

COPAS EXTRA!

November 2011

Long-Time COPAS Editor “Retires”

Barbara Koch has served on the COPAS editorial committee in various roles for the past 11 years. For the past six years Barb served as committee chair and Editor of *ACCOUNTS* and helped launch *COPAS EXTRA!* in 2009 when the board set a goal to increase member communication.

Barb decided to focus on other activities and ‘retired’ from her position as Editor and Editorial committee chair on September 30. The COPAS Board of Directors approved Tom Wierman as the new Editorial committee chair and Editor of *ACCOUNTS* and *COPAS EXTRA!*

While traditionally an *ACCOUNTS* feature, this issue of *EXTRA!* contains a “Member Spotlight” featuring Barbara (see page 3). Thanks to Carolyn Sczepanski for helping us get to know Barbara better!



COPAS EXTRA
Enhancing communication
with members



Editor:
Tom Wierman

Email:
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Contacts for the APA® Program: Lary Sides, Board of Examiners Chair, APAChair@copas.org or Cheri McCallister, COPAS Office Administrator, cheri.mccallister@copas.org or (303)300-1139.



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The new APA® testing procedure is so easy that here is Bruce Bradfute (California) taking an hour out of his audit work to have proctor and BOE Vice Chair Elaine Tran (right) enter her password into Bruce's machine unlocking his downloaded ExamSoft test for Joint Interest. Watching how the testing program works is Mary Frances Hermes (Dallas), the Controller for Eland Energy. Good luck Bruce!!

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COPAS Winter Meeting
January 25-27, 2012

January 25, 2012

Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

January 26, 2012

Joint Interest Meeting
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Emerging Issues Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Evening Reception hosted by PASH

January 27, 2012

Audit Meeting
8:00 – 12:00 pm

Hilton Houston North
12400 Greenspoint Drive
Houston, Texas
(281) 875-2222

Room Rate: \$115.00 per night
(rate available until January 9, 2012)

Registration Fee \$45

Registration is open—www.copas.org

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Member Spotlight

COPAS Reporter:
Carolyn Sczepanski



The spotlight member is one described by many as a happy individual. Happiness and laughter have always been a part of her life. It can be traced back to her first birthday when she heard the song *Happy Birthday*. From that moment on, **Barbara Koch's** life has been filled with happy songs. It was not until later that she learned the song was not only for her but a song shared with the world.

Oh Happy Day (The Edwin Hawkins Singers) – Yes it was a very happy and fateful day for Barbara's family when she entered the world in Lubbock, Texas. Her family relocated to Midland where she resided until the late 70s. A hobby that cultivated early in Barb's life was being a voracious reader. Who knew what an important role this favorite pastime would play once Barb met COPAS, and vice versa?

Come On Get Happy (The Partridge Family) - And Barb did just that whenever Keith Partridge (David Cassidy) graced the TV screen in her home. Along with enjoying the great sitcoms on TV and the movies, Barb just knew one day her life would end up like a character on Carol Burnett's "Mama's Family." (Hmmm, wonder which character she would portray?) In 1977, Barb once again relocated, this time to Houston, Texas, where she spent two years before moving to OHHHHHHHHklahoma where the wind comes sweeping down the plain.

Happy-Go-Lucky-Me (Paul Evans) – Yes, that was Barb once she moved to Oklahoma, where ***Happy Together (The Turtles)*** Barb met her future husband John and became best friends. When they took the big step, they went to Vegas to get married, and Barb also gained a bonus family, Jill and Ryan, who were ages eight and six at the time.

In her ***Pursuit of Happiness (Kid Cudi)***, Barb took the opportunity to get out and try some of the things she had just read or dreamed about. But as we all know, things are not always as they appear on TV or the big screen. One such adventure was when she took her first (and last) flying lesson. With the ground coming at her at 10,000 miles per hour, she swore off taking any more flying lessons. A more successful venture occurred when she went up in a hot air balloon in Colorado.

Happy Wanderer (Frank Weir) – Barb and John are not world travelers. Nor do they intend to be. Barb says there is so much to be seen and experienced here in the States, why leave? Her bucket list of travel locations continues to grow with goals to visit New York City and Washington D.C. Remaining in the U.S. borders, they might be able to explore the 3.8 million square miles we call the United States of America. Barb and John have celebrated a ***Happy Anniversary (Little River Band)*** for 21 years and are now enjoying being grandparents to two amazing granddaughters. They also just learned another grandbaby is on the way!

Shiny Happy People (R.E.M.) – Words used to describe Barbara throughout her life are creative, fun, and positive; basically happy adjectives. These are attributes she brought to COPAS when she joined the Oklahoma City society in 1979. Barb has been an active COPAS member at both the local and national level, spreading jocularly everywhere she goes. At the local level, she chaired committees, held officer positions and was society president. Barb is proud to remind everyone that the OKC society hosted the Fall 2002 COPAS meet-



It's easy to see why Barbara wants to devote her time to other things. Barbara's granddaughter Jersey is ready to celebrate Halloween as "Dorothy Gale" from the Wizard of Oz.

ing...where? In Vegas, baby! Nationally, Barb helped host two COPAS meetings and chaired the Small Oil and Gas Committee. She also served on the COPAS national board. But her greatest claim to fame has been as *ACCOUNTS* and *COPAS EXTRA!* editor and photographer.

Happy to be with You (Johnny Cash) – For over 30 years, Barb has been a happy addition to all COPAS events she attends. When asked why she has remained so dedicated and active in the organization, Barb responded that in addition to the obvious benefits available to all members like education and networking, it's the people. COPAS members willingly share information and knowledge with other members, and they continue to give back to the energy industry. Many have become good friends. Of course there is nationally known ***Happy Hour (Housemartins)*** that also provides members the opportunity to discuss various industry topics and meet U.S. and Canadian COPAS members throughout the COPAS organization.

According to Barb, the three most important benefits available to COPAS members and their associated companies are education, networking and giving back to the industry. She also cites a fourth, very important benefit of mentoring. COPAS provides a forward environment that will help pass the torch to the next generation of energy accounting industry employees.

The Happy Whistler (Don Robertson) or ***Whistle While You Work (Frank Churchill)***. Okay, so the second song title does not contain the word "Happy" but it is a happy song, which is how Barb views her work life and career in the energy industry. For five years, Barb has been an employee of Earlsboro Energies Corporation; that is five years over the course of three different times working for them. Guess she just could not stay away. One of the most fun days Barb had at work was when they caught a squirrel in her office. (Geez! If that was fun, I wonder what the worst day was like?)

We asked Barb to share a few other interesting factoids about herself that readers may be surprised to learn.

If you could be a super hero, what super power would you want to possess?

Though she claims not to be a contestant for the next Ms. America Universe pageant, Barb's preferred super hero would be C.H.A.M.P. – Comedian, Humanitarian, Ambassador, and Medical Practitioner. With one swoop of her mighty, magic scepter, Barb would bring about world peace, cure cancer, remedy financial woes, address poor moral conditions and do it all while making you laugh. Now THAT would be a super power!

If or when Hollywood makes a movie about your life, who would portray you in the lead role?

Carol Burnett would play Barb (people have told Barb since she was in the first grade that she reminds them of Carol Burnett). Tim Conway would play her husband. We all know laughter is one of the best medicines, and these two crack each other up all the time.

If you could trade places with any other person for one week, famous or not, dead or alive, real or fiction, with whom would it be?

I would not trade places. I love my life! However, I guess if I had to choose someone, I would trade with the President of the United States, where I would address Congress telling them I would only approve legislation that affects Congress and the people equally. Both would be under the same health bill and retirement legislation.

I wish I knew how to...

...play a great game of golf. She plans to take lessons next spring. Look out COPAS golf tournament!

Favorite movie or song?

Barb loves music and movies. Just a couple of her favorites are Princess Bride, The Proposal, Miss Congeniality, and The Blind Side. (Do I hear a Sandra Bullock fan?)

Favorite Quotes:

Age is just a number. Life is short; have fun along the way.

Happy Trails to You (Dale Evans) – Earlier this year, Barb announced that she would retire as COPAS Editor this year. We know she will be off somewhere with her **Happy Talk (Richard Rogers)** and **Happy Feet** (so what if it is a movie and not a song?)

One last tidbit about Barb: she is a planner. She plans everything in her life. Her planning is so extensive that she has even selected a song to be played when she leaves this earth to meet her maker. It's a little ditty by **Bobby McFerrin** titled **"Don't Worry, Be Happy."**

Is anyone surprised here?



Barbara's granddaughter Brie enjoys her dance class.

Happy
Thanksgiving

Thank you, Barbara, for everything!

Editors Note: Those who have worked with Barbara in producing *ACCOUNTS* (proofreaders, contributors, and production) have taken time to write a note of thanks.

Barb,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your fabulous work with ACCOUNTS and COPAS EXTRA! For getting in all those last minute changes, for extending the deadlines and the graphic design work you have provided the National Office. We will really miss your work, but most importantly your charming personality and wonderful sense of humor! Best of Luck, —Steve Irizarry

During my 36 year customer service career at JPA, I have worked with many editor/publications people and Barbara, you are at the top of my favorite list of people to work with. You really knew your job and in turn, made my job that much easier. I will really miss working with you and I wish you the best of everything. — Susie Newkirk, JPA Customer Service Representative

Barb has been great to work with and the improved quality of the ACCOUNTS magazine is directly attributable to her. The frequent reminders of pending ACCOUNTS due dates and notes of appreciation were always helpful in getting me to complete my articles. But the thing I think of most when I think of Barb, is getting my semi-annual hug at the COPAS National Meetings. Thanks Barb!!! - Bob Wilkinson

Dear Barb,

Their is know won like u, end A counts just will naught bee the same without u. Isle Miss your enthusiasm, stile, and wit. Your an egg sample of dedication to Co-pass – all weighs they're four us threw thick and thin, keeping your sites on the dead-lions. You bring inn a scents of fun to every job u tack ell, and your pretty good at the pea sea, to (especially a doe be acrobat). Its hard two real lies your knot going to be they're making shore wee stay strait, on the rite track, an not making mist aches. I don't no watt will due without u, and can't bare the thought of the affect it mite have on A counts. Aisle bee blew without yew.

Even so, eye bet u Kant weight to move on to knew things. As you sale a way in too the son set, I wood like u too no that we r thinking of u. Hear is to u – the mews of A counts – we wish u whale. Dew sum things u enjoy and halve a grate thyme. I hope Yule bee shore two Czech inn on us if you get board. We can awl ways use moor help, weather or not we axe fore it. May be you can be a guessed contributor sum time or pin a let her to the editor. We well knead yore sup port.

Than cue fore awl yew halve dun for Co-pass.

Sin sear lea,

- Karla Bower

p.s. – Thank goodness four spell Czech! Other Weiss it would halve take-in me a lot longer to revue this. I am in a maize mint at watt we can dew with technology. It cot every missed steak.

Barb,

I am blessed by your friendship and inspired by your positive attitude, creative talent, and dedication to COPAS. You always give more than 100% on any project or assignment. When I ask "what you are doing this weekend?" you no longer have to tell me "I am working on COPAS." Take a little time off before you volunteer for the next project.—Nita Durant

Barb is probably the best evidence I know of to refute the stereotype that accountants are nerdy, stodgy and boring. She provides the most fun that anyone can have with their clothes on (and I can't speak for anything beyond that).—John Hultin

It's not too often that you can say how much you enjoy working with a client, but working with Barbara has always been great. You made our work fun and I'll miss talking edits with you. I hope you'll send us periodic emails of all your adventures. It's been a real pleasure working with you.—Kim Gilmore, Gilmore Marketing

I met Barbara at my first National COPAS meeting October 2002 in Las Vegas. In that first meeting I found out that she is an Orange Person! She was leading the Small Oil and Gas committee meeting. We had a motivational speaker that through a series of questions categorized each of us by color symbolizing our personalities. Little did I know how true he was? Barbara is one of those dynamic people that can motivate and cheer up everyone she comes in contact with. I remember a leadership conference when she walked in and asked everyone to change seats taking each of us out of our comfort zone and giving us the opportunity to grow just a little. I have worked with Barb on over the past 9 years as our friendship has grown. One thing always guaranteed when you see Barb is a smile and a hug. I have come to think of the COPAS meetings as a big family reunion with Barb being the greatest cousin a person could have. Thanks Barb for all you do.—Jane Russell

Barb,

(adapted from the Carol Burnett theme song - hum it along as you read)

I'm so glad we had this time together (as liaison and editor), Just to have a laugh, or sing a song (Copas Cabana). Seems we just got started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say "So long".

There's a time you wanna pause for writin', and a time for editing too.
But the time I love the best is at a conference, where I can watch a skit starring you.

When the time comes and I'm not feelin' wordy, Yes the words just aren't coming thru.
I just sit back and think of you as Mama. And the memories still come through.

That's why I'm glad we had this time together. But I have to make Tom feel that he belongs.
Seems we just got started and before you know it...guess it's time for me to say "So long"!

Rick Jones

You've done a wonderful job and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you this year!

Barb Koch is one of my best friends. I've known her for many years, which means I've had a front-row seat as Barb has worked on the Editorial Committee over the past eleven years. The most amazing thing to me is that Barb has never lost her passion over all this time. I can't begin to count the number of "girls' night out" conversations where Barb enthusiastically told us of plans for an upcoming issue of *ACCOUNTS*.

Since 1980, the COPAS National Office had done an admirable job of disseminating information to our members through *ACCOUNTS*. However, as the millennium was nearing an end, the COPAS board saw a need to enhance the organization's visibility and initiated several projects designed to better market COPAS. Barb became an integral part of the Editorial Committee, chaired by Sandy Launchbaugh, and together they undertook the daunting tasks of developing a COPAS website and revamping *ACCOUNTS*. Their efforts lead to a more professional "face" for the COPAS organization.

Following Sandy's retirement from the Editorial Committee, Barb stepped into the role of chairman. It was around this time that I began to appreciate what an enormous undertaking is involved in the publication of each issue of *ACCOUNTS*. At a meeting of the Editorial Advisory Team, Barb pulled out an intricate color-coded checklist and status report used for planning each issue of the magazine. Every detail is included: feature articles, regular columns, contact

information for every contributor, photos and quotes to be included, updates to COPAS items and resources, and details about the placement and size of each advertisement.

The level of organizational and creative skills that go into every issue of *ACCOUNTS* is staggering. If her work on the Editorial Committee was Barb's only contribution to COPAS over the past eleven years it would be impressive. But over that same period, Barb has held a variety of positions in the Oklahoma City Society, including that of President, helped plan and organize national meetings and other events at the local level, co-chaired the COPAS Small Oil & Gas Companies Committee, developed a toolbox to assist in the planning of national meetings, served on the COPAS board of directors and chaired the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

Frankly, I am less surprised that Barb has continued working on *ACCOUNTS* for eleven years than I am that she is now willing to turn the responsibility over to another person. *ACCOUNTS* is her "baby" and she has invested too much time and energy into it to entrust it to someone who is any less dedicated to it than she is. It is a real testament to Tom Wierman that Barb sees in him the qualities that will help *ACCOUNTS* continue to flourish and grow for years to come.

Gindy Heymans

When I think of COPAS there are a few things that automatically come to the top of my head – accounting procedures, great net working, semi-annual meetings, *ACCOUNTS*, *COPAS EXTRA!*, just to name a few. And I can't think of COPAS on the national level without thinking of Barb Koch. I met Barb in September 2001 at the fall meeting in Denver. The world as we knew it was in chaos and changing rapidly. But it seemed that COPAS was a rock within that chaos. We could have cancelled the conference, but we had important business to discuss and people we needed to see. So the meeting was held.

Barb Koch was one of those who found a way to get to Colorado when planes were grounded and many companies were cancelling travel plans. It was at that meeting we first discovered what 'orange' really meant. Her effervescence was contagious.

So, for the past 10 years I have watched Barb's tireless example of what it means to be part of COPAS. She has worn many hats at both the society level and national level including committee chair and board member. I've sought her advice often on all of these things.

Probably the one thing that Barb is best known for is her work on *ACCOUNTS*. It started when she worked with Sandy Launchbaugh to update the image of COPAS, turning their energy into our synergy. When they finished that project, they tackled the *ACCOUNTS* magazine turning a good trade publication into a great industry magazine. When Sandy retired as editor a few years ago, Barb didn't hesitate to take on the responsibility herself. Barb is ever present with her camera, snapping those very important photos to document our organization's members' achievements. She manages to convince even the most reluctant to contribute articles to the magazine. Barb never fails to congratulate or encourage.

It is very hard for me to think of COPAS without Barb Koch. Barb has been like a rock to me, much like the organization she represents. I actually have to remind myself that she is setting aside her 'Editor' hat, not her 'COPAS member' hat. I wish Barb the very best as she moves into the next phase of her life. — Brenda Thompson

It's been so much fun working with you on the board of directors, the 50th Anniversary Committee, *ACCOUNTS* and *EXTRA!* You bring a real passion for everything you do (remember the Orange personality!). You are a little bit like the Energizer Bunny—you never quit!

I found an email I sent you sometime during the time I was COPAS president. You had exciting ideas and we were bouncing them off each other. I wrote:

You are not a pest. I love your enthusiasm. I wish we could bottle it and sell it to more people. "Dr. Barb's bubbly, enthusiastic Elixir – Cures all kinds of blah, blah, blah. Drink up and drink often!" (Okay so I ran out of adjectives...You get my point.)

How true it's been—you've never taken off your idea hat. Your enthusiasm fueled me and look where I am now!

Thanks for your energy and creativity! — Tom Wierman

The Hungry Auditor...

Ragin Cajun—Houston, Texas

Houston Texas is a city with no shortage of interesting and unique restaurants. If you haven't been to any of their four locations, I recommend you try Ragin Cajun. With additional locations on Westheimer at Gessner, in the downtown tunnel system at 930 Main, and in Sugar Land on Kensington, my favorite is "hands down", the original on Richmond Avenue, inside the Loop.

Ragin Cajun was opened in 1974 by a graduate of the University of Southwest Louisiana in Lafayette. That school, now known as University of Louisiana – Lafayette is the home of the Ragin' Cajuns student body. As you would suspect by the giant crawfish on the roof of the restaurant, boiled crawfish is their signature food, but you will be sure to find all the other delicacies of south Louisiana, oysters on the half shell, po-boys, red beans and rice, jambalaya, catfish and shrimp. My favorites include the Cajun Turkey Po-boy with a creole horseradish sauce, the Spiced Grilled Sausage Po-Boy, Boiled or Fried Shrimp Po-Boys, the Buffalo Crawfish Salad, and don't forget a side order of Sausage & Chicken Jambalaya. I have barely scratched the surface of their extensive menu. If you are unsure what to eat, ask the cashiers, their advice to me has also been good.

The interior is very informal with the walls covered with signs, bumper stickers and sports memorabilia. It can get loud especially if there is a big game on the televisions. A nice touch is the stacks of USL yearbooks near the cash register for you to look through as you wait for your number to be called to pick up your food. This is no white linen table cloth kind of place; it's a comfortable, homey, fun environment.

For more information, you can go to the website, www.ragin-cajun.com or their Facebook page, Ragin Cajun.

Based on price, flavor and atmosphere, I give Ragin Cajun a rating of 4 out of 5 audit tic marks: *vvvvv*

Is anyone else getting hungry? Do you have a "hidden gem" in your city? Is there an out-of-the-way great place to eat, known only to locals? If so, you can email suggestions and comments to me at hungryauditor@copas.org.

Riddles

- 1) The older you get, the harder it is to do this.
- 2) This produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 9 million cars.
- 3) What five letter word is pronounced the same way when you remove the last four letters?
- 4) Once we do this at work, 46% of us will never do it again.
- 5) 12% of homeowners say they have never done this.
- 6) What's black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you're done with it?
- 7) 50% of us are embarrassed by this.
- 8) Doing this before you give a speech will help you have a better performance.
- 9) Ten years ago, we did this all the time. Now we rarely do it.
- 10) 12,000 people are injured each year by doing this.

(see answers on Page 11)



Ashby Completes Board Term

Nancy Ashby (Dallas) completes her second COPAS board of directors term on December 31. Nancy was first elected to the board in 2005 (serving 2006—2008) and re-elected in 2008 (serving 2009—2011). Nancy served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. She also served as COPAS Education Committee Chair and has been very active in the Dallas society.

The board will recognize Nancy at the December transition board meeting however the officers wanted to publically thank Nancy for her service.

* * *

How do you recognize someone who has dedicated the last six years to a volunteer organization? By saying thank you? Merci bien? Danke? Gracias? Buíochas a ghabháil leat? Grazie? Arigatō? Words alone, no matter the language, cannot express our gratitude for the time and energy Nancy Ashby has dedicated to COPAS. Nancy has served as a very active member of the COPAS Board of Directors since January 2006. She has held each officer position, culminating as President during 2010. Sadly, Nancy's term on the board has come to an end.

It is with a heavy heart that I say adieu to Nancy as she retires from the board. I know she has plans for some leisure time involving a cabin in Oklahoma. But eventually she'll get bored and find her way home to COPAS. Good Luck Nancy. I'll miss you. *Brenda Thompson*

Nancy, thanks for your six years on the Board. Your calming and steadying influence along with your historical knowledge and familiarity with so many aspects of COPAS' business has been an invaluable asset to the organization. We will surely miss your insights and perspectives.

Mike Cougevan

Nancy - Thanks so much for your calm and steady leadership, and quiet wisdom. It has been a pleasure working with you on the Board. John Hultin

Nancy—thanks for your unwavering leadership and friendship through our many years together in COPAS. Your presence on the COPAS board will be missed, but I hope you'll be available from time to time as my 'consultant.' Best wishes and many Blessings. Deb Retzloff



Answers to Riddles (page 10)
 (1) Jump (2) Junk mail (3) Queue (4) Change our voice mail
 greeting (5) Gone into their attic (6) Charcoal (7) Our middle
 name (8) Eat an orange (9) Develop a roll of film (10) Riding in a
 golf cart