

# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT



Dear EWI, Ladies!

Happy Leap Year February! Since it comes along only every 4 years, I feel extremely special to celebrate this year as president of EWI. Do you know why leap years are necessary? According to the "Old Farmer's Almanac" adding an extra day every four years keeps our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons, since a year

according to the Gregorian calendar (365 days) and a year according to Earth's orbit around the Sun (approx. 365.25 days) are not the same length. Ages ago, Leap Day (February 29) was known as "Ladies Day" as it was the one day when women were free to propose to men. Let's start a new tradition and treat ourselves to something extra special on this Leap Day or "Ladies Day."

I am so excited and proud of EWI! Our Chapter Connect honoring new member firms was a great success. We had a great turnout; the food was delicious and plentiful (thank you, HEB!), and the activities were so much fun. We have posted a story on our local EWI website ([corpuschristiewi.org](http://corpuschristiewi.org)) with photos and the fun **Member Bingo card** we played. We learned all sorts of fun facts about our members. Thanks to the Membership Committee for all the hard work to make it a successful evening. And a special shout-out to our hostess, Susan Hutchinson, for opening her beautiful home.

Mark your calendar, March 4, for our next monthly luncheon. Our March speaker will be our very own Debbie Lindsey-Opel, who will speak about marketing yourself and our elevator speech. I have had the opportunity to hear Debbie speak on several occasions, and she is an amazing public speaker who always engages her audience with great information and thought-provoking ideas. You will not want to miss this luncheon. Special thanks to the Program Committee for the great programming! And don't forget to bring your \$CASH\$ to the luncheon for our monthly fundraiser and see if you're our lucky winner this month.

As of today, we have 42 firms and 50 representatives! And 6 of those firms joined in 2020! We are on a roll, ladies! Who do you know who would enjoy and benefit from our EWI organization? Thank you for spreading the news and helping EWI grow!

We are EWI!

Gracie Martin-Ensemble Group

## 2019-2020 Officers & Directors

### President

Gracie Martin, Ensemble Group

### Vice-President/President-Elect

Virginia Whitham,  
Navy Army Community Credit Union

**Secretary-** Karen Barnes,  
LK Jordan and Associates

**Treasurer -** Marcia Keener,  
MJKeener Coaching

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jessica Nesblett, High Touch  
Technologies

### Programs

Janet Maxwell, Wittigs Office  
Interiors

**Scholarships -** Laura Hausman,  
Northern Beef Industries

**Publications-** Lisa Wright,  
Your Personal Best Training Studio

**Website PR –** Barbie Baker  
JBBM Marketing

**Membership -** Sharon Trott

### Ways & Means

Carla Hoffman,  
Hoffman Hearing Solutions, LLC  
Taylor Cravey  
Taylor Cravey Photography

**Reading Rally –** Gracie DeRusse

### Director At Large

Donna Patterson,  
CAPTRUST Financial Advisors



## Why EWI?

When I joined EWI almost 20 years ago, it was at the urging of our dear sustainer Annette Cottingham. She said I could network with other businesswomen who might be interested in purchasing my clothing. So, I joined, but wow, I quickly learned there was so much more to EWI than just “networking.”

Over the years, I went from clothing sales to a hiatus, and back again with the Art Museum of South Texas, EWI has become a constant in my life that I have come to appreciate for many reasons. Yes, I get to network with other smart, talented women, but I have also come to count on many of you as personal friends, which is very important in our fractured, deadline-driven world. EWI taught me to take a leadership role serving on the Board in several capacities as well as President. The discipline one must embrace to lead 24 meetings, stay on top of each committee, and work through various challenges truly expands one’s capabilities. While I always felt fairly confident in my capabilities, EWI not only reinforced that confidence but also gave me the tools to further expand my leadership awareness. This awareness has helped me considerably in my career, as well as my “whole being.”

Finally, each time I attend an EWI meeting, I am reminded that each of us has many talents, abilities, and resources. The opportunity to draw on such a vast source of excellence is a special thing, and I’m honored and humbled to be a part of this excellent group.

**Sheri Emerick**  
**Director of Development**  
**Art Museum of South Texas**  
**An Affiliated Museum of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**  
 361-825-3512  
*Please Remember the Art Museum of South Texas in your Estate Planning*

## DATES TO NOTE

### February 26th, 2020

EWI Board Meeting  
 CC Yacht Club

### February 28th, 2020

TAMUCC Homecoming  
 Alumni Honors Banquet

### February 29th, 2020

Leap Day / “Ladies Day”  
 Wherever you are!

### March 4th, 2020

EWI Monthly Luncheon  
 Citrus Bistro - Upstairs

### March 5, 2020

Y Women in Careers  
 Honorees Event

### Sunday - March 8th, 2020

Spring Forward 1 hour

### October ‘19 – August ‘20

Chapter Champion’s Challenge  
 - Ongoing

## PLEASE NOTE

You are able to pay the lunch fees by credit card when you RSVP.

There will be an additional service charge for credit card processing, or you can pay as normal at the door.

## MARCH LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Our speaker for March is our very own Debbie Lindsey-Opal

**“Show Up, Speak Up and Stand Out!”**

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> @ Citrus Bistro



Beginning her career in South Texas more than 30 years ago, Debbie has extensive knowledge and experience working with government as well as issues related to retail, development, construction, and workforce. She served in numerous roles with the City of Corpus Christi including that of Chief of Staff for Mayor Mary Rhodes. Following her work with the City, she went to work for Texas' premiere grocery retailer, H-E-B, as Director for Public Affairs for South Texas. Her primary focus was developing external communications and community engagement strategies. After her work with HEB, she served on the Corpus Christi City Council.

Debbie is recognized for her innovation, perception, and her ability to work well with diverse, multi-stakeholder groups. Her strengths include outreach activities, strategic planning and communications consulting.



### MISSION

Executive Women International (EWI) brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of; promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

### VISION

To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference.

### VALUES

Integrity | Excellence |  
Respect | Collaboration



## MONTHLY FUNDRAISER

Bring your \$CASH\$, one lucky winner splits the pot with funds going to our Reading Rally Project.



## CHAPTER CONNECT...

**...hit a high note in February, revealing fun facts, and by welcoming new member firms in a very special way!**

*"It was an amazing evening connecting with each other in a fun way. There were lots of smiles, there was lots of laughter," said Chapter President Gracie Martin.*

*"It's evident we are a top-caliber organization; I hope everyone can take pride in their EWI membership. I want to thank the Membership Committee and everyone who had a part in planning the event, including Linda Allen and HEB who provided an impressive array of wonderful hors d'oeuvres. I especially want to thank EWI member Susan Hutchinson for hosting us. The welcoming beauty of her home helped make it a memorable occasion."*

### New Member Firms



New member firms and their representatives at the Chapter Connect were: Front row, l-r – Cutright Communications, Judith Cutright; MicroSeal of South Texas, Janet Maxwell; and City of Portland, Kathleen Weisenberger. Back row, l-r – Your Personal Best Training Studio, Lisa Wright; American Bank, Cassy Fleming (2nd rep); Stonewater Properties, Cherylyn Boyd; Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, Amanda Campbell (new rep); Middle East Market, Liza Leal Hamauei; and MJ Keener Coaching, Marcia Keener.

Read the full article here → <https://www.corpuschristiewi.org/chapter-connect-hits-a-high-note-reveals-fun-facts-welcomes-new-member-firms/>



## FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>, EWI MEMBER Christine Salch to be RECOGNIZED

### University Announces Homecoming Banquet Honorees for 2020

Contributed Content | Published: January 14, 2020



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The National Islander Alumni Association and Islanders Athletics at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi proudly announce their award honorees for the 2020 Homecoming Honors Banquet, taking place Friday, Feb. 28, in the University Center, Anchor Ballroom.

**...the 2020 recipients include three:  
Distinguished Alumni Awards. One to our  
very own EWI member ~**

- **Outstanding Alumnus: Christine Salch '84** – Founding partner of CPA firm Swank, Salch & Henderson, P.C. Salch is a proud Islander who makes an effort to hire TAMU-CC graduates, and lends her talents to community foundations and boards.

For a full list of all alumni-related Homecoming events,  
visit [www.islanderalumni.org/Homecoming](http://www.islanderalumni.org/Homecoming); or call 361.825.5787.



**SPRING  
FORWARD  
Sunday, March 8th**



# MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, EWI MEMBERS Gracie Marting and Melody Nixon-Bice to be RECOGNIZED

Help us develop the next generation of women leaders. Become a sponsor of the 40th Annual

## y Women In Careers

3.05.20

Solomon Ortiz Center, 6:00pm

### 2020 HONOREES

**Gracie G. Flores**  
Pension Plan Administrator  
Corpus Christi Firefighters

**Sally Munroe Gill**  
Vice President / Co-Owner  
Gill's Landscape Nursery, Inc.

**Diana K. Ivy, Ph.D.**  
Professor/Communication  
Texas A & M—Corpus Christi

**Gracie García Martín**  
President/CEO  
Ensemble Group

**Lynette Chastain Navar**  
Nursing Director  
Mission of Mercy

**Melody Nixon-Bice**  
General Manager  
Embassy Suites Hotel

**Constance P. Sanchez, CPA**  
Chief Financial Officer  
City of Corpus Christi

**Dana L. Sisk, CPA**  
Executive Vice President  
Navy Army Community CU



Visit [ywcacc.org](http://ywcacc.org)  
for complete  
Hall of Fame list

### RESERVATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS:

- ☐ Sapphire \$2,500 (preferred table placement for 10 & 2 YWTeen Leadership Camp sponsorships)
- ☐ Table Sponsorship \$1,250 (reserved table for 10 at banquet & 2 YWTeen Leadership Camp sponsorships)
- ☐ Ruby \$500 (5 seats & 1 YWTeen seat at banquet)
- ☐ Friend of a YWTeen \$300 (2 ind. seats & 1 YWTeen seat at banquet)
- ☐ Individual Banquet Seat \$85 (\$100 after Feb 20)
- ☐ I want to join the mission movement of the YWCA - \$70
- ☐ Sorry, I'll miss the fun – enclosed is a donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name: (as you would like it printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name / Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: ☐ Enclosed Check ☐ Send Invoice ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_


Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Ex. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to Development Coordinator ([devywca@ywcacc.org](mailto:devywca@ywcacc.org)) retain a copy for your records  
Online reservations: [www.ywcacc.org](http://www.ywcacc.org)

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The YWCA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization — EIN #: 74-1157366; your gift is deductible to the extent allowed by the law.



# Minutes of the Board of Directors 12.19.20

	<p align="right"><b>Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting</b> EWI of Corpus Christi EWI © 12.19.19</p>
<b>Call to Order</b>	12:02:00 PM Gracie welcomed Karen and thanked her for accepting Secretary position.
<b>Roll Call</b>	Gracie Martin, Janet Maxwell, Virginia Whitham, Sharon Trott, Donna Patterson, Jessica Neblett, Marcia Kenner, and Karen Barnes.
<b>Minutes:</b>	
Virginia Whitham reviewed the minutes. Virginia had minutes from the last board meeting and the minutes of the November Business Meeting on 11/6/19, proposing the Individual Membership be eliminated. These was "approved as amended." Donna motioned and Jessica 2nd. Minutes were approved. All in favor. November Board Meeting. Donna Patterson moved to approve, Sharon Trott second. Motion passed. Both were approved.	
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	
Treasurer's report was presented as attached: Marcia Keener said there was a .83 error. .25 Oct. .58 Nov. Marcia corrected in QuickBooks in American Bank \$26,232.64, NACCU B/C/DP Share \$25, NACCU Checking \$20,470.96, NACCU Share \$27.10, NACCU CD \$14,851.60, Petty Cash \$40. Total \$61,647.30. Motion to vote on passing financials for Oct and Nov. Marcia motioned to approve and Virginia 2nd, all in favor. Gracie will start an email with Christine to do taxes and option for EWI to pay. Donna said there is a budget 3 to attend LCAM and for 2 to attend TexOma in 2020. New Firm should be \$75. Modify Fiscal Year New Members - Total \$875 should be \$725. Motion to accept budget as amended. Jessica said yes. Gracie will submit to membership for vote in January.	
<b>President's Report:</b>	
President Gracie Martin covered the following topics: New Executive Board: President: Gracie Martin, Vice President: Virginia Whitham, Secretary: Karen Barnes, Treasurer: Marcia Keener. Two Navy Army Accounts need to be updated to remove old names and add new Executive Board. Note of P.O. Box 1755, CC, TX 78403 (downtown). American Bank is electronic. Name tags were used for firm night - 20 members and 2 guests. Informational: Board usually pays for Mildred's membership. Gracie will pay for her this year. Mildred ran Reading Rally for years. Mildred is a long time member. Next Board Meeting is at the Yacht Club - last Wednesday of the month, 1/29/2020. This is all Gracie has.	
<b>Vice President's Report:</b>	
No report.	
<b>Communications:</b>	
RSVP - will be accepting credit cards. Jessica will still use the same website but will use a link on her email. If a member uses their credit card, there will be a fee. We can elect to pay for it or pass it to the member. \$25 lunch, \$5 charge no lunch, 3% for credit card to bank account. When the member RSVPs, Jessica will know if they have already paid or not. 2.9% Maybe have a table for non-eating members. Donna motioned \$5 for non-eaters and implementing \$1 fee for credit card service, Jessica 2nd, all in favor. We will put this in the January newsletter and announce at the January meeting. Jessica will implement in February.	
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	
Discussed several options after survey went out to membership about meeting options: Salt Grass, First Baptist, Mirador, Kleberg Bank, TAMU, Del Mar. Sharon Trott discussed Belinda Ladabaum "Pampered Chef" for membership to the board before presenting to membership. Sharon motioned. Donna 2nd. All in favor. Sharon said the Membership Committee is going to have a "Chapter Connect" on 2/6/2020 at 6:00 p.m. and Susan Hutchinson is going to host at her home. This will be a special event once or twice a year. Gracie will welcome everyone, say a few words, go over operational details, etc. Janet said she gave Sharon the book - history of the chapter, pictures of our 10 year Anniversary, and a book of Reading Rally. Sharon will put this in the newsletter and send it out with RSVP. Gracie said for us to make it a fun event. Viginia suggested get to know each other at a table, networking - speed dating... Valentine's Day. Sharon reminded this is about new members but loves her idea. (Something to break the ice)	
<b>Adjournment:</b>	
1:05pm	
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>Submitted:</b>