

Chartered 1958

September 2016 |

President's Letter

Hello ladies,

What an exciting August we had! The Reading Rally was so well done, many thanks to all the firms that generously donated the backpacks, school supplies and many books. Thanks to Taio Book, *Paychex, Inc.*, who organized the Reading Rally this year. Taio sure did a fabulous job! Thanks also to Linda Buck, *Herff Travel*, for connecting us with Lyn Harris, COO of *NAMEPA*, our guest speaker. She was so knowledgeable and really connected with the kids. Vikki Chapman and Rachel Heinsohn, *SWBC*, went all out and collected over a thousand books from their generous firm and presented them to Haven for Hope in the name of EWI.

Four of us represented our chapter at Texoma, and we had so many productive, sharing sessions! Amanda Avendano, *Enterprise Holdings, LLC*; Kelley Butler, *Frame Gallery*; M.J. Willis, *Alisam Transportation Solutions*; and I attended every event. One thing I found especially fascinating is that Houston hosts two Reading Rallies each year and this year at their Executive Night, they raised over \$107,000! Every firm contributed to a large silent auction, which is where most of the money was raised. And nearly every firm attended their event with their executives. Their turnout was great. Another tip they gave us was collecting gift cards, hotel nights and other donations from their community, outside of member firms. Other successful fundraising events from the other chapters included golf tournaments, having an EWI shopping night at a local jewelry store and the store contributed 20% of all EWI purchases back to the chapter, a shrimp boil dinner at a local restaurant, a walk, and EWI bingo. It was great hearing tips and additional ideas for meetings and we had some good speakers as well! One of the key items for successful chapters is working on your committees! Most donate at least two hours each month to help on their committees. Are you doing that?

Texoma is a great forum that is hosted alphabetically within our region. Our turn to host will be 2017 and we have three representatives that have agreed to be our tri-chairs: Amanda Avendano, *Enterprise Holdings, LLC*; Bobbi Lutz, *SA Economic Development Foundation*; and Vicki Chapman, *SWBC*. Thank you all three for stepping up to chair this big event!

Now we are gearing up for the September meeting, where a new board of directors and new president, Melissa Pina of *CPS Energy*, will be installed. I am confident that Melissa will serve our chapter well and will be a wonderful leader for us. We are also getting ready for LCAM (Leadership Convention and Annual Meeting) later this month. We have 18 representatives attending the meeting in Spokane, Washington, and we can't wait! It is so nice to be able to connect with representatives across the country that have become friends and meeting new friends. We're really looking forward to it!

I can't believe this year has gone by so fast and that this will be my last president's letter. I have been so honored and humbled to be your 2015-2016 president! I have been so lucky to have been able to work with and deepen the relationships I've had with our incredible board of directors and committee chairs, and am proud of what we have accomplished together this year. My sincere thanks to each of the 2015-2016 directors and committee chairs – you know what teamwork is all about. We have worked together in a meaningful way and I won't ever forget the great camaraderie we have. Keep on making those great connections and please continue to contribute to your committees. I guarantee that whatever time you put in will come back to you two-fold if not more!

Thank you all,

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> |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| 9/15/16 | Omni At The Colonnade | New Board Installation & Firm of the Year Award |

September Firm Anniversaries:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Morgan Stanley | 39 years |
| C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc. | 18 years |
| Project Control | 12 years |

September Member Birthdays:

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| September 10 | Marissa Carlisle | Omni La Mansion del Rio Hotel/Mokara Hotel & Spa |
| September 20 | Susie Salazar | St. Mary's University |
| September 20 | Amy Schutz | San Antonio Chamber of Commerce |
| September 28 | Sylvia Rodriguez | Valero Energy Corporation |

Fundraising Committee News:

As you know, our Fundraising Committee has done an outstanding job this year, and, thanks to the support of our member firms and representatives, we were able to give away an amazing \$18,000.00 in scholarships this year!

To celebrate the outgoing Board of Directors, and welcome the new, the Fundraising Committee will have a very special raffle at our September meeting. Rather than raffling off several smaller items, Ronnette Pittman and team have been hard at work putting together a 'one-of-a-kind' basket to raffle off. Many special items have been collected by the committee and will be in the basket. **Please plan to purchase raffle tickets for this special item! Remember, checks are welcome!**

From Ronnette and Committee: *"Thank you in advance for all of your support this year. We truly appreciate all of you!"*

Corporate Corner – Texoma

The purpose of a regional Chapter Board Forum is to bring together Board members from Chapters within a local region for the benefits of networking, sharing best practices, discussing challenges and brainstorming new ideas. The Forum provides a setting for neighboring Chapter Board members and Committee Chairs to connect and bond, and an opportunity for growth through the exchange of success stories and lessons learned.

The longest-running Forum in EWI – the **Texoma Board Forum** – was established over 30 years ago by Texas Chapters as the "Texas Board Forum". When Oklahoma Chapters were invited to join, the name changed to "Texoma" Forum. In 2010, a new regional Forum was launched when the Tennessee Chapters held their first meeting. In 2011, The Southwest & Pacific region and the Midwest region convened their first Board Forums. With the guidance and oversight of the Corporate Leadership Development Committee, the Board Forum Program continues to expand into new regions within EWI.

All current and incoming Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs are invited to attend the Forum. The Corporate Board is also invited to attend. The goal is that all Chapters in the region are represented at the Forum, with as many board members from different Board positions in attendance as possible. The attendee list may be expanded to include incoming Chapter Board members, Past President, Committee Chairs and other members who are interested in serving their chapter in the future.

To learn more, please visit: <http://ewiconnect.com/> and click on **CONNECTIONS**, then **Events & Conferences**.

New Member Profile

Representative: *Amanda Nazario*

Firm: *River Sub (Subway)*

It is our pleasure to welcome Amanda Nazario to our chapter!

Amanda is representing new member firm SUBWAY. She has been employed there for the last 6 years and works as the Director of Human Resources. Prior to working for SUBWAY, Amanda served in the U.S. Marine Corps and as Executive over Distribution at Target for 6 years. She earned her Bachelor's degree from UTSA.

Amanda and her husband, Vince, have been married for 15 years and have two children; Ashley (14 years old) and Aaron (11 years old). When she's not working, Amanda spends a lot of time taking Ashley to swim and Aaron to soccer. When she does have a little time to herself, she enjoys reading and likes to write and tell stories. Amanda is also a licensed real estate agent and sells homes in her spare time. She loves to travel and tries to take her kids on trips throughout the year so that they can learn and enjoy other parts of the world.

Vicki Chapman is the reason Amanda decided to join EWI. Amanda's boss (Cathy Amato) is the wife of Vicki's boss (Charlie Amato). Vicki has been talking to Cathy for a few years about the benefits of an EWI membership, so we were finally able to make it happen. Cathy knew right away who she wanted their reps to be and we're so glad she chose Amanda (and Rose).

As a member of EWI, Amanda is looking forward to networking and building new friendships.

Welcome to EWI, Amanda!

We're looking forward to getting to know you better!



New Member Profile

Representative: *Rose De Leon*

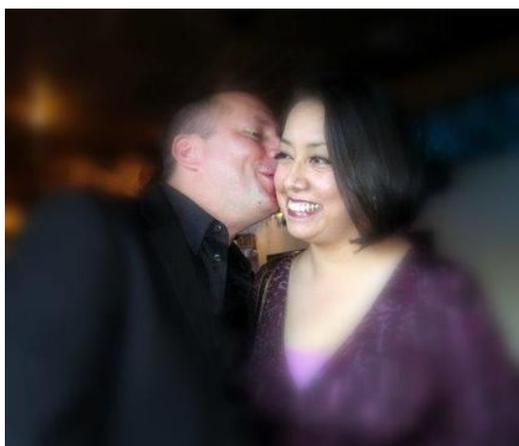
Firm: *River Sub (Subway)*

We are so happy to welcome Rose De Leon to our chapter!

Rose is representing River Sub and has been with them for 4 years. In her role there, she facilitates the transfer of SUBWAY restaurants from seller(s) to buyer(s). She also assists with the sale process of new SUBWAYs. Additionally, she provides support to existing franchisees with lease renewals/expiration and relocations. Rose has worked as an executive assistant for the past 15 years; first in the financial industry, then commercial real estate, and now the food industry.

Rose says she is married to the love of her life. She has two daughters from her first marriage, a 17 year old (who is a high school senior) and a 12 year old, and two stepsons, ages 14 and 13. One of Rose's hobbies is reading. She says reading takes her places that she has never been nor will ever go because those places exist only in the imagination of the writer. She also feels that reading fosters creativity and broadens one's knowledge on different subjects. Her other hobby is music. She loves different genres and whatever the genre is, she prefers it when it remains true to its roots and free from adulterating or diluting influences. Rose loves learning and feels that knowledge is one of the few things that no one can take away from you. She also believes that with knowledge comes responsibility.

When asked what convinced her to join EWI, Rose says it's the chance to interact with members whose influence can have a significant impact on her professional development. She hopes to grow professionally and be able to also contribute and inspire others.



**Welcome to EWI and
our chapter, Rose!**

Representative Spotlight

Representative: *Maryellen Owen*

Firm: *Mood Texas*



We are pleased to “spotlight” chapter representative, Maryellen Owen!

Maryellen has been with Mood Texas for 17 years and in January 2017 she will celebrate her 6 year anniversary as an EWI member. Maryellen is currently serving as the Publications Chairman; she has also served on the Hospitality committee (as a member and as Chairman) and has also served on the ASIST committee twice. Maryellen said that she had never considered joining any type of professional organization until she attended a luncheon for the Executive Assistants to YPO (Young Presidents Organization) members. During that luncheon, she heard about EWI and was immediately intrigued. She did quite a bit of research and knew that her own core values were aligned with EWI’s values – *Integrity, Excellence, Respect, and Collaboration*. Becoming a member of EWI has been a life-changing experience for her. After joining and attending the first few meetings, her executive told her that he noticed a positive change in the way she interacted with her coworkers, and he knew this came about because of EWI.

Maryellen would like to recognize Debbie Saldana as a member that helped her adjust to the chapter when she first started. She really got to know Debbie more when they served together on the ASIST committee her 3rd year with EWI. Debbie has the patience of a saint and a heart of gold! She is so helpful and always has a smile on her face. Once Maryellen had the opportunity to work closely with Debbie, EWI’s mission of enhancing personal and professional development became very clear to her. She knows that although she never expressed it to Debbie, she has no doubt that it was Debbie’s friendship, guidance and her love and commitment to EWI that made Maryellen decide to stay with the organization and work on fostering her own skills. Now she has so many friends and is truly blessed. She would like to say – Thank you Debbie!

Being a member of EWI has helped Maryellen grow professionally in so many ways. She has been able to strengthen her leadership, time-management, team work skills and she is a better mentor to her coworkers. She has also achieved personal growth with a renewed sense of self-awareness and a commitment to personal development. Everyone she has met has always been so welcoming and she has a tremendous amount of respect for each and every member of our chapter.

Some other tidbits about Maryellen are that she was born and raised in Connecticut, and although she has been in San Antonio for 17 years, she still can’t adjust to the heat of the summer! She loves the ocean and also enjoys spending time on the Guadalupe River. She has one daughter, Becca, who is married and lives in Carrolton. Maryellen absolutely adores her son-in-law! She loves dogs and has a cute little chiweenie named Bella Mia. She has really enjoyed serving on the Publications committee this year with her awesome team. Thank you to the Publications committee members: **Vicki Chapman, Caroline Diaz, Julie Lyssy, Jan Mundine, Joyce Stuart and Connie Ross**. “We had a great year and I have enjoyed working with you!”



*Austin & Rebecca
Gomez*



*Bella
Mia*

Member Firm News

Firm: *Fralo's* **Representative:** *Lori Hakspiel*

Lori and Frank Hakspiel, representing member firm Fralo's, would like to invite you to participate in an event that they help sponsor:

The 'I Am Second' Run

This is a 5k/10k walk/run in Boerne that Lori & Frank would like to share with the EWI ladies. EWI members are welcome to participate as a group under Team Fralo's, or by forming an EWI Team, or as event sponsors.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.theiamsecondrun.com/runsanantonio/>

CHRISTIAN HOSOI

BETHANY HAMILTON

PHIL ROBERTSON

BRIAN "HEAD" WELCH

I AM SECOND

Actors. Athletes. Musicians. Former Addicts. But most importantly, people like you. The real stories on iamsecond.com provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday life while still finding peace. Watch the stories at: iamsecond.com

DON'T MISS THE EARLY RATES!

AM SE

5K

10K

FUN RUN

START

FINISH

THE I AM SECOND RUN

5K • 10K • FUN RUN

OCTOBER 8, 2016
SAN ANTONIO AREA • BOERNE ISD STADIUM

REGISTER NOW
theiamsecondrun.com

- Race Start and Finish: Boerne ISD Stadium, Boerne, TX
- To be a sponsor, contact: David.Martin@iamsecond.com

Reading Rally 2016

A very special THANK YOU goes out to Taio Book and the Philanthropy Committee for hosting our 2016 Reading Rally. This year, we hosted children aged 12 through 17. This age group generally doesn't receive as much community support as younger children (elementary school-aged) do, so this was a very special treat for the teens!



A very special **Thank You** to Lyn Harris, our guest speaker at this year's Reading Rally. Lyn is the COO of **NAMEPA** (North American Marine Environment Protection Association) joined us all the way from Connecticut. What a great presentation to our group from Haven For Hope. Lyn kept the group engaged and involved.

Please visit the NAMEPA website:

<http://www.namepa.net>

to read the article that Lyn posted about her visit with us and see more pictures from the event!



Such adorable, and appropriate, table decorations!



The teens from Haven For Hope had a great time at our Reading Rally!



Hannah Gilbert & Adriana Perez – guests of Mood Texas

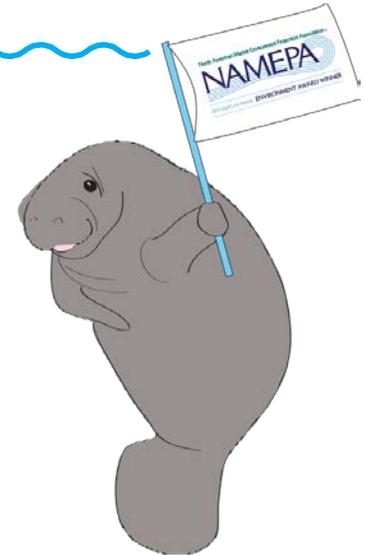


Reading Rally (continued)

Our kids from Haven For Hope, and our member firm representatives, all took a pledge to keep our oceans clean by reducing the use of plastics, recycling, and disposing of trash correctly. It's true – if we ALL take small steps, we will protect the future of our environment! We encourage all EWI members to take the pledge with us!

The Plastics Pledge

Help decrease your contribution to ocean pollution by reducing your plastic consumption. Taking small steps everyday can make a huge difference.



I, _____, pledge to not trash the oceans by:

- Using a reusable tote or other bag at the grocery store
- Drinking water out of a glass or reusable, non--plastic water bottle
- Recycling plastics whenever possible
- Not littering and disposing of trash properly
- Encouraging my friends and family to reduce their plastics consumption



Memories from our August Reading Rally & Membership Meeting



The backpacks and recycled bags provided by **NAMEPA** are stuffed and ready to go!

Vicki Chapman (SWBC), Sara Pfeifer (VP of Development at Haven for Hope), and Rachel Heinsohn (SWBC)



Linda Buck & Maryellen Owen gearing up to give out backpacks to the 13-year olds.



In preparation for our August Reading Rally, Rachel Heinsohn and Vicki Chapman of SWBC coordinated a book drive at the five SWBC San Antonio office locations. Thanks to the generosity of the SWBC employees, Vicki and Rachel delivered over 1,000 books to Haven for Hope on behalf of EWI of San Antonio! Thank you Vicki and Rachel, and all of the awesome employees of SWBC in supporting EWI of San Antonio's commitment to enhancing literacy through education.

Amanda Avendaño & Taio Book



Texoma Board Forum



Our chapter had four member representatives attend this years' Texoma Board Forum. Denise Blackmer, *Bank of America*; and M.J. Willis, *Alisam Transportation Solutions*; Amanda Avendano, *Enterprise Holdings, LLC*; Kelley Butler, *Frame Gallery* traveled to Oklahoma City to join EWI chapter members from Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma City and Tulsa for this 2-day event.

For more information on Texoma, please see page 2 "Corporate Corner".

Cheryl Hawkins, representing member firm American Clinical Laboratory Association - ***EWI of Washington DC***

--- and ---

Benita Collins, representing member firm Dallas Area Rapid Transit - ***EWI of Dallas***



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

Lori Reed

Helen Rios

Frances Menjivar

Bobbi Lutz

Christina Casiano

Kathy Beaman

Taio Book

Margaret Woods

Vicki Chapman

Chapter Advisors

Christina Casiano

Bill Miller Bar-B-Q

ccasiano@billmillerbbq.com

Lori Reed

Quadrangle Press

lori@quadp.com

Joyce Stuart

Sustaining Member

joyce.stuart@ymail.com

Publications Committee

Maryellen Owen

Julie Lyssy

Vicki Chapman

Connie Ross

Joyce Stuart

Caroline Diaz

Jan Mundine

Joyce Houston

On behalf of the Publications Committee, I would like to thank each and every EWI of San Antonio chapter representative for your contributions to our monthly newsletter. It has been a true honor to work with each of you this year.