



# NEWSLETTER

Women Making a Difference in Business and the Community

## 2020 TPG Board

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Rhonda Parker

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Heather McConnell

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#### Networking

Liana Hillendahl

#### Philanthropy/MAD

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#### Programs

Martha Raymond

#### Social Media

Lauren Becerra-Gongora

#### Special Interests & Events

Danika Cline



Rhonda Parker  
President 2020

## Letter from the President

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy! In January, I announced that the 2020 theme was “Show Up, Reach Out, Give Back”. Little did we know that less than three months later, all our lives would drastically change. Over the past few months, I have thought a lot about our theme and although this is a powerful statement, I think “Staying Connected” is more poignant.

During these past four months, the TPG board has worked hard to keep our organization moving forward and staying connected with our members. TPG has used Zoom as a way of us continuing to have our monthly breakfast meetings and virtual special events.

In the spirit of staying connected, I wanted to reach out to you and express my appreciation for your continued support and participation in TPG. The value of your TPG membership has continued by keeping you connected with networking opportunities and social companionship through our TPG Zoom events. It is my hope that things will return to normal in the near future. In the meantime, it is my promise that the TPG board will continue to be here for our members.

We welcome suggestions from the membership. Please reach out to me or any of the board members with your thoughts, concerns or needs.

Be well!

Rhonda

# TPG 2020 WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to our 2020 Woman of Excellence, Pam Longley! A Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW) Woman of Excellence Honoree is a woman who has demonstrated excellence in her profession and the community, and one that leaves a lasting impression on those organizations she serves and the people she helps. As our honoree, she will represent TPG at this year's FHPW WOE Gala & Auction



Pam Longley is a 2nd generation native Houstonian, an avid gardener, writer and volunteer.

She attended Sam Houston State University as an Elementary Education major and then decided she was more interested in a business career than teaching. She took a position at Transamerica Title in Houston as a typist in 1974 and quickly moved up the ranks to management, retiring in 2019.

As a volunteer, Pam strives to make a difference in the lives of women and children through mentorship and inspiring change. She says this work has been even more rewarding than her career because she gets to work from her heart all the time. As an 11-year member and former chair of the Making a Difference Committee, Pam set up a reading intervention program with other

TPG members at Kipp Sharpstown Academy and initiated a mentor program at Angela House, a recovery home for previously incarcerated women. She credits TPG with greater self-confidence and motivation for her life goals.

Pam is a Harris County Master Gardener intern and is doing garden design consulting. She has been a volunteer Naturalist at the Houston Arboretum for more than 12 years. Pam is active at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, participating in the Palmer Writer's Group, Bible Study and as a member of the Women's Retreat Committee. She is the proud grandmother of 4 inquisitive and beautiful teens/young adults. Her only child, Heidi, is a yoga instructor, massage therapist and Air B and B host in the Houston Heights.



Federation of Professional Women unites women from diverse member organization to enrich relationships and expand leadership, partnership and educational opportunities.

An extension of business women's current member organizations, FHPW provides stewardship, mentorship, and partnerships in the Greater Houston and surrounding communities to connect and transform the networking experience by recognizing women of excellence and building pathways to help members achieve their aspirations.

FHPW hosts an annual Women of Excellence Awards Gala honoring a woman from each member organization, and the Educational Foundation presents its scholarship award winners. Save the date for the 2020 Awards Gala to be held on September 19, 2020. [More Info](#)

## Happy Birthday!



7/1	Linda A Bridges
7/9	Danika H Cline
7/20	cynthia R salas
7/28	Maria Camacho
7/28	Ginger Abbott
7/31	Candi A Clement
8/9	Barbara H Staley
8/15	Carol Gradziel
8/16	Lauren Becerra-Gongora
8/28	Kathleen Fenninger
8/30	Heather A McConnell
9/5	Michelle Wise
9/9	Theresa Sewell
9/16	Jacqueline T Pierson
9/17	Elaine Ousley-Nevarez
9/20	Sandy J Dahlke
9/22	Shirley Sanders
9/24	Amy Lawch
9/24	Joan M Gallagher
9/26	Corine Prieto

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



### WHAM BREAKS THE RECORD!

*Shout out to member Sonya Scott and her team at West Houston Ministries!*

Recently their team served a record 439 cars, providing food for 2,073 people including 777 kids.

The team worked hard in the hot sun to provide food to clients through a curbside food distribution line. They were serving clients Monday-Friday from 10:30AM until supplies ran out, but that started to take a toll so they are now serving them Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30AM until supplies run out. Over the past weeks they have serviced about 386-439 cars on those days, and that is close to 2,000 individuals. They haven't decided when they will change the process but their food distribution is open to anyone in need regardless of the area they live in.

*What great work from one of our own! She is definitely "making a difference in the community!"*

### FROM MEMBER SUSAN PARISH:

I'd just like to give a shout out to my grandson Blake Parish! He is in the 82nd Airborne Division of the Army and he just started a tour in Iraq! So prayers would also be great for his platoon!

*from all of us at TPG, thank you, Blake, for your service!*

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We sure are missing you ladies! We are looking for stories and articles to include in the next newsletter. Now is the time to tell us how YOU are doing! Is there a local hero that you would like to spotlight? Do you have any tips for baking that perfect loaf of bread? What have you binge watched lately? Did Carole Baskin really kill her husband? If you have any interesting stories or articles that you would like to be considered to be included, please email Lauren Becerra-Gongora at [lbb5626@gmail.com](mailto:lbb5626@gmail.com)

### **New to TPG? Join a Committee!**

TPG has many committee opportunities open to all members. Committees are an essential part of this organization for planned events throughout the year. These committees are a great way to get involved and meet other TPG members. If you have interest in being on a committee please contact the committee chair.

Communication · Deb Korkmas · dkorkmas@edens.com  
 Guests & Member Services · Kate Gabriele · kategabriele@yahoo.com  
 Meeting Coordination · Cindy Jennings · cjennings@carltonstaffing.com  
 Networking · Liana Hillendahl · pen\_art@outlook.com  
 Philanthropy/MAD · Vicki Brooks · Vbrooks979@gmail.com  
 Programs · Martha Raymond · martha@martharaymond.com  
 Social Media · Lauren Becerra-Gongora · lbb5626@gmail.com  
 Special Interests and Events · Danika Cline · danikahcline@gmail.com

### **TPG Membership Requirements**

To become a member of The Professional Group, a woman must:

- Attend one breakfast and/or committee-sponsored event as a member-sponsored guest
- Have a background in either corporate or entrepreneurial profession. Retired women are welcome!
- Be sponsored by an existing member, fill out the online application and be approved by the Board.

Don't have a sponsor? Have questions? Please contact the chair of Guests and Member Services, Kate Gabriele, and she will be happy to introduce you to one of our members. Send an email to [membership@tpghouston.org](mailto:membership@tpghouston.org)

### **Caring and Concerns**

If you or someone you know in TPG has an immediate need due to illness or other critical circumstances, please contact Caring and Concerns at [tpgcaring@yahoo.com](mailto:tpgcaring@yahoo.com).





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### TPG Monthly Sponsor

TPG Monthly Sponsorship is a great opportunity to feature your business or organization at a Monthly Breakfast Meeting, in the Monday Announcements and TPG Quarterly Newsletter.

For details please contact Teresa Doyle at [teresa.doyle@comcast.net](mailto:teresa.doyle@comcast.net)

#### Guidelines:

- Must be a current TPG member.
- Sponsorship is on a first come basis.
- Registration for sponsorship is posted on the TPG website under Events Calendar. It is up to the sponsor to register for this event.
- The cost of sponsorship is \$100. The fee must be paid when reserving a sponsoring month and does not include the cost for the breakfast. You will still need to register for the breakfast as normal.
- Sponsorship is limited to one within a six-month period.
- Sponsor may not switch or trade with someone for another month without the Board's approval.
- Sponsors are responsible for their own items at the breakfast meeting. They may arrive at 6:30 am to set up. Items must be taken off the tables no later than 8:45 am.

Any changes to the sponsorship program or calendar must have board approval.



*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.*