

# SPWP News



This month's meeting, is to be held on June 10th, 2021 virtually at 7:30 a.m.

For future meetings, please respond to the Punchbowl Invitation letting us know if you will be joining us or not. Regrets and RSVPs should be sent to Suzette Olivan via email.

Meeting donations are currently \$10 each. SPWP is also accepting donations toward our scholarship fund. Reservations and contributions can be made by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or American Express) via PayPal on our Web site: [www.spwp.org](http://www.spwp.org).

Please remember to turn cell phones off or to silent, and mute on the video call during meetings.

Information about the next month's breakfast meeting will be announced once confirmed.



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello Ladies,

Welcome Summer! I hope your Memorial Day weekend was filled with quality family time and appreciation for our armed services. The recent Houston rains didn't seem to dampen the festivities. Graduation season has arrived and school is finally out!

The most recent SPWP happy hour was held at Deacon Baldy's in Magnolia on May 26th. It was a great evening of food trucks and warm company. It is always fun to explore a new hot spot around town. Also, our very first service project of 2021 was scheduled for June 5th, but had to be postponed due to weather. We will be participating in Adopt A County Mile (AACM) on Hwy 249. We are rescheduling a new date, and will let everyone know once confirmed. Please contact Erin Williams for more details on our next session.

The 2021 Scholarship Committee, in conjunction with the SPWP Board, have announced a total award of \$13,000. These funds will be split amongst nine deserving young women in the Houston area. Please join us at the July breakfast meeting when we meet the winners.

Our own golf tournament has been set for October 1st at Windrose Golf Club. Big thanks to Renee Brown and Sherry Adams for returning as co-chairs of this fundraiser. There will be many opportunities to get involved as the date grows closer. Please share the event details with your business associates, friends, family, and other organization members – anyone and everyone!

Please consider joining the SPWP Board for the upcoming 2022 year! We are always looking for new energy and fresh perspectives into our organization. If you are interested in any position, we would welcome your nomination this fall. Elections will be held at our members-only meeting in November.

As a reminder, please connect with us on Facebook at the "Society of Professional Women in Petroleum, Houston" as well as on LinkedIn at "Society of Professional Women in Petroleum".

Sincerely,

Suzanne Short

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAY MINUTES	2	JUNE ANNIVERSERARIES	4	CAREER CORNER Cont.	8
FEATURED MEMBER	3	ANNOUNCEMENTS	5	MARK YOUR CALENDAR	9
JUNE MEETING	4	SPWP SCOOP	6	BOARD OF DIRECTORS,	10
JUNE BIRTHDAYS	4	CAREER CORNER	7	COMMITTEES, & CHAIRS	

# MAY MINUTES

Submitted by Kelsey Hulett

President Suzanne Short called the meeting to order at 7:31 am on May 13, 2021.

Suzanne welcomed all members and guests and introduced the 2021 Board Members.

Suzanne asked for a motion to approve the April 2021 minutes as written in the newsletter. Sherry Adams approved the minutes of meeting as posted. No one opposed, so the minutes were approved as written.

Suzanne reminded all participants that we have a virtual meeting fee of \$10.

Suzanne shared that the scholarship committee identified 9 scholarship winners for a total award of \$13,000 after interviews held May 8th. These nine recipients will be recognized at our July SPWP meeting.

Suzanne also noted that the Scholarship Committee is recognized this month as our volunteers of the month. Thank you to this team including Ingrid Cooper and Tania Rezanka as co-chairs, as well as Sherry Adams, Kelsey Hulett, Erin Stroud, Evalyn Shea, Veronica Rhodes, Suzanne Short, and Erin Williams.

Suzanne reminded members that the SPWP golf tournament is scheduled for October 1st 2021, and our co-chairs are hard at work preparing. Suzanne reminded members and guests to spread the good word about our tournament. Sherry Adams, golf tournament co-chair, noted that an email blast will be sent out to previous year's tournament participants and sponsors from 2018 and 2019 to get information out as early as possible.

Suzanne wished a happy birthday to all the members born in the month of May. SPWP member anniversaries were also recognized.

Suzanne shared that SPWP's next happy hour social will be held at Deacon Baldy's in Magnolia on May 26th. SPWP has a new service project. As an organization we have signed agreement with Adopt a County Mile. Our first service event will be Saturday, June 5th.

Veronica introduced the May speaker, Kim Hurst, Senior Director of NGLs and Petrochemicals for ICE to speak on 'How is Oil Traded?'. Kim's presentation shared about the Evolution of oil trading from the early 90s as a business highly dependent on personal engagement to current day as a very technical business with the influence of the on-line trading exchange. Kim emphasized how fast paced the on-line crude and natural gas trade exchange is today. The two types of trading were explained, both physical and financial trading. Producers trade physical crude to downstream end users, manufacturers, and farmers as a few examples. Financial trades are often referred to as 'trading futures'. Trading futures is performed on either a hedge or speculation basis depending on the desired risk profile. Futures trading is normally settled financially, with no trade of a physical barrel involved. Financial trades are often made by banks, pension funds, and hedge funds. Financial traders may utilize a clearing house to minimize counterparty credit risk by protecting the trade with margin.

Suzanne reminded the attendees to connect with SPWP on social media and shared that the next meeting will be taking place on June 10, 2021 in a table talk format.

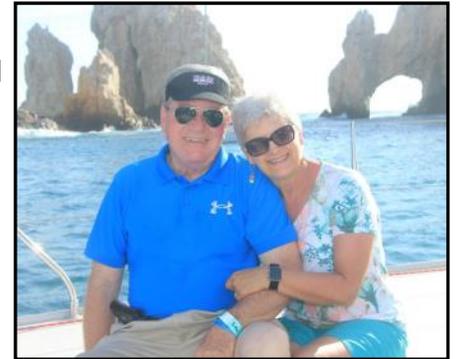
The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 am.

# JUNE FEATURED MEMBER

## Sherry Adams

### 1. How did you get started in the Oil & Gas Industry?

I was called on a Monday in 1995 by our Director of Sales and told that I needed to be at our major oilfield customer on Thursday. Our President and VP of Sales had been kicked out and we needed to salvage the account. I went in that Thursday with an Engineer and over the next few months we turned the account around. This is now one of my largest accounts. That was my entry into Oilfield! Today oil and gas make up about 80% of my customers.



### 2. Area of Specialty (i.e. Sales, Engineering, Accounting, etc.)?

I'm in Sales and technically my territory is Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. But I also have direct customers in California, Arizona, Georgia and The Netherlands. Along with branches of my customers all over the world.

### 3. When people come to you for help, what do they usually want help with?

I get called in to organize an account or project. I tend to be more analytical than most salespeople. The plant tends to call when bad news needs to be given to the customer or they want some history. Being with the company 28 years I "know" things!

### 4. Most influential person in your career and why?

I've had two Vice Presidents that have shown me how to interact with customers in an honest and open way. Don't "play games". They were both very encouraging and saw things in me I hadn't seen in myself.



### 5. Best career advice you've received?

Be honest! Don't play games. Let the customer know what you don't know. Especially when I started out, my customers knew a lot more about the industry and market than I did. I was able to draw on that knowledge and learn.

### 6. Were you born in Houston? If not, what brought you here?

I was born in Ashland, KY and raised in Mansfield, Ohio. I moved to Spring, TX in December 1992 to be with my fiancé. We had been dating long distance up till then. I started with Gates Molded Products Company February 1, 1992. Gates became Longwood Elastomers which was bought by Wabtec.

### 7. Favorite place in the world?

Most any beach with clear water! Locally though I usually end up in Waco a couple times a year. During the last few trips to Waco my friends and I have taken a sourdough bread making class and pottery. I'm not good at either but we sure laughed a lot!

### 8 Favorite book or movie?

I love to read, and still like a book in my hand. A series that I've kept over the years is Jean Auel's Earth's Children series and all my James Herriot books (i.e. All Things Wise & Wonderful).

### 9. What hobby would you get into if time and money weren't an issue?

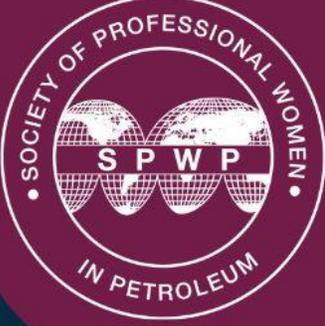
Travelling. There are so many places I hear people talk about that I haven't been, even in the United States.

### 10. How did you become involved with SPWP?

I heard about SPWP when I was on the board of the Federation of Houston Professional Women and thought it would be a great networking organization and provide a good balance against the all male atmosphere I was experiencing at work.



# JUNE MEETING



**BREAKFAST MEETING TOPIC**

## TABLE TALKS

Presented by Veronica Rhodes




**June 13      Suzette Olivan**

**June 22      Ingrid Cooper**

## Happy *Membership!* Anniversary!

**Lellany Conaway      40 years**

**Margaret Hare      40 years**

**Kelsey Hulett      14 years**

**Reneé Brown      8 years**

**Suzanne Short      3 years**



## SPWP ANNOUNCEMENTS



### 2021 SPWP Golf Tournament

SPWP is looking forward to this year's Golf Tournament!

We are looking for sponsors, and have sponsorship available at all levels. Let's spread the word and get as many companies recognized as possible!

Also, to register yourself or a team, or for more information, visit [spwp.org/golf-tournament](https://spwp.org/golf-tournament) or e-mail [golf@spwp.org](mailto:golf@spwp.org).

Again, special thanks to this year's Golf Tournament Committee Co-chairs, René Brown & Sherry Adams!

### SPWP's Community Involvement

SPWP is proud to be participating with Precinct 4 in beautifying a local county mile within Harris County.

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, we had to postpone our first scheduled pick up on June 5th. We will be rescheduling a new date. More information to follow once confirmed.

Remember, family & friends are welcome too as long as all participants are age 18 or older!

If you are interested in an opportunity to serve (2 hours max), you can e-mail [erin.williams2@nov.com](mailto:erin.williams2@nov.com) for all the details.

### SPWP Scholarship Update

SPWP's Scholarship committee finalized the review process and have selected the top nine recipients for 2021!

Congratulations to Zeynep Deliormanli, Cristy Lopez Aguilar, Briana Hernandez, Khyati Malik, Hannah Wani, Katherine Golla, Noor Hakim, Baotran (Megan) Hoang, and Anna Khan!

This year's recipients will be speaking during SPWP's July meeting to introduce themselves and give us an opportunity to get to know them.

Be sure to join us for July's meeting to celebrate SPWP's main purpose! Our scholarships!

### SPWP In-person happy hour

SPWP will be having our next happy hour towards the end of July. We are planning it to be near the Rice Village area. Once the location and date are confirmed, the information will be posted on our media platforms and emailed to members.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person! Please join us!

SPWP SCOOP



SPWP held our annual scholarship interviews for the candidates who progressed to the final scholarship round! SPWP would like to extend a huge thank you to the women who served on our interview panel this year - Suzanne C. Short, Kelsey Hulett, and Ingrid Cooper!

SPWP had a happy hour May 26th. It was Trivia @ Deacon Baldy's in Magnolia. No pictures, but thank you all in attendance - Erin Williams, Suzanne Short, and Suzette Olivan.

Suzette also had 3 friends in attendance. They played around 2-3 rounds of trivia before they threw in the towel! Great fun!



In April, Erin Williams celebrated the baptisms of her two older sons (11 & 13). They were very proud to witness the decisions that both of their children made and were excited to attend with church family and friends!



Suzette Olivan went to Albuquerque and Santa Fe New Mexico over the Memorial Day Weekend. Beautiful!



This memorial weekend was the first time Tania Rezanka and her family were able to return to Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (formerly known as Splashtown) since they opened their doors.

They were able to celebrate Memorial Weekend, but also to celebrate their son Santiago's 5th Grade Graduation. Congratulations!



Tania, her husband Michael, Santiago, Donnovann his brother, and his grandparents had an awesome Memorial weekend!

# CAREER CORNER

## Why Writing Skills Are Important for Every Job—and How to Improve Yours

Have you ever sent an email no one seemed to understand that ended up derailing the timeline for an entire project? Or written a report that you then had to explain verbally to everyone after they read it?

Even if you're not in a job where writing is a core component of your professional duties, you probably use your writing skills every day to communicate with others through text. Strong written communication skills are one of the top attributes employers look for.

### Why Are Writing Skills Important?

If you're in a writing-centric or writing-heavy role—for example, marketing—you might already be aware of how your writing skills help you daily. But even if you aren't in one of these jobs, writing is an essential skill in the workplace, especially today with more and more people working remotely.

Strong writing skills help you to communicate with others without having to schedule a meeting or phone call. They ensure readers understand the key points of what you're trying to get across, come away with the ideas and impression you want them to, and, in many cases, take action to do whatever you're hoping they'll do.

Emails might be how you update your team on a project, request information from a colleague, or how you follow up on a meeting with clear next steps. And in some instances, an email is how you make your first impression on a new person. Or maybe you put together presentations that incorporate text or need to write a report on the results of something you did or researched.

Writing is something others can refer back to at any point—as opposed to verbal communication, which might have to be repeated and requires both parties to be available at the same time. Written records can be particularly helpful when you're trying to standardize how your team or company handles recurring tasks or training new coworkers to take these on.

There are several types of skills that combine to make someone a strong writer, including:

### Research

Before you write a single word, you need to do your research about the topic you're writing on. Gathering information that's up-to-date and accurate is a key part of writing, and the process may help you figure out what content to include.

### Planning and/or Outlining

An outline is a pared-down sketch of what points or topics the document you're working on will cover and how you plan to structure the information, which can give you a roadmap to follow as you write. Creating and following an outline ensures you're incorporating all the important information in the right order and not being repetitive or straying too far from your point. Outlining skills can also be used to map out a non-writing project ahead of time or plan a process, which can be especially helpful if you're delegating to or collaborating with others.

### Grammar and Clarity

Grammar is the set of rules governing language usage. It's what guides everyone to communicate in a similar way and, as a result, understand each other more. There are many rules of English grammar, and you should definitely know the basic ones. It is necessary to know how to construct a clear, easy-to-read, and understandable sentence to communicate in writing.

### Revising and Editing

Editing is the process of correcting and changing a piece of your own or someone else's writing to strengthen it. You can revise or edit by making significant changes to the structure, organization, or content of a piece. Strong editing skills can be useful in a wide range of professional situations—from looking over a report or presentation for a teammate to spotting an error in an email you're about to send the entire company.

### Communication Skills

Even if writing isn't a core part of your job, you'll likely use it to communicate in the workplace. This might mean composing an email, messaging someone, giving feedback, creating a meeting agenda, or giving an update on a project. Being able to communicate clearly through writing will help your work go more smoothly. It can prevent misunderstandings and allow your colleagues to feel informed and included.

## CAREER CORNER, continued

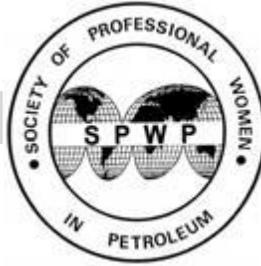
### 9 Tips to Improve Your Writing Skills:

- 1. Brush Up on Grammar Basics** - If you're already feeling your eyes glaze over, don't worry. Unless you're a writer, editor, or similar, you don't need to know whether it's who or whom or when to use an em dash vs. a semicolon. But you should know the basics: how to write in complete sentences rather than fragments or run-ons; how to use quotation marks and commas in typical scenarios; and when to use there, they're, or their, to name a few. There are a number of free resources online you can use to brush up on your grammar skills or answer individual questions.
- 2. Read (and Study) the Type of Writing You Want to Improve** - One of the best ways to improve your own writing is to read a lot. Note what writing resonates for you and look at that writing closely to see how it's put together. Is it using a lot of technical words? Is the tone conversational or more serious? Does the writer use a lot of short sentences, mostly longer sentences, or a mix of both? Reading of any type can help you get a sense of the different ways all the elements of writing can combine effectively.
- 3. Pick the Right Format for the Situation** - Knowing and choosing the correct format for a given piece of writing—based on your goals and intended audience—will give you the appropriate amount and type of space to share what you need to, and it'll set your reader expectations correctly as well. If your manager sees a short message, they'll expect that to take at most a few minutes to read, but if you send them a long document, they'll be prepared to receive a lot of information (and might hold off on reading until they have the time they need to digest it).
- 4. Outline Before You Write** - The best way to outline will depend on your personal preferences and what you're writing. In most cases, you'll want to divide your outline into sections and note what the purpose of each section is. Once you know that, you can quickly note what information needs to go in this section of your piece. If you have a number of points you'd like to hit but don't know in what order or how they go together, an outline can be even more helpful.
- 5. Be Aware of Your Audience and the Appropriate Tone for Your Writing** - To communicate well through writing, it's important to understand who will be reading and what sort of language is appropriate. Consider how formal your language is. And don't write in all caps unless you actually mean to yell. Also, before you write, note the knowledge level of your audience as it relates to the topic. Before finishing any piece of writing, take the time to reread it while accounting for the audience's point of view.
- 6. Pay Attention to the Mechanics of Your Writing** - Here are a few basic guidelines to keep in mind that will help make almost anything you write easier to read and understand:

Don't use complex words when simple words will do.	Vary your sentences.
Use specific words and phrasing.	Don't repeat yourself.
Eliminate filler words and filtering language.	Guide your reader through each of your points.
- 7. Get Feedback on Your Writing** - If you're looking to improve your writing skills, getting opinions from others about how you're currently doing can be extremely helpful. It's common for individuals to use the same words and phrases over and over without realizing it. Similarly, you might think your writing is clear and to the point, but a reader might feel like there's key context missing. As you get feedback from multiple people or on multiple pieces of writing, pay attention to any comments or critiques you've gotten more than once and focus on that area first.
- 8. Proofread** - No matter what you're writing, taking a last look to check for any typos or mistakes can save you a lot of headaches in the long run. Read anything you've written out loud if possible. Sometimes things look OK on a screen, but when you try to say them, you realize something's not right.
- 9. Use Tech Tools as Aids—Not Substitutes** - There are plenty of programs and plug-ins that claim to "fix" your writing. These tools can make it easier to write well, but they shouldn't be your one source of truth. Computer programs tend to miss key context that human readers would understand. Spell-check can help but there are many words that are 'correct' but may not be what you intended. None of these tools should stand in for a thorough proofread.

A coworker, supervisor, or direct report who communicates via email in a clear and professional way will make everyone's work easier in the long run, whereas someone who's hard to understand in writing might seem like a future headache they'll have to address—especially if you'll be communicating with people outside the company through email.

*This information has been adapted from an article by Regina Borsellino  
<https://www.themuse.com/advice/writing-skills-examples-how-to-improve>*



The **Society of Professional Women in Petroleum** was formed in early 1981 to support professional career women in the Petroleum Industry through networking, education and the distribution of technology and information. SPWP is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization.

All aspects of drilling and production operations are covered through topical monthly breakfast meetings and industry speakers and we constantly seek to further expand the knowledge of our members. We also feature professional development speakers and hold roundtable discussions on a rotating basis.

SPWP's membership consists of women who have active careers in the Oil & Gas Industry in fields including Engineering, Geology, Sales, Research, Finance, Law, Quality Assurance, Purchasing, Advertising and Marketing.

SPWP is dedicated to furthering the careers of women in the Oil & Gas Industry and as part of our mission, we have a merit-based scholarship program that provides financial assistance to female Houston-area high school seniors entering a Texas college. Our annual fundraisers on behalf of this program are made possible through the tremendous support of companies within the industry, as well as through the tireless dedication of our members.

### **Mission Statement**

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



**July Breakfast Meeting 07/08**

**August Breakfast Meeting 08/12**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Suzanne Short  
Edward Jones  
281.777.5544  
suzannecshort@yahoo.com

### First Vice President

Audra Seanghok  
805.402.2028  
audraseanghok@yahoo.com

### Second Vice President

Veronica Rhodes  
Zurich  
713.206.1400  
veronica.rhodes@zurichna.com

### Treasurer

Brenda Myers  
Canrig Drilling Technology  
281.466.7292  
finance@spwp.org

### Secretary

Kelsey Hulett  
NOV  
832.594.4305  
Kelsey.Hulett@nov.com

### Member at Large

Suzette Olivan  
Stratum Reservoir  
713.430.6984  
suzette.olivan@stratumreservoir.com

### Social and Development Director

Erin Williams  
MSI Pipe Protection Technologies (NOV)  
832.922.1857  
erin.williams2@nov.com

## COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

### Scholarship Committee

Co-Chair – Ingrid Cooper [icooper@tex-fin.com](mailto:icooper@tex-fin.com)  
Co-Chair – Tania Rezanka [tania.p.hernandez82@gmail.com](mailto:tania.p.hernandez82@gmail.com)

### Golf Committee

Co-Chair – Reneé Brown [renee.brown@battcables.us](mailto:renee.brown@battcables.us)  
Co-Chair – Sherry Adams [sadams@wabtec.com](mailto:sadams@wabtec.com)

Please be sure to share and follow us at:

LinkedIn – **Society of Professional Women in Petroleum**  
Facebook - **@spwphouston**

**Please forward newsletter updates,  
comments, or questions to Audra Seanghok at  
Audraseanghok@yahoo.com**