

## Letter From President

For as long as I can remember, fall has been my favorite time of the year. It may be because I was born in November so fall was the very first season I lived and experienced. Whether that is the reason or not, the truth is I can not get enough of fall. The colors, the weather, the holidays, the changes – it's all so magical to me. The season of change includes us here at EWI with the installation of the new board this past week. I am so excited to be ushering in another year with this strong, active and energetic group of ladies!



Thank you, ladies, for journeying with me these next 12 months.

There are a couple of Goals I have for this coming year.

1. Move forward with technology upgrades where it makes sense. For example we are moving our Accounting software to the Cloud. We hope to transition to QuickBooks Online giving us the ability to access the books from anywhere. Corporate EWI is also moving forward with technology changes as they are transitioning to a new Members Platform which will create Online Communities, so we have access to all our other EWI chapter members very easily. And there is an EWI phone app in the near future as well. So EXCITING!!
2. "Why EWI?" Let's get back to the basics. Why do we value our membership with EWI? Is it the Networking, Community Outreach (Reading Rally, Scholarships), or is it the Career growth and leadership opportunities that EWI provides? As we learn the needs of the membership, we as a board need to move us forward in those areas that benefit the membership the most. So you will see more surveys in the coming year. And more opportunities to learn about each other's reasons for membership.

### 2019-2020 Officers & Directors

#### President

Gracie Martin, Ensemble Group

#### Secretary

Virginia Whitham, Navy Army  
Community Credit Union

#### Treasurer

Marcia Keener, MJKeener Coaching

#### Ways & Means

Carla Hoffman, Hoffman Hearing  
Solutions, LLC

#### Membership Director

Sharon Trott, Sustaining

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jessica Neblett, High Touch  
Technologies

#### Programs

Janet Maxwell, Wittigs

#### Director At Large

Donna Patterson, South Texas Money  
Management, Ltd.

#### Publications Director

Lisa Wright, Your Personal Best  
Training Studio

## Letter From President continued

LCAM (Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting) last month was outstanding. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend as a delegate. I met so many great ladies and made connections, made new friends and learned that we belong to a phenomenal organization. We heard a story that exemplifies EWI connections that an EWI member shared. This EWI member was going through difficulties settling her late father's estate, specifically with an insurance policy. She had tried and tried to reach out to a local representative(s) and got nowhere. She was very frustrated and concerned. She remembered that there may be an EWI member that worked for that insurance company. With some research she called that EWI member at that insurance company in a different city and state and got immediate help. Within a day she had an insurance rep calling her and the estate settled quickly thereafter. That is the power of EWI! Till the next time. Please take some time to enjoy fall, I know I will. We ARE EWI!

Gracie Martin  
Chapter President  
Ensemble Group

### DATES TO NOTE

**November 7, 2019**

ArtBall – Immersion, A  
Celebration of the Senses  
Art Museum of South Texas  
7:30

**November 6, 2019**

Noon EWI Chapter Meeting  
at the Corpus Christ Art  
Center

**November 8, 2019**

Yuletide Market Holiday Inn  
Downtown Marina  
10:00-3:00

**January 23, 2020**

KEDT Food & Wine Classic



## Membership to vote on rescinding Standing Rule #19

During the chapter meeting on November 6, the membership will be asked to vote on a proposal to rescind Standing Rule #19 thereby eliminating the Individual Member category. On August 28, the board of directors, upon recommendation from the Membership Committee, approved sending this change to a vote of the chapter.

**Background:** After a corporate-wide vote in 2014, this level of membership was included in the Chapter Bylaws as a way to help chapters throughout EWI grow their membership. Chapters were given the option of including it or not in their Standing Rules. In 2014, the Corpus Christi chapter approved Standing Rule #19 to include the Individual Member category.

The wording of the rule as adopted by the Corpus Christi chapter is:

*Individual Member. The Chapter may vote in an Individual Membership class of membership. An Individual Member shall be an employee of a business that is not a Member Firm of the Chapter. An Individual Member shall not promote such business. (Standing Rule #19)*

After careful consideration over the last several months, the Membership Committee determined that this membership category does not work well with the non-compete and business networking aspects of our chapter and recommended to the board of directors that it be eliminated. The remaining options for membership are the Business Member, Transitional Member, and Sustaining Member.

### Reasoning:

- An Individual Member must be employed by a business that is not a current member.
- An Individual Member cannot promote a business. This is not well-understood and could be ignored, forgotten, or abused. If the Individual Member works for a business that is a competitor of a current member firm, it could present conflicts if it is perceived that the Individual Member is promoting the firm.
- An Individual Member prospect must go through the approval process, however, there are few guidelines for approval of or objection to a proposed Individual Member. Objections to business member prospects can be based on conflict of interest from an existing member firm in the same business category or for the negative status in the community (*Standing Rule #3*). This would not seem to apply to a prospective Individual Member as the firm is not the entity being considered for membership.
- Value is lost to all chapter members when an Individual Member cannot fully participate in networking or in promoting her business.
- Individual Member dues are the same as a Business Membership.



## Reading Rally

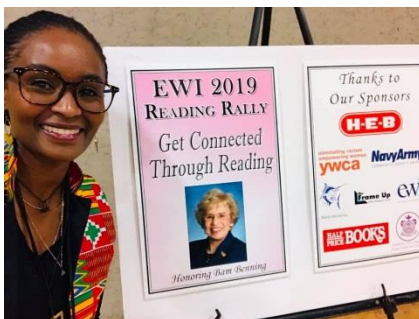


Colleagues,

This week the 48 YWTeens who participated in the Reading Rally have been full of excitement! They greet the facilitators with their happiness about “so many books of my own, the wonderful presents in the red bag, the delicious food and the ladies who give good talks and can read out loud so good, too!” The girls who didn’t attend are filing this away for next year!



Special thanks to each of you who contributed in some way—from Gracie DeRusse & Gracie Martin for co-chairing the event, to Donna for baking & decorating the cupcakes, to NACCU for the very special photos for each girl, to Mildred for shopping, to the crafts, to Myra for keeping us on track with planning & implementation and to Liza for your engaging & motivational talk. If I’ve forgotten anyone, it’s a brain thing, not a heart thing. I just wish you could hear first-hand how much these girls appreciate your taking an interest in them! It will make a difference in their lives for many years to come!



Have a great evening knowing that you’ve seriously impacted 48 young girls forever,

Nancy

Nancy Wesson-Dodd, President/CEO  
YWCA Corpus Christi  
4601 Corona (11)  
361-857-5661 x 103

Photography by Liza Wisner

## Art Museum of South Texas ArtBall Fundraiser



**ArtBall – Immersion, A Celebration of the Senses**

**Benefiting the Art Museum of South Texas Exhibition and Education programs**

**Thursday, November 7th, 7:30**

**Black Tie**

**Host Bar**

**Valet Parking**

**Tickets \$250**

Call 825-3500 for more information or go to [www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org](http://www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org) to purchase tickets

## EWI Making Dreams Come True

The philosophy of paying it forward is in the hearts and minds of our EWI chapter members. Two women have better lives and hope for a better future due to the EWI scholarship they received.

Laura,

I am humbled and grateful to once again be honored by EWI and HEB. I wish I could have made it to the fundraiser last night to share my thanks in person. I look forward to graduating next August and sharing this occasion with all of you.

Warmest regards,

**Raz Shakin**

**Counselor Education Ph. D. Student**  
**Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**



Susan Rutherford is in her final year of a Doctor of Philosophy degree. She is earning her Masters in Education. She has been actively teaching at the high school level. Her accomplishments will certainly influence the future leaders in our community.

July 22, 2019

Executive Women International  
719 S. Shoreline Drive, Suite 204  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

RE: EWI Bobbi Sims Scholarship

Dear committee members,

Thank you for your kind generosity and support you have shown through this scholarship. Without this help, I would not be able to pursue my doctoral degree in Education/Instructional Design at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. My name is Susan Rutherford and I am the first and only college graduate of my family. My family consisted of my father, who served our country in the Air Force and my mother, who was a tax enrolled agent, and my four siblings. I have lived in Kingsville since 1982 because my parents chose to move and retire here.

My work history includes being a retail manager trainer for ten years, a Courseware Author for Boeing Aerospace for nine years, and administrative assistant for the College of Pharmacy. Even though I enjoyed my work early on in my life, I never truly felt fulfilled until I realized my passion was teaching! I have taught for the past five years high school business classes and college business computer information systems classes for Coastal Bend College. I love what I do, and I hope I am making a difference in the lives of others.

I have three grown children that make me extremely proud every day. Gary Rule, my eldest, is a youth pastor in Arizona with his wife Kelsey. Kevin Rule, my middle child is a semi pro soccer coach in San Antonio for the Elite Classics Soccer Academy. His team recently made it to Nationals and will compete in San Diego, California. The baby of the family, Hope Rutherford, graduated from high school and decided to follow in her grandfather's steps and joined the Air Force. Hope finished Basic Training on June 5<sup>th</sup> and went to tech school. Because all my children are grown and successful in what they do, this helps me have time to pursue my passion, education.

Thank you so much for honoring me to be the recipient of your scholarship. I look forward to sending you another letter once I have completed my degree.

Sincerely,

Susan Rutherford

## EWI Installation



Photography by Lisa Wright and Taylor Cravey



# You're Invited!

## YWCA 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Yuletide Brunch & Market by the Bay



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN MARINA  
11:30 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

featuring guest speaker  
**Marisa Ortiz**

Presenting  
*The Four Agreements for Life*  
Based on Best Seller by  
don Miguel Ruiz

**Benefits YWCA Programs & Mission**  
eliminating racism **ywca**  
empowering women

Tickets • Sponsorships • Tables

**[www.ywcacc.org](http://www.ywcacc.org)**

Luncheon Tickets \$75 (includes market entry)  
Public Market Shopping—Admission only \$5!  
Market Hours: Friday 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Silent Auction • Unique Merchants • Free Valet Parking

Details: [devywca@ywcacc.org](mailto:devywca@ywcacc.org) / 857-5661 X 102

Presenting  
Sponsor



# YWCA IS ON A MISSION





For more information on the  
YWCA Corpus Christi Yuletide Market  
Call (361) 857-5661 x 30 or visit  
[www.ywcacc.org](http://www.ywcacc.org)  
Silent Auction Donor Form may be  
Fax to: 857-0254 ATTN: YULETIDE

### ***YWCA Corpus Christi 2019 Yuletide Luncheon & Market Silent Auction Donation Form***

Take this opportunity to showcase your product or service in front of a large number of potential customers. We recommend donated items be valued at \$50 retail or greater; however all donations are gladly accepted.

***All items need to be available for pick up or be delivered by November 1, 2019.***

(please print)

Donated by (Business Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Name to be used on any printed material \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Auction Item\*(please include expiration date if applicable and any other special details)**

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*The Holiday Inn Downtown Marina will not permit alcoholic beverages to be available for auction,  
please substitute a redeemable certificate for same.*

**Retail price/Value of Item \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the appropriate item below for availability during the auction:**

**Actual Item    Picture of Item    Floor Display    Table Display    Gift Certificate**

**Item Included** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be delivered.**    If so, delivery date \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**To be picked up.**    If so, pick up date \_\_\_\_\_

*Auction number given by  
Auction Committee*

**Any additional information needed** \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*Specify any restrictions, fees, expiration dates, etc. and attach a copy of any necessary contracts, obligations, etc. to this form. Auction items may be grouped to maximize the fundraising potential of the Silent Auction.*

*The YWCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (EIN 74-1157366). Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Please retain a copy of this form for your records.**



**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
**EWI of Corpus Christi**  
**Date: 8/28/2019**

<b>Call to Order</b>	12:05
<b>Roll Call</b>	Gracie Martin, Mary Beth Riley, Linda Calhoun, Sharon Trott, Bunny Forgione, Gracie DeRusse, Holly Lewis, Carla Hoffman, Mary Helen Johnston (via phone conference).
<b>Minutes:</b>	
Mary Beth Riley presented the minutes from the July meeting. Bunny Forgione moved to accept as presented. Carla Hoffman seconded. Motion passed.	
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	
Vice President Gracie Martin presented the treasurer's report with cash position at August 31, 2019 as follows: American Bank - \$27,095.38; NACCU B/C/DP checking - \$17,470.96; NACCU B/C/DP Share account - \$25.00; NACCU CD - \$14,851.60; NACCU Share account - \$27.10; Petty cash - \$40.00. Total \$58,510.04. Mary Beth Riley moved to accept as presented; Holly Lewis seconded. Motion passed.	
<b>President's Report:</b>	
Vice President Gracie Martin presided over the meeting in Donna Patterson's absence. Gracie notified the Board that our CD was due for renewal at NACCU. Sharon Trott moved to renew; Bunny Forgione seconded. Motion passed.	
<b>Vice President's Report:</b>	
<b>Communications:</b>	
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	
<b>Sergeant at Arms Report:</b>	
Linda Calhoun advised the Board that she needs response for Chapter meeting attendance by Friday because of the Monday holiday.	
<b>Website:</b>	
<b>Scholarship:</b>	



**Membership:**

Sharon Trott reported that the Membership committee has been working hard. She thanked Gracie Martin for putting together the survey. She has received roughly 20 responses to date. The membership committee is putting together an event for new members.

Sharon also discussed the value of the individual membership vs. possible problems. She moved to remove the individual membership class from our Standing Rules. Motion passed. It will be presented to membership for vote at Chapter meeting.

Sharon presented a list of six firms plus one additional representative that Diane LaRue had proposed as follows:

Voest Alpine Texas, LLC/ Sofia Pacurar Gignac/ Executive Assistant to the CEO

United Corpus Christi Chamber/ Gargi Bhowal/Director of Special Events

Texas A&M – Corpus Christi/ Jaime Nodarse Barrera (primary rep)/ Acting VP for Institutional Advancement

Kimberly Becerra (additional rep)/Executive Director of Development

Texas General Land Office/Simone Butler Sanders/Community Outreach Coordinator

ZIZ Hospitality/Embassy Suite/ Melody Nixon-Bice/ General Manager

Hearing Aid Company of Texas/Christina York/Owner.

After discussion, it was decided to table the consideration of Hearing Aid Company of Texas until some clarifications could be made. Sharon Trott moved to extend an invitation to the other 5 firms and one additional representative; Holly Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

**Membership Orientation:****Nominating Committee:****Public Relations:****Reading Rally:**

Gracie DeRusse gave an update on the plans for the Reading Rally. They are expecting sixty girls. Liza Wisur will speak.

**Standards of Excellence:****Ways & Means:**

Carla Hoffman reported that the plans for the fundraiser are coming along nicely. They already have \$5,000 pledged in sponsorships.

**Publications:****Programs:**

Holly Lewis said Todd Hunter will be the speaker at the next Chapter meeting. She has two member firms interested in hosting the December Firm Night.

**Unfinished Business:****New Business:****Announcements:****Adjournment: 1:15 pm**

Approved: 9/25/2019

Submitted: Mary Beth Riley