

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



February! Can you believe we are already a full month into 2019! It is the shortest month of the year - - - also the month I personally ALWAYS spell wrong. I know I'm not the only one with that struggle! With the New Year come new challenges, activities, and fun. The Web Committee is working hard on getting our new website up-to-date and functional. You do not need a member login yet. This access will come later as we navigate through the website and understand what the login process will be. We are using the website 100% for monthly meeting RSVPs. This new system will help our Sergeant-at-Arms, Elisa Garcia, and our Treasurer, Sandy Gracia, with reporting for our monthly meetings. We realized that the new system caused the emails to go to your junk or spam folders; so if you did not receive it, please let me or Rebekah Wesley know right away so we can assist you. Please remember it is important to RSVP even if you are not attending that month's meeting.



Jessica Sebesta
Topgolf -Spring

February's monthly meeting is going to be a fun one! It is a combined meeting with our Nominating and Membership Committees. They have put together a fun and educational program that involves great prizes. I am personally excited because they will be playing Jeopardy. Years ago when Membership played this game, it was one of my very first monthly meetings and it was a blast. You won't want to miss it.

Our Philanthropy Committee is working hard in their endeavors. In January they made over 45 blankets to take to the Star of Hope for homeless children at their local shelters. Thank you to the committee and everyone that volunteered to make these blankets for those less fortunate in our community.

Our Fundraising and Executives' Night Committees are hard at work planning and organizing the 62nd Annual Executive's Appreciation Night on Thursday, April 11. If you know of anyone that would be interested in donating, please ask if they would be willing to contribute to our chapter for our scholarship and philanthropic programs. It never hurts to ask and we appreciate the efforts made by everyone.

Another month down and much more to come! Thank you so much for your continued support and involvement. Let's keep it up!



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Topgolf Houston—Spring

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Jackson and Company

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John Daugherty, Realtors

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Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria

Sergeant-at-Arms

Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corporation

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EWI Corporate Calendar of Events

February 5

EWI Webinar

Human Factors in Workplace Design

Presenter: Melissa Steach, Human Factors & Ergonomics Specialist,
Herman Miller, Inc.

[Register Here](#)

EWI of Houston Calendar of Events

February 7

Chapter Meeting

Hilton Houston Plaza/Medical Center
6633 Travis St, Houston, TX 77030

Please note the date for this meeting

February 13

Board Meeting—Full Leadership

John Daugherty Realtors
6:00pm

March 14

Chapter Meeting

Ouisie's Table
3939 San Felipe Street, Houston, TX 77027
11:30am—1:00pm

Please note this is a luncheon

April 11

Executives' Appreciation Night

Ballroom at Bayou Place
500 Texas Street, Houston, TX 77002
5:30pm

*As a courtesy, please remember to RSVP to monthly meetings, EVEN IF you are NOT attending.
You can host a table at a Monthly meeting at no extra charge.*

If you are not receiving the RSVP emails please reach out to SAA Elisa Garcia at EGarcia@visithouston.com



February Monthly Meeting Special Business Meeting Thursday, February 7, 2019

*Hilton Houston Plaza – Medical Center
6633 Travis St. ~ Houston, TX 77030*

5:45 pm – Networking Reception

6:30 pm – Dinner with fun interactive game hosted by
the Nominating & Membership Committees



Learn about EWI
and Leadership
Opportunities!
Fun and Prizes
for all in
attendance!

MENU

Garden Salad, Assorted Dressings

*Center Cut Shell Steak Grilled with
Gorgonzola Cheese & Sautéed Mushrooms*

Warm Dinner Rolls with Butter

Chocolate Cake

\$55 per person

Cash Bar

\$9 Self-Parking

RSVP's (acceptance & declines)
Due by Mon, Feb 4, 2019

No reservations or cancellations
accepted after Feb 4, 2019.

Payment due by Mon, Feb 4, 2019

Pay online at www.ewihouston.org

Checks payable to EWI of Houston
may be mailed to:

Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corp.
701 Avenida de las Americas, Suite 200
Houston, TX 77010
O: 713-853-8918
E: egarcia@visithouston.com



February Meeting Door Prizes

\$5 for 5 tickets

- \$50 Pappas Restaurants Gift Card(Value \$50) (Courtesy of Adelaide DeBow, Sustaining Member)
- Nambe Infinity Pitcher (Value \$150) (Courtesy of Naseeka Cox representing Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty)
- 2 Suite Tickets to Rockets V Sacramento Kings game with parking pass (Value \$350) (Courtesy of Analisa Terrell representing Houston First)
- \$100 HEB Gift Card (Value \$100) (Courtesy of Rene Azinger representing HEB)
- \$50 Cash (Value \$50) (Courtesy of Delynn Walker representing Texas Southern University)
- \$50 Ulta Gift Card (Value \$50) (Courtesy of Cindy Baker representing Senterra LLC)

*The Fundraising Committee
accepts **cash, checks, and credit cards!***



*Annual Executive Appreciation Dinner &
Dollars for Scholars Fundraiser*

Wish Upon a Star Gala

CELEBRATING OUR
SHINING STARS & RISING STARS

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Ballroom on the Bayou

500 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002

SAVE THE DATE - INVITATION TO FOLLOW

Birthdays and Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

Delynn Walker— Texas Southern University	February 2
Wendy Gonzales— The Plaza Group	February 3
Deborah Mayfield— METRO	February 4
Lily Portales—EOG Resources	February 6
Michele Votano— Atlantic Relocation Services	February 15
Erica Zack—The Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa	February 16
Michelle Lang— Let It Fly Events, L.P.	February 19
Nicole Adler— METRO	February 19
Carole Ann Pitts—John Daugherty, Realtors	February 21
Cindy Joutraw— CenterPoint Energy, Inc.	February 25
Sandy Gracia—Houston First Corporation	February 28

Houston First Corporation	16 years
VisitHOUSTON	16 years
Texas Southern University	14 years

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

Submitted by Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank

The January EWI Meeting was held at The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa in their newest restaurant TRIBUTE. The new interior design was warm and inviting, complete with a full-size fireplace adding more warmth to the evening, not to mention the delicious meal.



EWI President, Jessica Sebesta, representing Topgolf Houston-Spring welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Driskill from The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa, who extended a warm welcome and acknowledged Erica Zack.

Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Energy Resources Company, gave the innovation, followed by a delicious meal from Tribute's newest menu.

Following dinner, Jessica thanked Annette Washburn, EWI Professional Development Chair, for securing our guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Barth, a professor teaching at the University of Houston, Hotel and Restaurant Management School, where our President, Jessica Sebesta, was once his student. He is a lawyer, mediator and founder of HospitalityLawyer.com, and author of "Working with Emotional Intelligence".



Door prizes followed and then the meeting was adjourned.





Bari Ross, Sustaining Member
Delynn Walker, Texas Southern University

Carole Pitts, John Daugherty Realtors
Tracy Ramsey, The Visa Team USA
Dany Stemplewski, Sheraton Suite Houston



Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank
Rebecca Bartholomew, Lockton Companies

Naseeka Cox, Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty

Jessica Sebesta, Topgolf Houston-Spring



Annette Washburn, Pearce Industries, Inc.

Dell Rosepink, Hilton Houston Post Oak

Wendy Gonzales, The Plaza Group

Rebekah Wesley, Jackson & Company

Lisa Diaz, Morton's The Steakhouse—
Houston Galleria





*Happy
Valentine's Day*



COLLEGE LIFE UPDATE

featuring ASIST Scholarship Winners

Danielle Gutierrez & Braxton Smith

Good Afternoon Mary!

I just wanted to give you an end of the semester update to share with everyone. First and foremost I want to thank everyone who contributed to my scholarship this year. It means the world to me to have so many people who want me to succeed and help me on my path to being a teacher. I have finished another semester with a 3.8 GPA at Texas A&M University. All A's and 1 B. I want to thank everyone for helping me further my education in such a loving and caring way. I can't wait to see what the New Year has in store. I wish you all a happy New Year!

Thank you so much,
Danielle Gutierrez



MM,

So for a brief update on my last first semester of law school (fingers crossed). I hope everything is going great in your world.

Just before school started I was able to visit my cousin, his wife, and their great 5 year old daughter in London and in order to balance the scales my car died upon my return. However, thanks to a friend (a practicing maritime attorney) I was able to secure a replacement ride for only \$500, and so far it has easily been the best \$500 car I have ever owned. Fortunately all my previous hard work has resulted in a slight reprieve in my school course load so school and work are almost manageable. I am currently writing an article for the school journal, CURRENTS: Journal of International Economic Law. The article will serve as a snapshot for current US policy and its interplay with US energy "friends" and "foes". I will compare and contrast the evolving relationship with some of the US "friends" (Canada and Mexico) and our "foes" (Iran and Venezuela) with a look back at our history and a nod to the future.

My work at Swanson Law Firm is keenly honing my fledgling legal skills and I am blessed to work with such an accomplished attorney under Mrs. SJ Swanson. I am working on becoming more active in the Houston legal community and have joined Houston Young Lawyers Association, Houston Bar Association, and was privileged enough to be admitted to Garland Walker Inn of Court, which is a professional organization based on the traditional English Inns and promotes civility and professionalism among attorneys. The Garland Walker Inn of Court members are among some of the most respected in the legal community here in Houston and I am sure that my interactions with them will help mold me into one of those lawyers that the jokes are not about.

The EWI scholarship has helped immensely thus far. I was able to buy my books on time (a first for me) and have been able to do some minor maintenance on my new ride. It is a unique but very relaxing feeling to not have the specter of restricted income looming over me. I have felt more at ease in these last months than I have in nearly three years and I can assure you that it is solely due to the generosity of EWI. I hope the rest of everyone's year is going at least as great as mine has been and want to again extend my deepest thanks for the opportunity EWI has provided for me.

Deepest and Best Regards,
G. Braxton Smith
South Texas College of Law



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Darcy Courtney Castellanos, representing Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc.

How to Simply Embrace Beginnings and Endings

Written by Courtney Carver

<https://bemorewithless.com/beyou/>

“There comes a time in your life when you know that the life you have been living is over and you don’t have a clue who you are becoming.” – Marion Woodman

Beginnings are beautiful. Starting something new offers excitement, and opportunity for change, but often saying hello to the new, means saying goodbye to what you know.

- When you move to a new city, you say goodbye to another.
- When you start a new class, you may have to adjust your schedule and say goodbye to something else.
- When you start a new career, you’ll say goodbye to the work you leave behind.

Whether you are saying hello to a new habit, relationship, city or a completely new way of life, you may also be saying goodbye to someone, something, or the familiarity of who you were before. With that, beginnings become joyful, painful, exciting and uncertain all at once. You could stay focused on all of the newness to avoid the farewells, but then you miss honoring the very best parts of what came before. By acknowledging the joy and the sorrow, you can bring your loves and lessons into your new beginning.

You may instigate some of life’s beginnings and endings, but ready or not, many happen on their own schedule.

Simply Embrace Beginnings and Endings

- Be Open. You might not be ready for something new, but when it’s time, it’s time. Let go of your need to hold on to the past or attempts to control the future. It’s usually completely out of your hands. Instead, simply be open to letting things unfold.
- Notice small shifts. Beginnings and endings aren’t always black and white. Notice small shifts in your relationships and work. If you pay attention, you can probably notice tiny beginnings and endings all the time. Let them help you navigate the bigger stuff.

Continued.....

- Work with a beginner's mind. Don't try to do the new like the old. Instead, be curious. Ask for help. Admit that you don't know what you are doing. Laugh and find joy in the process.
- Don't edit your feelings. If you miss what was or feel uncomfortable with change, own it. Write about it. Tell a friend. All of those emotions and the energy that surrounds your beginnings and endings is real. It's important and you can't leave it out of your story.
- Insert a pause. You can't stop time, but you can make room to pause and access or rest before moving forward. Discover the power of the pause by taking an adult time-out.

Maybe Marion Woodman is right and you don't have a clue who you are becoming. You don't have a clue how things will turn out and you don't know what's next. No one really knows. The important thing is that you know who you are right now. Be you from the inside out and everything will be better than you imagined.





Hotel Alessandra

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CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

EWI of Houston Vision Statement

EWI of Houston aspires to be the premier business organization of choice for member firms and their key individuals. Recognized by the Houston community as an avenue to achieve personal and professional excellence, every activity of the Houston Chapter will fulfill at least one of the objectives of the EWI Mission Statement.

Our Mission

EWI brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

Our Strategic Goals

- To strengthen, expand, and broaden membership.
- To provide member firms with meaningful benefits.
- To actively promote education for all representatives.
- To achieve a high level of community visibility through service.

Our Vision

To be a global women's organization of engaged members empowering others for positive change.

EWI Corporate Office

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you may also text this number as it is a cell phone!

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ewiconnectut.memberzone.com

EWI of Houston Connect Newsletter

Feature your firm in a monthly Firm Spotlight!
Have news? Share it in the Connect Newsletter!

Contact:

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Submission deadline: 3rd Friday of each month.



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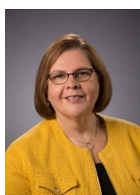
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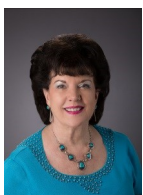


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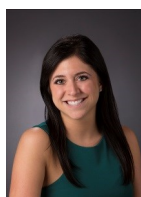
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