

# ewi CONNECT

## SAN ANTONIO EDITION

CHARTERED 1958

August 2010

### Letter from the President



*"The ability to connect is the power that lies at the core of both personal and professional success"* says author and motivational speaker, Keith Harrell. I had the privilege of hearing Mr. Harrell speak at the YMCA General Assembly. I was moved by his ideas on bringing about success in both our personal and professional lives. It is all about people and the connections we make with them. If each of you takes a moment to think about your organization I would venture to say that you are in the PEOPLE business. Yes, you might sell a product or offer a service but really you are just CONNECTING with PEOPLE. EWI of San Antonio is also about PEOPLE and each of you is an integral part of this organization.

Our Membership Committee, lead by Director Debbie Saldana (H-E-B), has done an incredible job this year of recruiting firms to EWI. They have shared with them our mission: To bring together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:

- Promoting member firms
- Enhancing personal and professional development
- Encouraging community involvement

However, it is not just up to the Membership Committee to share the mission of EWI of San Antonio. Each one of us has a responsibility to **CONNECT** with the new and prospective members. In the midst of these tough financial times our firms have allowed us to be a part of this great organization. Don't we owe it to them to **CONNECT** with the other representatives? To learn from each other, to network with one other about the products we offer and the services we provide. To grow and challenge each other to be better employees, supervisors, parents and wives. I think the answer would be yes! Take advantage of the opportunities that EWI provides for you to promote, enhance and encourage each other.

Our Philanthropy Committee, lead by Linda Buck (Herff Travel, Inc.) has also provided us with opportunities to **CONNECT**. We still have a lot of great projects in store for the rest of the year beginning in August with "Stuff the Bus" a back to school supply drive, in September "Lingerie for Ladies" for the women at Haven for Hope and in October our Annual Reading Rally. Literacy is the national Philanthropy for all EWI Chapters across the nation. We will be hosting our Reading Rally on October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio. Please take the time to participate in these wonderful events by volunteering your time and/or resources.

My hope is that you will take every opportunity to participate in EWI and more importantly that you will be the spokeswomen for our organization. Please use the Corporate Website [www.ewiconnect.com](http://www.ewiconnect.com) and the San Antonio Website [www.ewisanantonio.org](http://www.ewisanantonio.org) as a tool for **CONNECTING** with the representatives locally and nationally.

In Service,

Monica Garza  
Representing the YMCA of Greater San Antonio



### SAN ANTONIO BOARD

**Monica Garza**, President  
YMCA of Greater San Antonio  
210.246.9671

**Diane Solarczyk**, Secretary  
Bitterblue, Inc.  
210.828.6131 ext. 104

**Patty Wilkins**, Treasurer  
Security Service Federal Credit Union  
210.476.4599

**Aida Guillory**, Sergeant-At-Arms  
St. Mary's University  
210.436.3712

**Debbie Saldana**, Membership Director  
H-E-B  
210.938.8382

**Damita Pape**, Program Director  
University of the Incarnate Word  
210.829.3900

**Elizabeth Perez**, Publication Director  
CPS Energy  
210.353.2602

**Lyn Pitman**, Ways and Means Director  
SAWS  
210.233.3846

**CeCe Abel**, Director-At-Large  
KCI  
210.255.6636

## Membership Meeting Notice

**Thursday, August 19, 2010**

Omni Hotel at the Colonnade  
 Guest Speaker: Karen Peña  
 Topic: "We don't Need No Stinking Airbrush"  
 Personal Branding for the Woman Executive  
 9821 Colonnade Boulevard  
 210.691.8888

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Hospitality & Registration  
 6:00 pm – 6:15 pm Welcome, Mission Statement, Installations  
 6:15 pm – 6:25 pm Roll Call  
 6:25 pm – 7:00 pm Invocation & Dinner  
 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm Program  
 7:45 pm – 8:00 pm Announcements & Adjournment



## AUGUST BOARD MEETING

**DATE: August 24, 2010**  
**PLACE: D.R. Semmes Family YMCA**  
**3233 N. St. Mary's St.**  
**San Antonio, TX 78212**

The Board meeting is open to the membership. If you would like to attend, please notify Secretary Diane Solarczyk at [dianesolarczyk@bitterblue.com](mailto:dianesolarczyk@bitterblue.com).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SEPTEMBER

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
 Thursday, September 16  
 DoubleTree Hotel

**BOARD MEETING**  
 Board Retreat  
 October 2, 2010  
 D.R. Semmes Family YMCA  
 3233 N. St. Mary's St.

### OCTOBER

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
 Thursday, October 21  
 Location TBD

**BOARD MEETING**  
 Date and Location TBD

### EWI® MISSION AND VISION

#### MISSION

Executive Women  
 International® brings together  
 key individuals from diverse  
 businesses for the purpose of:

- Promoting member firms
- Enhancing personal and professional development
- Encouraging community involvement

#### VISION

To be the leading connection  
 for business professionals.

**NEWSREEL Continued**

**Member Firm Anniversaries – August**

Ernst & Young LLP	52 years
Omni La Mansion del Rio	13 years
Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein	
Sandoloski Agather LLP	9 years
Graves Interests, Ltd.	2 years

*Membership is growing by leaps & bounds!*

*At the end of June, we grew to **75 Member Firms and 101 Representatives!***

We also have 15 Sustaining; 3 Life;  
and 1 Honorary Member

*Thanks to all who made this possible!*



**I would like to invite everyone at EWI to please vote for Fralo's on City Search Best Pizza – as well as other best options like outdoor dining or late dining etc....**

**Also I would like to announce that we now have our Beer & Wine license....**

**Lori**

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/San-Antonio-TX/Fralos-Art-of-Pizza/112598482106359?ref=sgm>

## NEWSREEL Continued

**Best wishes to the following representatives who are celebrating a birthday this month:**

August 1	Diane Flack	San Antonio Museum of Art	<a href="mailto:diane.flack@samuseum.org">diane.flack@samuseum.org</a>
August 1	Edith Maze	Sustaining Member	
August 2	Lynn Smasal	Ernst & Young LLP	<a href="mailto:lynn.smasal@ey.com">lynn.smasal@ey.com</a>
August 6	Alisa Hernandez	Walton Signage	<a href="mailto:ahernandez@waltonsignage.com">ahernandez@waltonsignage.com</a>
August 9	Norma Del Toro	Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.	<a href="mailto:ndeltoro@pape-dawson.com">ndeltoro@pape-dawson.com</a>
August 9	Barbara Gault	Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research	<a href="mailto:bgault@sfbgenetics.org">bgault@sfbgenetics.org</a>
August 16	Debbie Elias	SWBC	<a href="mailto:delias@swbc.com">delias@swbc.com</a>
August 20	Becky Gentry	Fernandez Honda	<a href="mailto:beckyg@mikeshawauto.com">beckyg@mikeshawauto.com</a>
August 23	Jackie Contreras	Sustaining Member	<a href="mailto:travelsai@yahoo.com">travelsai@yahoo.com</a>
August 25	Becky Turgeon	NuStar Energy LP	<a href="mailto:becky.turgeon@nustarenergy.com">becky.turgeon@nustarenergy.com</a>
August 25	Aida Guillory	St. Mary's University	<a href="mailto:abelmares@stmarytx.edu">abelmares@stmarytx.edu</a>





**NEWSREEL Continued****CONGRATULATIONS!** To Our San Antonio ASIST winner, Melissa Stewart

Melissa has won an additional award from the Corporate ASIST Program in the amount of \$2,500.00. She placed 2nd out of 12 winners.

Melissa Stewart is a single mother of a four year old son, Neaven. After graduating from high school, she attended St. Phillip's College followed by Northeast Lakeview College, both part of the Alamo Community College District. She is pursuing a Nursing Associates Degree and has a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Melissa was born and raised in San Antonio into a single-parent home where, according to her, "education was not emphasized." She fell in with a crowd that abused alcohol and drugs and soon her focus shifted away from obtaining her diploma. "After a year of uncertainty," Melissa said, "I realized the importance of education and completed by G.E.D." It was the birth of her son that changed everything. He became the driving force to set goals, achieve them, and make something of her future. Her plans are to continue her education at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio and obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. Eventually she hopes to earn a master's degree in midwifery. Melissa is the first in her family to graduate from college.



## NEWSREEL Continued

EWI  
PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST Project  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!

HELP US STUFF THE BUS



#2 PENCILS, CRAYONS (8 & 24 COUNT), SAFETY SCISSORS, CONSTRUCTION PAPER, POCKET FOLDERS (NO BRADS), ZIPLOC GALLON & QUART BAGS, HAND SANITIZER, PLAY DOUGH, KLEENEX, CLIPBOARD, GLUE STICKS, MANILA PAPER, ELMER'S WHITE GLUE, PRANG WATER COLORS. SUPPLY BOX W/SNAP CLOSURE.

Please bring school supplies to the AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> meeting.

## NEW MEMBER



### **Bennie Foss Foss Electric By Aida Guillory, Contributing Writer**

Bennie Foss was re-installed in June 2010, as a representative for Foss Electric, a familiar firm to most of us in EWI. Foss Electric had previously been an EWI firm for two and a half years. We are certainly glad to have both Bennie and Foss Electric return.

Foss Electric provides quality electrical services to the residential and light commercial building communities in the San Antonio Area. It's been doing this since 1953, when its founder, Wendel Foss, decided to build a business based upon a personal commitment to quality, integrity, and core values.

Today, the second generation of the Foss family is still committed to these same principles. Foss is the preferred wiring partner for San Antonio's most respected builders – consistently leading all builder surveys in ratings on quality of electrical service and the quality of warranty. Foss Electric is an electrical contracting firm, with 30 employees.

This family business is now owned and operated by James and Bennie Foss. Bennie joined the business in August of 1969. Some of her present duties include accounting and being the office administrator.

Bennie was born and raised in the San Antonio / Hill Country area. This part is home, as she has lived here all her life. She attended San Antonio College, has four children, and really enjoys horses. She rides dressage and her horse's name is Taylor.

Her favorite holidays are Christmas and Easter because they signify our hope and salvation. If she had one wish, it would be that wars of religion, greed, hate, and jealousy would not exist.

Being a representative of EWI, she is looking for the opportunity to serve the community and growing professionally.

Please welcome Bennie back to EWI the next time you see her!

## NEW MEMBER



### **Liz Agosto** **DoubleTree Hotel** **By Aida Guillory, Contributing Writer**

Liz Rivera was installed in May 2010, as a replacement representative for DoubleTree Hotel. She has been with her firm for 19 years. She was the reservations manager for 18 years before moving on to Corporate Sales Manager. She handles all corporate accounts and the Mexico market. Her executive is Mr. Gustavo Luna, General Manager.

The DoubleTree Hotel, a Hilton Corporation, is located on N.E. Loop 410, and they have a staff of 130. The Spanish colonial architecture hotel, built in 1978, is located just minutes from the airport and across from the North Star Mall. It's an ideal place for meetings and functions, with over 11,000 square feet of meeting space.

Liz was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents are both Puerto Rican, and she used to be considered a Nuyorican. For the last 19 years, San Antonio has been home. Nineteen years is a long time, so now she feels like a Texarican.

She has three children ages 32, 18, and 17. She enjoys music and dancing to tropical rhythms such as salsa, merengue, reggaeton and bachata. Bachata is a genre of music that originated in the Dominican Republic in the early parts of the 20th Century and spread to other parts of Latin America. It became popular in the countryside and the rural neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic. The songs are often romantic; especially prevalent are tales of heartbreak and sadness. In the 1990s, bachata's instrumentation changed from acoustic Spanish guitar to electric steel string. The new electric bachata soon became an international phenomenon, and today bachata is as popular as salsa and merengue.

Liz is looking forward to making new friends with other members of EWI, and hopes to learn from others. She will be mentored by sustaining member Jackie Contreras.

The next time you see Liz, please go up to her and give her a big EWI welcome!



## YEAR AT A GLANCE 2009-2010 Calendar

<u>General Membership Meeting</u>	<u>Board Meetings</u>	<u>Conferences / Special Events</u>
Location to be announced in monthly meeting announcements	Board Meetings to be held at D. R. Semmes Family YMCA, unless otherwise stated. Meeting start time is 5:45 p.m.	
Thursday, November 19 UIW Marian Hall Ballroom Topic: Bus. Mtg./Committee Sessions	Tuesday, November 24	
<b>Second</b> Thursday, December 10 Anne Marie's Catering Topic: Networking	Tuesday, December 15	
Thursday, January 21 Omni Hotel at the Colonnade Speaker: Chief William McManus San Antonio Police Department	Tuesday, January 26	
Thursday, February 18 Omni Hotel at the Colonnade Speaker: Peter Holt Topic: Education Center for Vietnam Veteran's Memorial	Tuesday, February 23	
Thursday, March 18 Omni Hotel at the Colonnade Speaker: Susanne Serna, CFP, SSFCU Topic: Investments and Retirement	Tuesday, March 23	
Thursday, April 15 Morton's Steakhouse Topic: Exec Recognition Luncheon	Tuesday, April 20	Spring Conference Memphis, TN April 22-24, 2010 open to all members
Thursday, May 20 DoubleTree Hotel Topic: Scholarship Banquet	Tuesday, May 25	EWISP and ASIST Scholarship Banquet
Thursday, June 17 Valero Topic: Trade Show and Business Meeting	Tuesday, June 22	Member Firm Trade Show
Thursday, July 15 Non-meeting	Tuesday, July 20	Non-Meeting Fundraiser
Thursday, August 19 Omni at the Colonnade	Tuesday, August 24	TEXOMA Board Forum Oklahoma City, OK August 6-7, 2010
Thursday, September 16 DoubleTree Hotel 2010-2011 Board Installation	Tuesday, September 28	LCAM Kansas City, MO Sept. 23-25, 2010 open to all members
Thursday, October 21 Topic: Business Meeting	October Board Retreat Venue: TBD by Monica Garza	Reading Rally – Oct. 8, 2010