



From left to right – Pam, Norma, Chris, Carol Ann, Eileen Curtis

### Meet the Fabulous Five - our July Women of the Month

This month's Woman of the Month needs to be renamed to **WOMEN** of the Month. The women I want to talk about are part of my "Fabulous Five" group.

We all met about 20 years ago when we worked for Norma (you met her in September of 2006). Norma had a software consulting business and as you may recall was a real entrepreneur. So let me introduce you to these wonderful women. Recently Norma told us the most important lesson she has learned in life is to forgive and forget! If you don't, she says, the outcome is that you will be unhappy. She is a happy woman so she must know what she is talking about!

We have Pam who is the one who keeps us grounded. She loves us enough to tell us when we are walking (or running) in the wrong direction. She does this in a non-threatening manner and can take us up short but is usually right! Two summers ago, I received a call from Pam to tell me she had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. My heart cried! The five kicked in and started our support network...calls, cards, loving thoughts and being there. The tiny tumor was removed (please never put off a mammogram!) and then Pam started chemo. She was sick, tired and scared – but through it all she could still think about the rest of us and help keep our heads on straight. Today she is cancer free and is a good friend!

Then there is quiet (or so you think when you first meet her) Chris. Chris listens to all of us and then reasons out the things we say and then offers her advice. She has an analytical mind and thinks through the steps it will take to get the result we are looking for. She is a bit of a bulldog when it comes to helping us see the logic and had more than once turned me in the right direction when it comes to my business. She also is the dessert cook! When we do our "girls' weekend" (about 4 times a year), she is the one who brings fabulous desserts, sometimes making them while we are hanging out and making it look effortless!

Carol Ann is the "southern charmer". Her soft southern accented voice hides a woman of steel. She can juggle more balls than any three women I know and keep them all in the air. Her family has several businesses and she does all the accounting, chasing after vendors, making sure the sales reps get their commissions, dealing with employees, payroll insurances, the list goes on.. She is a woman of faith and has seen her share of sadness and grief but keeps her head up and a smile on her face. She is an example of what a really makes a woman great.

Rounding out the five is me. I think my claim to fame in this group is to encourage us to get together and keep our friendship alive and well. Of course, I couldn't do it without the rest of them.

An interesting note about the five is the age span – 40's to 70's. So as they say, age is a state of mind and we all think we are 30!

So this month we salute the Fabulous Five. A wonderful group of friends!