

Letter from the President



“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled ‘til his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?” -Dr. Seuss

Christmas has different connotations for each of us. For me, it’s my favorite time of the year. I love the preparation. I love finding the perfect gift, I love decorating and the lights of the season, I love the anticipation you can feel in the stores and I love the kindness that seems to radiate from others.

The Grinch was right though, it’s a little bit more.... It’s wonderful that we, as an organization, were able to provide “a little bit more” through our donations to the *Caller-Times* Christmas Appeal. I’m sure you’ve all read some of the stories and the circumstances that people endure. It’s heart breaking. Hopefully, our donation of \$555.00 will bring some joy to a few that wouldn’t have anything to look forward to otherwise. Thank you to all who donated!

I also want to thank Myra Lombardo and all those at KEDT for hosting our December Firm Luncheon. Having the group participate in the Challenge round was very clever. I think it gave everyone a greater appreciation for those who are put in front of a camera and on the spot for a quick answer! It was fun!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you wonderful, amazing ladies. I hope you have a wonderful, happy and safe holiday.

Kathryn Dirks
ETCETERA Clothing
EWI Corpus Christi
President 2016-2017

2016-2017 Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

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Kathryn Dirks -- ETCETERA

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Sergeant-at-Arms

Lisa Wright - Your Personal Best

Retention and Recruitment

Tracy Trevino - Restorative Healthcare
of South Texas

Fundraising

Carla Hoffman-Hearing Aid Company of Texas

Programs

Janet Maxwell -- Business Interiors of Texas
Donna Patterson -
South Texas Money Management

Director At-Large & Nominating Committee

Sheri Emerick -- Art Museum of South Texas

Website & Public Relations

Gracie Martin -- Ensemble Group

Scholarship

Laura Hausman -- Northern Beef Industries

Publication

Sharon Trott -- Trott Communication

Public Relations

Debbie Lindsey-Opel
Three Dimensional Development

Reading Rally

Gracie Martin -- Ensemble Group
Linda Calhoun - Marlin Works

Announcements

From Jackie Ray, Omni Hotels: Jackie has met her production goals for 2017 and once again is included in the President's Circle of Excellence. Omni has announced her invitation to be included as their guest in an incentive trip to Mexico in April. All the winners will enjoy two separate resorts as they celebrate their success. Congrats, Jackie!

Jackie also shared a special initiative of **Omni Hotels & Resorts** called Say Goodnight to Hunger! Just as Omni Hotels & Resorts says 'goodnight' to millions of guests every year, the luxury hotel brand will now Say Goodnight to Hunger! For every stay booked directly on the brand's website, OmniHotels.com, it will make a donation to Feeding America® to provide a family of four dinner for an entire week.* Donations will benefit Feeding America and local members in the 42 communities where Omni Hotels & Resorts' 60 properties are located. Please read the attached news release for more information.

From Nancy Wesson-Dodd, YWCA: Many thanks to those of you who planned, sponsored, attended, and shopped at the Yuletide Market! It was successful--thanks to you! And, because of your generosity on Day of Giving, the YWCA (and many other non-profits) met financial goals, found new donors and look forward to another year of serving our community Thank you, ladies!

Lisa Wright with Your Personal Best Training Studio was featured on Medical Fitness Network's December Member Spotlight. Here's a link to the article: <https://medicalfitnessnetwork.org/all-mfn/member-spotlight-lisa-grace-wright-functional-aging-specialist-in-corpus-christi-tx>.

Check out the EWi Corpus Christi website. **Gracie Martin of Ensemble Group** is doing a great job with our website. Check it out at www.corpuschristiewi.org.

Our thoughts are with **Bam Benning of The Frame Up** and **Gloria Hicks of Ed Hicks Imports**. Bam broke her leg while visiting her daughter in Austin earlier this month. Gloria's husband had a heart attack in early December and was being treated in Houston at the Heart Institute. Please keep both in your thoughts and prayers.

January Birthdays

Nancy Wesson-Dodd	January 1
Libby Averyt	January 17
Lisa Wright	January 23
Sharon Trott	January 24
Linda Allen	January 28
Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton	January 30

Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

EWI Board Meeting
Noon, CC Yacht Club

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

EWI General Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Katz 21, 5702 Spohn Dr.



**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
EWI of Corpus Christi
EWI ®
December 7, 2016**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by President Kathryn Dirks.

Roll Call: Attending were: Kathryn Dirks, Stephanie Price, Lisa Wright, Tracy Trevino, Sheri Emerick, Carla Hoffman and Janet Maxwell

Minutes: November 2016 minutes were tabled to allow for corrections.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

President's Report: Kathryn Dirks reported that our member, Margaret Jataine of CC Produce, had passed away.

Vice President's Report: No report.

Sergeant at Arms Report: Lisa Wright reported there were 31 members and 5 guests at the last general meeting. Lisa also stated she will send a reminder email to all members about bringing a check for the *Caller-Times* Christmas Appeal.

Website: No report.

Scholarship: No report.

Membership: No report.

Membership Orientation: No report.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Public Relations: No report.

Reading Rally: No report.

Standards of Excellence: No report.

Ways & Means: Carla Hoffman discussed possibly having a leadership conference next year. This would require sponsorships and partnerships from the community, along with one to two small fundraisers prior to the conference.

Publications: No report.

Programs: Janet Maxwell stated that our general meeting will be held at KEDT and is a Firm Day Luncheon. City Manager Margie Rose is scheduled to speak at our general meeting in January.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements: No announcements.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. by Kathryn Dirks

Submitted: Stephanie Price **Approved:**



Happy Holidays!

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OMNI HOTELS & RESORTS SAYS “GOODNIGHT TO HUNGER”

Luxury Hotel Brand to Help Provide a Family of Four Dinner for an Entire Week When Guests Book Direct on OmniHotels.com

DALLAS (June 21, 2016) — Just as Omni Hotels & Resorts says ‘goodnight’ to millions of guests every year, the luxury hotel brand will now *Say Goodnight to Hunger!* Beginning today, for every stay booked directly on the brand’s website, OmniHotels.com, it will make a donation to Feeding America® to provide a family of four dinner for an entire week.* Donations will benefit Feeding America and local members in the 42 communities where Omni Hotels & Resorts’ 60 properties are located.

Omni’s goal is to help Feeding America provide more than 18.2 million meals each year for food banks to feed kids, families and seniors in communities across the United States. *Say Goodnight to Hunger* is the largest campaign launched by a Feeding America hospitality partner.

“*Say Goodnight to Hunger* is an initiative I am personally proud of, because it embodies one the core values of our organization, which we call Local Market Leadership. We are committed to integrating into the culture of each of our locations and caring for those communities,” said Mike Deitemeyer, president for Omni Hotels & Resorts. “*Say Goodnight to Hunger* is a unique way to serve and support these local communities in which our company operates.

Omni’s contribution to Feeding America is just one element of its commitment to feeding families and reducing hunger nationwide. Throughout the nation, Omni associates will generously give their talent, time, and compassion to volunteer at food banks in their local communities to amplify the impact of the *Say Goodnight to Hunger* mission. Currently, almost one-third of Omni properties actively support food banks in their local communities – from volunteering at facilities and fundraising to holding food drives and gathering donations for their local food banks. The *Say Goodnight to Hunger* program is a natural extension of what is already happening across the hotel brand.

Today, more than 48 million Americans live in food insecure households, including 15 million children. One in seven Americans is currently served by Feeding America food banks, often facing difficult choices between paying bills and buying food. Food banks often serve hard-working individuals who are facing economic hardship.

“It isn’t getting any easier for the families we serve – one in seven Americans is food insecure, including one in five children” said Nancy Curby, Vice President Corporate Partnerships at Feeding America. “This new partnership with Omni Hotels will help us in our mission to feed America’s hungry.”