

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT



I cannot believe it has been a year since I took office as President of EWI, and WOW, what a year it has been! At moments October 2019 feels like a lifetime ago (pre-pandemic), and at moments it feels like just yesterday. I have learned so much about leading a complex organization of women leaders, especially in chaos and change. The most treasured memories of this year will be working alongside you and getting to know so many of you.

I looked at my first Presidential letter, where I documented my goals for the year, and I am proud to say we have accomplished all and added a couple.

### ***Goal 1: Move forward with technology where it makes sense.***

#### ***What we did this year:***

- Moved our accounting system to QuickBooks Online – making it easier to access
- Established credit card payments for luncheons fees – pre-COVID
- Opened an EWI Store to use for donations and EWI merchandise
- Moved us to the Virtual ZOOM Monthly Meeting (I did not plan on this one – LOL)

### ***Goal 2: Emphasis our “Why EWI”-- Let’s get back to basics.***

#### ***What we did this year:***

- Each month in our monthly newsletters, we read testimonials from members on their “EWI Why.” They shared their reasons why they value their membership, including their relationships and the community within the EWI family. We even grew our membership this year!
- This year, the programming committee outdid itself with many great educational and informational speakers, including the well-attended mayoral forum.
- EWI continued mission to help our community through the scholarship we awarded and the planned Reading Rally (social distanced, of course) on October 17.

Not too bad for a year full of change and chaos.

To the outgoing board of directors and committee chairs, thank you, thank you, thank you for your support and your willingness to travel this road with me this past year. Without your hard work and dedication to EWI, we would not have gotten through it so easily. I treasure each of you.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve and help move EWI forward. EWI is such a strong, giving organization, and it has so many deep roots in our community that when the storm hit, and it did this year, the

organization swayed, but we stood strong, and we continued to thrive. So proud of EWI!

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 by Virginia Whitham, CHRO

Joining EWI, I was excited and a little intimidated .... asked to fill a membership held by an incredible leader and mentor, Sarah O'Brien. At first, my thoughts ran to - who me, I'm not a CEO or business owner... and these are BIG shoes to fill! I've been embraced with such sincerity and welcomed as a professional from my first meeting to now.

As the Chief Human Resources Officer at Navy Army Community Credit Union (NACCU), I often speak to employees about why we chose them to be part of the NACCU family – shared Values. Throughout my career and community service, I have also applied these guiding principles of shared values. While our EWI values aren't explicitly listed, it is easy to see common threads of mentorship, entrepreneurial/can-do spirit, sincerity, and service to each other and our community – values, I too, embrace.

Now more than ever before, how we act is as important as what we say. COVID has brought a heightened awareness of self and how we treat each other. I'm proud of how quickly EWI members and leaders responded to this new environment, and I believe it is due to our shared values. Many organizations are frozen with fear, eliminating programs and service opportunities. This year we've added new fund-raising ideas, continued with Reading Rally, Scholarships, and hosted incredible speakers in Zoom! This leadership is the spirit of EWI – driven by our values. I'm excited to see what 2021 brings - as I'm confident we will meet it strong and value lead!

~ Virginia

Virginia E. Whitham, SPHR, SHRM-SCP  
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361-986-8052 fax



#### October 7th, 2020

\*EWI ZOOM Monthly Meeting /  
Installation of Officers

#### October 17th, 2020

\*EWI Reading Rally

#### October 28th, 2020

\*EWI Evening Board Meeting  
5:30 PM



#### 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

## OCTOBER ONLINE NOON MEETING



### Installation of EWI Officers

**MC:** Sheri Emerick

**NOTE:** At our chapter meeting held virtually on September 2, 2020, attending members voted on the following slate of officers:

**President**

Virginia Whitham,  
Navy Army Community Credit Union

**Vice-President/President-Elect**

Karen Barnes,  
LK Jordan and Associates

**Secretary**

Jamie Fuentes  
Fountain of Clover

**Treasurer**

Laura Hausman,  
Northern Beef Industries

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

Linda Calhoun  
Marlin Works Inc.,

## ZOOM LOG-ON INSTRUCTIONS

**ZOOM info:**

**Topic:** EWI October Monthly Zoom Meeting

**Date:** Oct 7th, 2020

**Social Time:** 11:30 AM

**Program Begins:** 12:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/99533421811?pwd=Z3kxcUINby9Fak1sUGFmUFIybGpsZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 995 3342 1811

**Password:** 470693

**One tap mobile**

+13462487799,,99533421811#,,,,0#,,470693# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,99533421811#,,,,0#,,470693# US (San Jose)

**Dial by your location**

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Meeting ID:** 995 3342 1811

**Password:** 470693



## WAYS & MEANS

We are ordering again! Details for ordering deadline will be announced at the October Monthly ZOOMED meeting THIS Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Please place your order and additional donations TODAY!

~Carla & Taylor

**CALLING ALL EWI MEMBERS**

**\$45**

**\$25**

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to fundraise the same as in the past. We've been lucky enough to continue our meetings virtually, and at no extra cost to our members. Please consider donating your monthly meeting cost or an additional amount to support our wonderful causes!

**FUNDING BOBBI SIMMS SCHOLARSHIP AND READING RALLY**

SHOP NOW: <https://www.corpuschristiewi.org/shop/>

CLICK the "SHOP" Tab to order!

## READING RALLY – Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

Please let Mary Hime know if you would care to volunteer from 12:15 – 2:45 this day.

<mailto:mary.hime@captrust.com>

Enjoy these recorded past years as a “sneak” peak into this year’s theme!



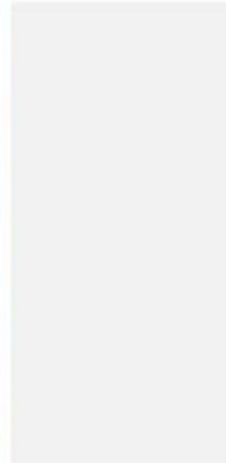
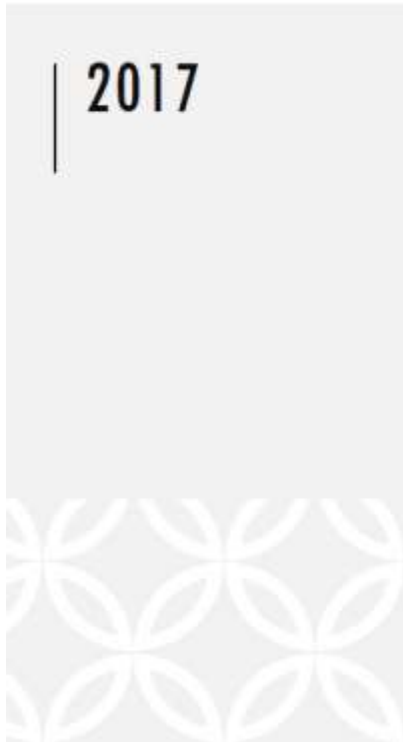
### A LOOK BACK

READING RALLY  
THIS WILL MARK OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

2018







## SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES ...

Encountered some technical difficulty, need board approval and will be made available at the November monthly meeting if not sooner!