

President's Letter



Hello ladies,

Thanks to everyone that attended the April meeting! What a great time we had with the Drum Café, and wasn't that a beautiful venue? If not for our Program Chair, Kelsey Hankins, *Porter Loring Mortuaries*, I think many of us would not have known about *The Event Center at Plaza Lecea*. I love finding new event spaces, thank you Kelsey.

Have you turned in your straw ballot form to Nominating Committee Chair, Christina Casiano, *Bill Miller Bar-B-Q*? Rumors are that the committee will be meeting in the next few weeks in order to provide a slate of officers at the June meeting. Since we have our non-meeting in July, we will need to vote in August so we can install new officers in September. This year is flying by!

And now it is time to honor our Executives at our Executive Night Banquet on May 19th. I hope everyone will plan to invite their executives to join us as we present our 2016 EWISP and ASIST scholarship awards. This meeting is always a favorite of mine. Our ASIST Chair, Denise Cross, *Arthur Pfeil Smart Flowers, Inc.* and EWISP Chair, Cathy Rogers, *Omni La Mansion del Rio/Mokara Hotel & Spa* have both been working hard with their committees and judges, and each committee received 16 applications! It's a big job to whittle 16 worthwhile applicants for each award down to three winners, but the judges have done their work and we look forward to meeting our six winners at the meeting.

This year we will be giving out \$18,000 in scholarships, \$9,000 to the three ASIST winners and \$9,000 to the three EWISP winners. We thank our member firms for being so generous and it's great to be able to say that all of the scholarship money has been raised, thanks to our Fundraising Chair, Ronnette Pittman, *Security Service Federal Credit Union*. Great job Ronnette!

It takes a lot of work to put together great meetings like we have had the pleasure of attending this year and we appreciate all of the committees working so well together. That's the beauty of EWI...our connections to each other and to our community. Although I have served on the board with several past presidents, I've never realized fully until now how much the success of each meeting is thanks to the hard work of all of the committee chairs doing their part each month, and we have some real stars! We are all volunteers after all, working together, giving our time for something we care about. I would like to also thank the board for all of your time given, your work this year and the great camaraderie that we have in making things happen. EWI of San Antonio is fortunate to have so many emerging leaders! It is a pleasure to work with you all. Thanks everyone and I hope to see you at the meeting.

Denise

2015-2016 Officers & Directors

President

Denise Blackmer
Bank of America

Vice President

Melissa Pina
CPS Energy

Secretary

Kelley Butler
The Frame Gallery

Treasurer

Joy Box
Fernandez Honda

Fundraising Director

Ronnette Pittman
Security Service Federal Credit Union

Membership Director

Amanda Avendaño
Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Sonia Veliz
Brooks City Base

Program Director

Kelsey Hankins
Porter Loring Mortuaries

Director-At-Large

M.J. Willis
Alisam Transportation Solutions

Publications Director

Maryellen Owen
Mood Texas

Important Dates

Upcoming Membership Meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Speaker / Program</u>
5/19/16	St. Mary's University	Executive Night, EWISP & ASIST Awards
6/23/16	Omni La Mansion	Toastmasters & Firm of The Year Award *
7/21/16	N/A	Non-Meeting
8/18/16	TBD	Reading Rally
9/15/16	TBD	New Board Installation

*For our June meeting, we will also be hosting the EWI Corporate Board of Directors.

May Firm Anniversaries:

USAA	43 Years
Quadrangle Press, Inc.	25 Years
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.	7 Years
Resources Global Professionals	7 Years
Deacon Recruiting	5 Years
Alisam Transportation Solutions	4 Years
Chama Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse	1 Year

June Member Birthdays:

June 4	Denise Blackmer	Bank of America
June 4	Karen Carawan	San Antonio Livestock Exposition
June 7	Barbara Jordan	Bank of America
June 8	MJ Willis	Alisam Transportation Solutions
June 9	Christina Casiano	Bill Miller Bar-B-Q
June 9	Kathie Gelata	Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.
June 12	Adriana Estevez	Morgan Stanley
June 13	Lori Stinson	San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
June 18	Caroline Diaz	Port San Antonio
June 25	Velma Real	Sustaining Member

May Membership Meeting

During the current fiscal year, and in true EWI spirit “to promote healthy, strong and sustainable communities”, our chapter participated in the Segs-4-Vets Walk in November. Segs4Vets is a non-profit organization gifting mobility devices (segways) to combat injured military of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. In December, our chapter collected and donated a lot of items to children in need through the Angel Tree program for Habilitative Homes of San Antonio.

On May 19th, we once again have the opportunity to see the good work our chapter members and firms have done for our communities at our annual Scholarship Banquet. This year, we will be awarding six scholarships totaling **\$18,000.00**.

From Ronnette Pittman, Fundraising Chair:

EWI members,

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, I would like to thank you all for your support and generous donations throughout the past few months. I am truly blessed and honored to team up with the most professional, kind hearted and generous women of EWI. A big thank you to all of the ladies who have provided assistance to our committee in our time of annual fundraising to support and fund our scholarships. Last, but not least, I want to give a big shout out to the most awesome team players Sue Ouimette, Diane Skillrud and Erin Sheehy-Campbell for going the extra mile on my committee. Your unconditional support and generous hearts make it easy to accomplish our goals monthly. To the member firms and representatives, again thank you and your company for always opening your hearts to give to others!

Total monies raised to date from the monthly meetings and member firms is \$22, 575.00.

We would like to thank the following member firms for contributing to our scholarship fund:

Bank of America

Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

CPS Energy

Fernandez Honda

Fralo's

H-E-B

Herff Travel, Inc

Joeris General Contractors

Marmon Mok

McMarr Properties, Inc

Mood: Texas

Morgan Stanley

Porter Loring Mortuaries

Pratt Industries

Raba Kistner, Inc.

Security Service Federal Credit Union

SWBC

Valero Energy Corporation

Zachry Corporation

We hope that you will be attending the Scholarship Banquet/Executive Night meeting on May 19th with your executive teams! It's an event to remember!

About the ASIST and EWISP Scholarships

The **ASIST** scholarship (*Adult Students in Academic Transition*) is available to adults facing economic, social, or physical challenges, who are looking to improve their situation through educational opportunities. Local Chapters partner with educational providers and social services agencies to identify potential candidates. Students first apply and compete at the local Chapter level. Chapter-level winners are submitted to the Corporate level for the opportunity to be selected for one of 13 scholarships ranging from \$2,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

EWISP (*Executive Women International Scholarship Program*) is an annual, competition-based program which awards more than \$200,000 .00 in college scholarship money each year to qualifying high school seniors. Students are nominated by their schools to participate in the scholarship competition. Judges select winning students based on their scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, good citizenship and extra-curricular activities.

High school seniors first apply for EWISP and then compete at the local Chapter level where award levels vary. Chapter level winners are submitted to the Corporate level for a chance to win one of multiple scholarships. Scholarship Awards range between \$1,000.00 and \$5,000.00.

Important News From The Nominating Committee

As a reminder, the Nominating committee has extended the deadline for all straw ballots for electing our new officers for 2016-2017 to May 12th. Please take the time to nominate others that you would like to see leading EWI of San Antonio - your voice counts! Please submit your forms to Christina Casiano @ ccasiano@billmillerbbq.com; fax to 210-302-1534 or mail to 430 South Santa Rosa, San Antonio, TX 78207.

From Christina Casiano, Nominating Committee Chair:

It is that time again and we are looking for nominations for our 2016-2017 Board of Directors. On April 18th, Debbie Saldana sent an email containing the information for nominating someone, or yourself, for a Board position for 2016-2017. That email contained a brief description of each Board of Directors position, the Nomination form, and the Board Questionnaire.

The nominating committee will meet in May to review the nominations and draft a new slate of Officers to be presented to the current Board on May 24th, and to the full membership on June 16th. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June meeting, and thereafter, nominations may be made to the President in writing by any five (5) representatives through June 30, 2016, at which time the nominations are automatically closed. All nominees will be contacted to obtain their willingness to serve, if elected.

If you have any questions please reach out to any of our Nominating Committee Members:

Christina Casiano

Bobbi Lutz

Melissa Pina

Frances Menjivar

Valerie Manns

Member Representative Spotlight

Representative: *Christy Miller*

Firm: *Tobin Center for the Performing Arts*

We are pleased to “spotlight” chapter representative,
Christy Miller



Christy Miller has been with Tobin Center for the Performing Arts for one year and 9 months and a member of our chapter for about a year.

Christy is currently serving on the Hospitality Committee. Christy says that EWI has helped her gain knowledge of multiple industries through our meeting speakers and also just in conversation with fellow members. The range of member firms is amazing and she loves learning about what everyone does and how they like it. EWI has helped her get to know her way around San Antonio and see lots of venues, buildings and areas that she would not have otherwise seen!

Christy would like to recognize Maryellen Owen for helping her adjust to being in the chapter. She says that Maryellen encouraged her to get more involved and join a committee. She suggested the Hospitality committee so that she could learn everyone’s name and get to know the member firms better, so that is where Christy is currently serving.

When asked what Christy would like to gain from being involved in EWI, she said she is excited to continue to gain connections and build relationships. Although she has only been here in San Antonio for two years now, she still sometimes feels like an outsider, but the ladies of EWI always make her feel welcome. She is truly grateful for that!

An interesting tidbit about Christy is that in just two short months she will be marrying her boyfriend of 5 years, Mark Lutz, who conveniently works for our member firm, Pape-Dawson Engineers. The wedding date is set for June 18th and she is thrilled and excited! She would love our support and prayers as she and her fiancé start their lives together!



**Congratulations
Christy and
Mark on your
upcoming
wedding!**



Member Firm News

Porter Loring Mortuaries ***Represented by Kelsey Hankins***

Porter Loring Mortuaries is celebrating their 98th Anniversary here in San Antonio! Since they first opened in 1918, they have never once closed their doors, providing continuous support to families in times of need.

From Porter Loring Mortuaries website:

Family Tradition

Porter Loring Mortuaries is San Antonio's oldest family - owned funeral home still operating under the same family management.

Simply put, this concept of "family" guides us in every part of our operation. We're currently in our fourth generation of active management by the Porter Loring family. We make it our policy to treat our staff the same way we would other members of our family. But most important is the impact this attitude has on our relationship with you – and with all the families who turn to us in time of need.



Read our founding philosophy

(<http://www.porterloring.com/sitemaker/sites/Porter1/?page=Foundingphilosophy>)

and you'll understand that ever since the company started in 1918, we envisioned ourselves as different – warmer, more personal – than other funeral firms of the day. It was precisely what motivated Porter Loring, Sr. to enter this profession.

Nearly a century later, all of us at Porter Loring Mortuaries continue to live by this vision. To express respect for each other and for the families we serve. To provide services that respond to changes in social custom and personal need. And to look for new ways to make a person's last rites more comforting and more meaningful to family and friends.



1101 McCullough Ave 78212 210) 227-8221
2102 North Loop 1604 East 78232 210) 495-8221
<http://www.porterloring.com>

**Congratulations to Porter Loring
Mortuaries on your 98th
Anniversary.**

**And, thank you for your
continued membership in EWI
of San Antonio.**

COMMITTEE NEWS

ASIST and EWISP Committees:

Our scholarship banquet is just around the corner. The EWISP and ASIST committees, along with the Program committee, have been hard at work organizing this extra-special event. Denise Cross, chairing the ASIST committee, and Cathy Rogers, chairing the EWISP committee, are excited to introduce the well-deserving scholarship winners to the general membership.

Program Committee:

The Program committee is tasked with double work for our May membership meeting. In addition to organizing the Scholarship banquet, May is also Executive Night. We always have a great turnout of executives with us for this very special meeting, and the Program committee is committed to making this an unforgettable event! Please take a moment to thank Kelsey and the entire Program committee for going the extra mile for the entire membership at EVERY meeting!

Fundraising Committee:

We will not be selling tickets at our May meeting. Fundraising Chair Ronnette Pittman, and her committee, have been hard at work raising donations for our scholarship fund, and since May is also Executive Night, and so many of our executives have already made donations, fundraising will be suspended for this one meeting. Be ready to buy your tickets in June!

Member News

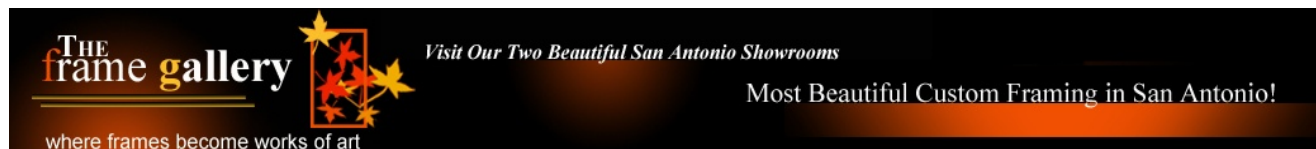
Maryellen Owen, representing Mood Texas, recently celebrated the wedding of her daughter, Rebecca. Becca married Austin William Gomez on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Rustic Gardens Event Center in Adkins, TX. The wedding was perfect. The happy couple honeymooned on St. John, Antigua.

Becca and Austin live in Carrollton. Becca is employed as a Staffing Consultant at Employee Solutions. Austin is a Production Coordinator at Custom Vehicle Solutions, a Rush Enterprises company (which will explain the themed wedding cake!).



Member Firm Spotlight

The Frame Gallery, represented by Kelley Butler



The Frame Gallery, a Great San Antonio Company! And So Much More!

Started in 1981 as *The Frame Gallery Workshop*, our company has always been a San Antonio Company. We have survived through good times and recessions - we believe because of our great Quality and Commitment to Excellence.

We are locally owned and operated and have great ties to the San Antonio community. We have two beautiful locations that we welcome you to visit!



5563 De Zavala Ste. 190
San Antonio, TX 78248
(between Walmart & post office)

Open 11AM-6PM
Monday-Saturday

Call 210-615-8229



Stone Oak location:
1160 N Loop 1604 W
San Antonio, Texas 78248
Between HEB and Lowes

Open 11AM-6PM
Monday-Saturday

Call 210-494-0141

Our staff is very helpful, very friendly and of course All Design Services are FREE! Our Designers can assist you in bringing your "Art to Life" with the perfect frame!

Custom Frames! We provide expert picture framing of Art, Posters, Shadow Boxes, Jerseys, Sports Memorabilia, Diplomas and almost anything else you can imagine putting into a frame.

Fantastic FREE Design Services! We offer Great Personal Service! We have over 50 years of combined experience on our staff. Our company loves custom framing and it shows. Let our staff help you design the perfect look for your artwork. See the difference between us and box stores.

Great Prices! Check out our Discounts! Did you know we offer Fantastic Savings on all types of projects? We offer discount coupons on shadow box, poster, diploma, needlework and art framing. Be sure to view our discount page for current savings.

Best Selection! Over 3000 Frame Selections! Most Box Framing Stores carry about 400 frames. We carry almost any frame you can imagine, OVER 3000 Frame samples! We carry rustic frames, western frames, ornate and contemporary frames, silvers, metals, on and on! We also offer all types of mat and glass selections you may ever need.

We Finish Faster! Two weeks or less! When your order is placed we give it our highest priority. Our goal is to finish in two weeks or less. We have a very good record with this time frame. We also offer 24 hour framing with select frames for a small fee.



Visit our website at:

<http://framegallerysa.com>

Memories from our April Membership Meeting with The Drum Café

Our special guests, the very talented Nina Rodriguez and the Drum Café crew! They were AMAZING.

If you are interested in purchasing a Drum Café T-Shirt, or would like more information on hosting a team meeting with The Drum Café as your guests, please visit their website at:

<http://www.drumcafesouth.com>



#wevegotrhythm



Betty Gavora and guest Butch Rosemann



Bobby Scott and Christina Casiano visiting at dinner

We rocked the house with our drumming skills!



Such a talented group! We've got rhythm.



Julie Lyssy came to drum with a Fiesta San Antonio flair!

Committee Chairs:

ASIST

Bylaws/Standing Rules

Chaplain

Courtesy

EWISP

Firm Of The Year

Historian

Hospitality

Membership Retention

Nominating Committee

Parliamentarian

Philanthropy

Roster

Strategic Planning

Denise Cross

Melissa Pina

Bobbye Scott

Debbie Saldana

Cathy Rogers

Erin Sheehy-Campbell

Helen Rios

Frances Menjivar

Bobbi Lutz

Christina Casiano

Kathy Beaman

Melissa Pinilla

Margaret Woods

Vicki Chapman

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Joyce Stuart

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Publications Committee

Maryellen Owen

Julie Lyssy

Vicki Chapman

Connie Ross

Joyce Stuart

Caroline Diaz

Jan Mundine

Joyce Houston