decorative Plants
- Delightful Gourmet Baskets

...we'll help you make a lasting impression.

**713.661.6788**

Whether it's for your clients, employees or personal needs call or visit our website.

4796 Beechnut • Houston, TX 77096 • [www.elainesflorist.com](http://www.elainesflorist.com)

[www.elainesflorist.com](http://www.elainesflorist.com)

## .....Interested in advertising your business or services to fellow TPG members?

There is space available for advertising in our monthly newsletter! Advertise your business for the low cost of **\$25** a month or reduce the cost further by paying **\$125**, in advance, for six months of advertising. The standard ad size is that of a business card. At no additional cost you may include a link to your website which will be printed below your business card ad. Not only are you able to network with fellow TPG members, your advertising dollars help to defray the cost of our newsletter and website. If you are interested in exploring an ad in the monthly TPG Newsletter, please email: **Kim Jenkins**, [kjenkins@bentransact.com](mailto:kjenkins@bentransact.com)



**Mark your Calendars and  
Turn on your football frenzy.  
Houston is hosting  
"Super Bowl 2017"  
on  
February 5th, 2017!**



## SURVEY REMINDER

**The deadline to complete the survey is December 31.**

All survey participants will be included in a drawing for a free breakfast meeting for themselves and one guest of their choosing, winner to be announced at the January 3rd meeting.

An email was sent to each TPG member containing the link to the survey.

Please help us plan for the upcoming year by completing the survey. The membership survey is the best tool we have to measure your satisfaction with the organization.

We welcome your input, ideas, and suggestions. Thank you!

ANNE SWANSON  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
anne@anneswansondesign.com  
713-398-1912

- Brochures ■ Newsletters ■ Postcards
- Web maintenance ■ Ads ■ Business cards ■ Logos
- Event invitations ■ Flyers ■ E-mail campaigns
- PowerPoint ■ Social media ■ Banners

[anne@anneswansondesign.com](mailto:anne@anneswansondesign.com)

Martha Raymond  
ABR, AHS, CMS, GRI, CNE, CLHMS  
Selling Dream Homes...from Condos to Castles  
Direct: (713) 498-4540  
Office: (713) 461-9393  
martha@martharaymond.com  
kw  
KELLERWILLIAMS  
950 Corbindale Suite 100  
Houston, TX 77024  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

[martha@martharaymond.com](mailto:martha@martharaymond.com)

Bonhams 1793  
Amy J. Lawch GG ISA AM  
Regional Representative  
Houston  
amy.lawch@bonhams.com  
1775 St. James Place, Suite 105  
Houston, Texas 77056  
+1 713 621 5988  
+1 713 855 7452 cell

[www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us)

KEYSTONE HOMES  
QUALITY CUSTOM BUILDING  
www.keystonehomes.net  
CAROL GRADZIEL  
PO Box 270182  
Houston, TX 77277-0182  
Ph: 713.661.7626  
Cl: 713.249.2353  
Fx: 713.661.4416  
cgradziel@keystonehomes.net

<http://www.keystonehomes.net>





## HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO TPG MEMBERS!

Alethea White	January 2
Jackie Verity	January 3
TJ Jeter-McAvoy	January 8
Maureen Sanders	January 8
Angela D. Vabulas	January 12
Kathleen Knolle	January 14
Gloria Dowiak	January 15
Jan LeBlanc	January 17
Sharron Mapel	January 18
Pamela S Longley	January 20
Anne Swanson	January 21
Morag Everill	January 30

*Treasure Our Diversity.*

*Celebrate Our Creativity.*



Original art by Vicki Henrichs. © All Rights Reserved

Did we miss listing your birthday?

We really want to congratulate you.

We need your help in updating the TPG Website!

BARBARA STALEY  
SALES ASSOCIATE

GREENWOOD KING  
PROPERTIES  
www.greenwoodking.com

BARBARAS@GREENWOODKING.COM 832-606-9012

[www.greenwoodking.com](http://www.greenwoodking.com)

A.A. BENJAMIN LTD. FINE ANTIQUE AND PERIOD JEWELRY  
AMY J. LAWCH, G.G., ISA, AM  
PRESIDENT

1775 ST. JAMES PLACE, SUITE 105 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056  
PHONE 713-965-0555 • FAX 713-965-0022 • E-MAIL: amylawch@aabenjaminjewelry.com

www.aabenjaminjewelry.com

<http://www.aabenjaminjewelry.com>





---

## Breakfast Reservation Form — Tuesday, January 3, 2017

---

Coffee and Networking at 6:45 a.m. Buffet served promptly at 7:00 a.m.

Register for the breakfast online at [www.tpghouston.org](http://www.tpghouston.org) by **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2016** to receive the lowest price. The process is easy and very user friendly!

**Member fees: \$25. Guest fees: \$30.**

It is our policy that reservations for our monthly breakfast meeting be made no later than the Thursday before each meeting. Reservations must be received by the deadline to receive this pricing.

**Late reservations will incur an additional \$10 charge.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Once you have registered, you owe the fee for the breakfast even if you do not attend.

Club Express Tips:

- You will receive two emails: an email confirmation of your reservation and a second e-mail with confirmation of your online payment. If you do not receive two confirmations after registering online, please contact Cindy Jennings at [cjennings@carltonstaffing.com](mailto:cjennings@carltonstaffing.com)
- If you don't see the "Register" box, scroll to the right, or scroll down. If you cannot remember if you have registered, click on "Registrants" on the event page and you can see all who are registered.
- If you have trouble, change your browser. Close out and open Mozilla Firefox rather than Internet Explorer.

**NOTE: Online reservations end at midnight on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016.**

If you are paying by check, your reservation and check **must be mailed and postmarked by TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2016.** Make checks payable to The Professional Group. Your cancelled check serves as your receipt. CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED.

Reservations are not transferable to another member or guest and cannot be made by telephone. No reservation will be accepted after midnight, **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016**, without approval of the Meeting Coordinator, on a space available basis. To request approval after this deadline, e-mail [cjennings@carltonstaffing.com](mailto:cjennings@carltonstaffing.com). A late fee of \$10.00 will be added to the base cost, IF space is available, and IF the reservation is accepted.

Reservation forms and checks should be mailed to:

Kaitlyn Sharp  
Custom Plumbing & Hardware  
7020 Portwest, Suite 150  
Houston, TX. 77024

Member/Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**The Professional Group**  
**"Celebrating Dynamic Connections!"**  
1982-2017

