



HOUSTON EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

H.E.R. is a 28 year old business group where entrepreneurs meet, greet, and have fun. We meet at the Marriott hotel every Tuesday morning at 6:45-8:30am. The Marriott is located at 1750 West Loop South.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and exchange business,
To educate members about the Houston business climate, and,
To motivate members to reach their personal and professional goals



ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Huang will have had his **Food Drive** by the time you read this.

Joe Cherry announced that his Golf Tournament has been postponed until Tuesday March 2nd, 2010.

Jeff Peskin has moved office and is having an "Open House" Tuesday, December 1st between 5:30 and 8:00pm.

Our annual EOY Dinner will again be held at the Daily Review, Saturday, December 12th, 2009.

REMEMBER our **Membership Contest**. Through December 8th, anyone bringing a viable guest will receive 1 point for each visit and 5 points if that person is signed, sealed delivered and becomes a member on or before the end of Dec 8th. Winning prize is a whopping \$500.00 Bucks, 2nd prize is \$250. **Scott McGrath** is leading with **6** guests with a total of **6** points. **Mickey Blake** has **2**, **Pat Devine** **2** & **Henry Wise** is trailing with **1** point.

November 17th, 2009



Member Spotlight

This weeks member spotlight is on **Martha Dodd of Fastsigns**.

713-68-0100 office

Member since 1994

GUESTS

Jonathan Allen of **Alarm Monitoring Services**, and guest of **Gaylon Pemberton**.
Scott Darlow of **MJI Enterprises** guest of **Scott McGrath** (Has applied for Membership).

SPEAKER

The Speaker this week was **Attorney, Robert Frank**, Estate Planner



Mr. Frank informed us that the Estate Exemption is due to expire December 31st, 2009, and could revert back to being taxed at 60% of \$1,000,000. Congress has not acted as yet and may mandate that the 2009 exemption carries over to 2010. He suggests we need to plan now to take care of our Estate.

When we die, all our assets are lumped into our Estate, which are taxed at 45% (We have 9 months to pay). Many people make the mistake of just having a "will", which will not protect these assets, unless they are left to our spouse, then they will be deferred. In order to avoid paying these taxes, it is necessary to set up a "Trust".

A "Bypass Trust" can enable assets to pass tax free to our children, and also will protect our assets from creditors. A bypass trust is a long-term planning device. If you leave property to someone in the form of a bypass trust, that property will not be subject to estate taxes when that person dies. (The property will still be taxed in your estate, however; to save tax in your own estate, other methods must be used.) A bypass trust is particularly useful for spouses who plan their estates together. By leaving property to each other in bypass trust form, they can guarantee that the property will only be taxed once between the two of them.

Mr. Frank also suggested that it is very important to set up an **Advance health care directives**, also known as **living wills**, **advance directives**, or **advance decisions**, are instructions given by individuals specifying what actions should be taken for their health in the event that they are no longer able to make decisions due to illness or incapacity. A living will is one form of advance directive, leaving instructions for treatment. Another form authorizes a specific type of **power of attorney** or **health care proxy**, where someone is appointed by the individual to make decisions on their behalf when they are incapacitated. People may also have a combination of both. It is often encouraged that people complete both documents to provide the most comprehensive guidance regarding their care.



The Weekly Funny

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and one night he's doing a show in a small town in Arkansas.

With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blond jokes. Suddenly, a blond woman in the 4th row stands on her chair and starts shouting: "I've heard enough of your stupid blond jokes.

What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does the color of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being?

"It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as a person.

Because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blonds, but women in general... and all in the name of humor!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blond yells, "You stay out of this, Mister! I'm talking to that little dips..t on your knee.

Missing Members

This week we were missing:
Mickey Blake
Judy Budnik



The Goodwill Raffle

This week the raffle was won by **Dodie Darlow, Skotts' wife**. The prize: \$25.00 worth of "Scratch Offs" and \$25.00 worth of Lotto Tickets, was donated by **Bob Sandler**. We collected a whopping **\$103**.

Board Members

PRESIDENT - Mickey Blake
VICE PRESENT - Greg Burkett
SECRETARY - Dave Baltzer
TREASURER - Judy Budnik
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - Mike Catalano
PROGRAM DIRECTOR - Pat Devine
COMMUNICATIONS - Les Wolf
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR - Dr. John Huang



Next Weeks Speaker

Judge Russ Ridgway, Harris County
Justice of the Peace