



Houston ewiConnect



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

LILY PORTALES | HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY

New Waves of Service, Stronger Connections

February was a powerful month of action and connection for EWI Houston.

We proudly completed two meaningful philanthropy projects. At **Durham Elementary**, we showed appreciation for teachers who give so much to their students each day. The next week, members gathered to decorate lunch bags for **Kid's Meals**, filling each one with creativity, encouragement, and care. These moments reminded me that service is not just what we do. It truly is who we are.

What has inspired me most is witnessing the strength of our connections. Our members show up for our community and for one another. The encouragement, collaboration, and genuine support within this chapter are one of the many things of what make EWI Houston so special.

Our February meeting also spotlighted our **Emerging Leaders** initiative, generating excitement around the many ways members can grow through committee involvement. Leadership development is one EWI's greatest gifts. We are stronger when more voices step forward.

As we look ahead, our **Membership FOMO Promotion ends March 31**. This is the perfect time to invite prospective members to experience the professional growth, meaningful relationships, and community impact that define our chapter.

April 14 is quickly approaching, and our **Executive Appreciation Night & Annual Fundraiser** preparations are in full swing. We still need support securing silent auction items, wine pull and liquor wagon donations, and purse bar contributions. Please share the sponsorship package with executives in your network. Their investment fuels our scholarships and strengthens our impact across Houston.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for your steady leadership behind the scenes. To our Sustaining Members, thank you for your continued commitment, contributions, and belief in this organization.

Most importantly, thank you to our members. You are the heart of EWI Houston. Without you, we cannot fund scholarships, serve our community, or create the professional growth opportunities that define our mission.

Together, we are building more than events and programs! We are shaping a legacy of leadership, opportunity, and service. The currents we strengthen today will carry future scholars, emerging leaders, and our Houston community forward for years to come.

Lily Portales

FEBRUARY 2026

2025-2026 Officers & Directors

President

Lily Portales

Hilcorp Energy Company

President-Elect

Elisa Garcia

Houston First Corp

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Petticrew

Shell Energy Resources

Membership Director

Barbara Stokes

Amegy Bank

Director-at-Large B/C/DP

Cristina Barron

Martha Tuner Sotheby's International

Realty

Sergeant-at-Arms

Anna Bryant

H-E-B

Communications Director

Victoria Maldonado

Harvest Midstream Company

Program Director

Isabel McKinney

Hilcorp Energy Company

Advisor & Parliamentarian

Cindy Baker

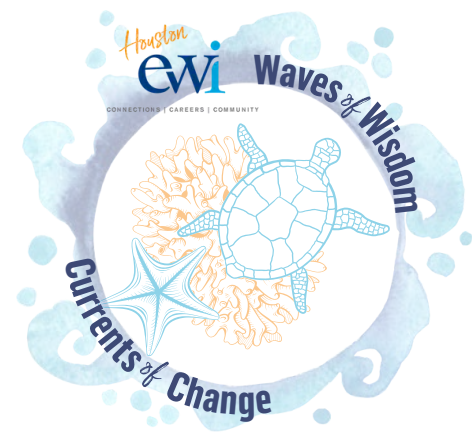
Black Haw Group LLC

Advisor

Shari Schiffman

Douglas Elliman Real Estate

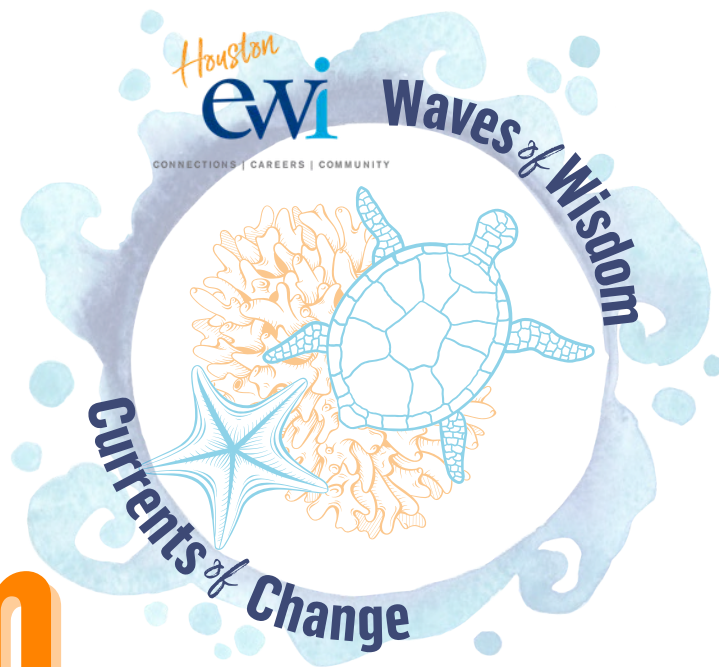
DIVE INTO THIS ISSUE



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Words of Wisdom



“My involvement with Executive Women International (EWI) has profoundly refined both my professional and personal capabilities through leadership opportunities that have extended beyond my daily career. Through my participation on Chapter Committees and the Board of Directors, I have acquired invaluable experiences in areas such as strategic planning, fiscal management, and conflict resolution. These experiences have empowered me to become a pivotal influence within my organization and the broader business community. EWI's membership structure has facilitated my evolution as a leader and enabled me to forge enduring connections with peers. It has also significantly enriched my development within a nurturing, non-competitive environment, cultivating self-awareness and confidence alongside other accomplished women. EWI feels like family, and I am deeply appreciative of the genuine relationships I have fostered over the years. Thank you EWI for pouring into my life!”

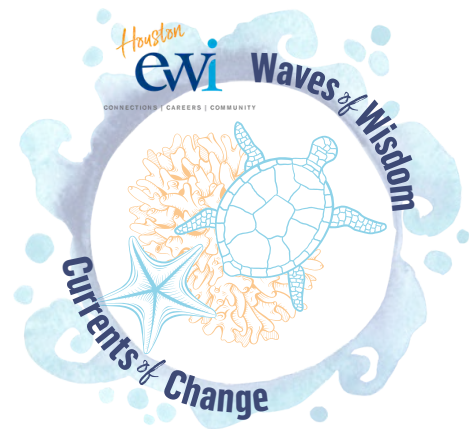


-Delynn Walker, Sustaining Member

<https://ewihouston.org/>

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Tides *of* Generosity



**HELP US CREATE A WAVE OF SUPPORT
FOR EWI OF HOUSTON'S BIGGEST
FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR
ON APRIL 14TH!**

PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Turn fashion into fundraising! Donate new or gently loved designer handbags to add a splash of flair to our event!

Contact: Cindy Baker

cindyb@blackhawgroup.com



LIQUOR WAGON

Donate unopened liquor, mixers, or chic barware to help us craft a show-stopping cocktail raffle. Every bottle adds to the splash!

Contact: Shari Schiffman

shari.schiffman@elliman.com



WINE PULL

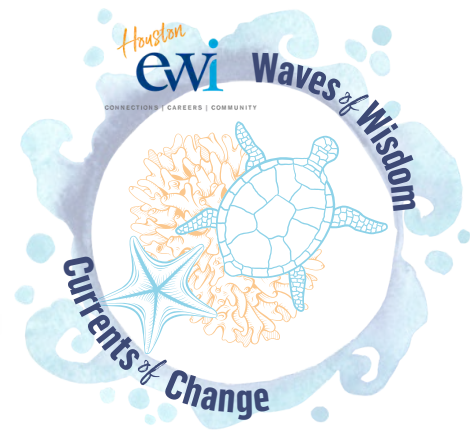
Help us build an unforgettable wine pull! Donate wine valued at \$25+ or make a tax-deductible cash gift to support premium bottle purchases.

Contact: Patti Strawther

pattistrawther@hotmail.com



<https://ewihouston.org/>



“SEA” WHAT’S COMING

March 10

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Sustaining Member Luncheon
Grottos - Galleria
11:30am

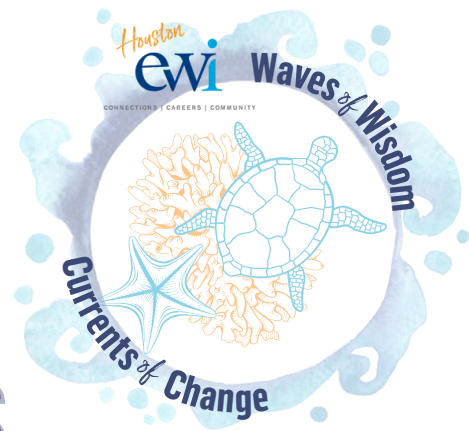
March 18

Monthly Board Meeting
Hilcorp Energy

April 14

Executive Appreciation and Dollars
for Scholars Fundraiser
Downtown Aquarium





“SEA” WHAT’S COMING PHILANTHROPY HIGH TIDES

April 6

Durham Elementary

Distribute a small gift to each student to cheer them on ahead of STAAR testing. RSVP to Patti Strawther at pattistrawther@hotmail.com

May 9 (Chapter meeting)

Dress for Success Drive

Chapter Monthly Meeting
More info to come!

May TBD - Stay tuned!

EWI Houston’s Annual Reading Rally

More info to come!

June 5

Durham Elementary

Assist passing out lunch to the school staff

RSVP to Patti Strawther at pattistrawther@hotmail.com

June 9 (Chapter meeting)

Undies for Everyone

Bring a pack of new, unopened children’s underwear

June TBD

Undies for Everyone

Volunteer day at Undies for Everyone

August 22

Pillowcase Sewing Day

Benefiting Child Advocates

Sewing not required!

RSVP to Patti Strawther at pattistrawther@hotmail.com



Waves of Celebration

MARCH



REPRESENTATIVES BIRTHDAYS

SHARI SCHIFFMAN, PAST PRESIDENT - MAR 2

COURTNEY CASTELLANOS - MAR 5

ANNA BRYANT - MAR 15

BARBARA STOKES - MAR 25

LANA O'NEIL - MAR 31

MEMBER FIRM ANNIVERSARIES

DAVID JONES PHOTOGRAPHY - 2003

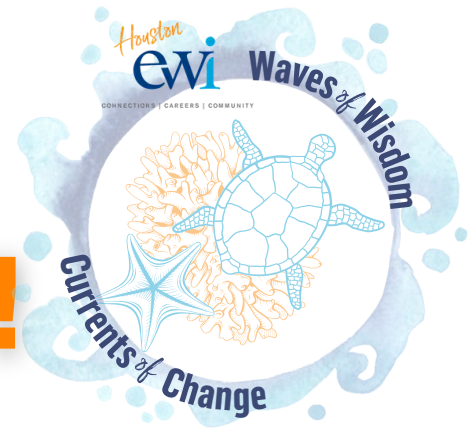
METROMARKETING SERVICES INC. - 2009

DAIKIN COMFORT TECHNOLOGIES - 2023

HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY - 2023



<https://ewihouston.org/>



WELCOME TO THE REEF! THIS COULD BE YOU!

WATCH FOR COLOR-CODED BADGES AT OUR MEETINGS: **BLUE**
INDICATES GUESTS AND **PINK** INDICATES NEW MEMBERS. BE SURE TO
SAY HELLO AND HELP THEM FEEL WELCOME!

The graphic has a dark blue background with white and light blue fireworks and confetti. At the top, the text 'THE FOMO PROMO' is written in large, light blue and white letters. Below this, the main offer is presented in white text: 'Start the year off with \$100 discount on corporate membership fees for the first year'. A smaller line of text specifies: 'New Memberships to include Additional Firm Representatives, New Member Firms and Individual Members'. A yellow banner with black text reads 'H-TOWN!! WE GOT YOU COVERED!!'. Below that, a blue box with white text says 'The Houston Chapter is matching corporate for the FOMO Promo!! Making your first year EWI membership just \$230!!'. At the bottom of the blue box, it says 'Promo is from 1.1.26 to 3.31.26'. The ewi logo and 'CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY' are at the bottom center. A yellow banner at the very bottom contains the email address 'Email Barbara.Stokes@amegybank.com for more info!'. Two red megaphones are positioned at the bottom corners of the graphic.

Email Barbara.Stokes@amegybank.com for more info!

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

February 10, 2026 - Saltgrass at Meyerland Plaza

The February meeting for EWI of Houston was held at Saltgrass in Meyerland on February 10th. Elisa Garcia, President Elect representing Houston First Corporation welcomed everyone and introduced the new members. She recognized members with February birthdays and member company anniversaries.

Carol Pitts representing Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty delivered a beautiful invocation.

After dinner Elisa kicked off the Emerging Leaders Forum and LaTonya Perez, representing the Rose presented the activities. LaTonya explained the EWI Member Interest Survey and board/committee chair positions available. There are a number of ways for members to serve, something for everyone. The deadline to complete the survey is March 27th. We played bingo, answering questions regarding the various board/committee positions and won prizes. Please submit your Member Interest Survey as soon as possible!

It was a fun evening, with delicious food and opportunity for membership to learn about more about our Houston Chapter board/committee chair positions.



- Cindy Joutraw
CenterPoint Energy



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY MEETING



Amy Eddins, Momentive Software; Katherine Neal, Shell Energy Resources Co.; Laura Reyes, Guest



Lily Portales
Hilcorp Energy Company



Anna Bryant, H-E-B
Kristin Skille, Experience Houston



Cristina Barron
Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty



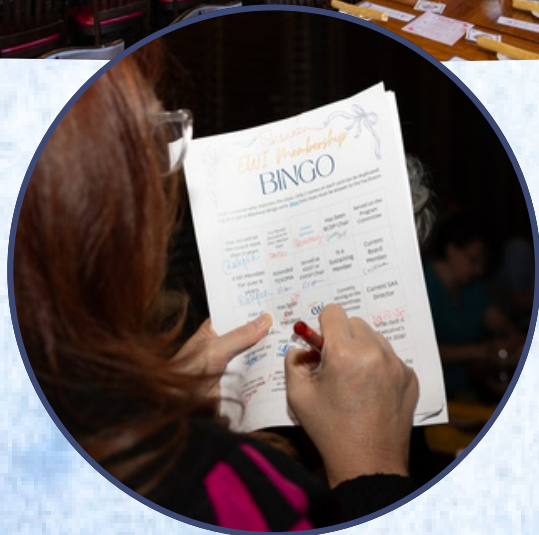
Delynn Walker, Sustainer; Isabel McKinney, Hilcorp; Amanda Billstone, The Chifley; Kori Peters; Lily Portales, Hilcorp



Carole Pitts
Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty



Stephanie Howard
The Ballroom at Tanglewood



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY MEETING



Elaine Nevarez, Guest; Laura Reyes, Guest; Carole Pitts, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty



Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corp



Michele Votano, Atlantic Relocation;
Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy



Stephanie Howard, Ballroom at Tanglewood; Rachel Goldstein, Guest; Anna Bryant H-E-B



Amy Eddins, Guest; Kay Bart, Skerl & Assoc.; Cindy Joutraw, CenterPoint Energy, Inc.; Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests



LaTonya Perez
The Rose



DeLynn Walker, Sustainer; Isabel McKinney, Hilcorp

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Experience Houston - February 14 A Lunar New Year Celebration to Remember

Founded in 2011, Experience Houston is one of Houston's leading Destination Management Companies, known for creating immersive, story-driven experiences that showcase the very best of our city.

On February 14, I had the pleasure of attending their **Lunar New Year Culinary Tour**, and it was truly exceptional. From a welcoming Cantonese meal to the vibrant energy of a Lunar New Year festival — complete with dragon dances and local vendors to a bold and flavorful Sichuan finale, the day was thoughtfully curated from start to finish. Along the way, we learned about cultural traditions, enjoyed seamless transportation, and connected with wonderful people while experiencing Houston in a completely new way.

It was more than a tour; it was a celebration of culture, community, and connection. Thank you to Member, Kristin Skille and her Executive, John Graner for the opportunity to participate!

While this is just a glimpse of what Experience Houston offers, their creativity, professionalism, and attention to detail are remarkable. If you are planning a corporate gathering, client event, or unique Houston experience, I highly encourage you to explore their services at:

<https://www.experiencehouston.com/dmc-services>

Let's continue supporting the businesses within our EWI network and celebrating the many events and cultures in the city we call home.



For more information contact, **Kristin Skille**
at 409.443.9889 or at
kls@experiencehouston.com



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERIENCE HOUSTON - FEBRUARY 14

A LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



Experience HOUSTON
DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

A Hosts Global Member

For more information contact, Kristin Skille at 409.443.9889 or at
kls@experiencehouston.com

CURRENTS OF IMPACT

DURHAM ELEMENTARY



Durham Elementary School teachers sharing smiles over their teacher appreciation gifts!



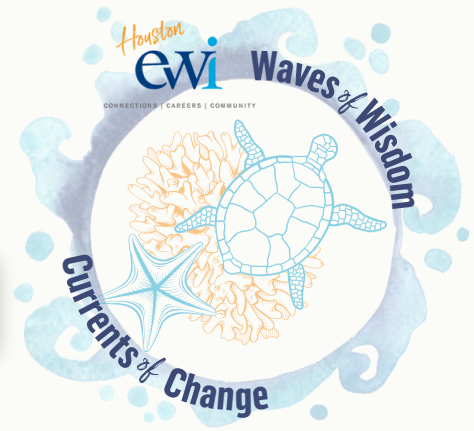
Siena Schickel & Cristina Barron, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty; Patti McLean, Daikin; Cheri Ferguson, Sustainer; Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests; Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates



EWI of Houston recently had the pleasure of serving lunch to the incredible staff at Durham Elementary as a small token of our appreciation for the work they do every day. Educators and school staff pour so much into their students and community, and we were honored to give back in a meaningful way.

Lunch was generously catered by Mytiburger, and it was a joy to share a meal, smiles, and gratitude with such a dedicated team. A simple gesture, but one filled with heart and a reminder of the power of community connection.

Special thanks to Patti Strawther and her Executive, Jim Postl, for partnering with EWI of Houston and leading with generosity. Together, we continue creating ripples of impact that reach far beyond one afternoon.



CURRENTS OF GROWTH

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CURRENT READS

Read: "The Science of Notetaking"
(NessLabs)

 [Read It Here](#)



CURRENTS OF CONVERSATION

Podcast: "Jimmy Wales (founder of Wikipedia)"

(The Learning Leader Show)

 [Listen Here](#)



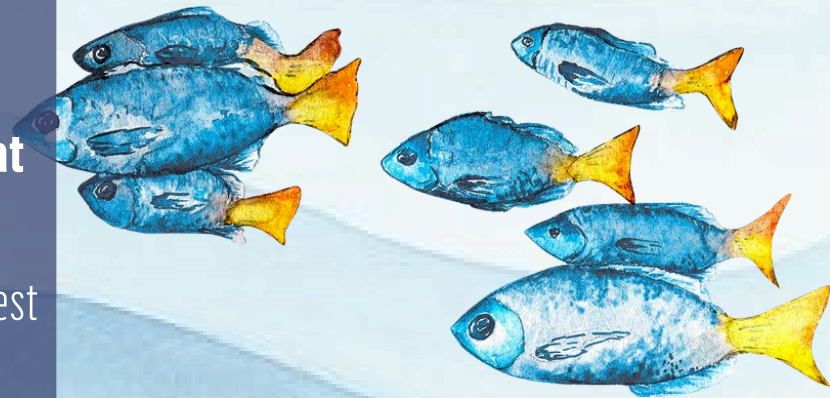
THE CYBER CURRENT

Digital Organization: The Tech Skill That Saves Time Every Day

Staying organized digitally is one of the simplest ways to boost productivity and reduce stress.

Simple Habits That Make a Big Difference:

- Creating consistent file naming systems
- Using cloud storage for accessibility
- Organizing email with folders or rules
- Keeping a centralized notes system
- Using a password manager
- Scheduling regular digital cleanups



KEEP THE CURRENT FLOWING

Help us grow the wave of wisdom! If you have a resource, article, or insight worth sharing email Victoria Maldonado at

[**vmaldonado@harvestmidstream.com**](mailto:vmaldonado@harvestmidstream.com)

<https://ewihouston.org/>

CURRENTS OF GROWTH

NEWS FROM CORPORATE



ASIST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Discover our Adult Students in
Transition Scholarship

Scholarship Details:

- Available to Students in the Greater Houston Area
- Scholarship benefits non-traditional students
- Apply for our Scholarship & Invest in your Education

Application Deadline:
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
by 11:59 PM

Apply
Now!



CURRENTS OF GROWTH

NEWS FROM CORPORATE

Professional Development Webinar: “Don’t Start Over... Start Again”

Hosted by: Mali Locke

Date: March 18, 2026

Time: 12:00pm CST

 [Register here](#) for this EWI Professional Development Webinar



2026 Emerging Executive Women Program



The corporate board is pleased to offer the Emerging Executive Women program again for 2026. The program is open now and winners will be announced in April.

If you have any questions, please contact the Growth and Engagement Director, Lesley Cornathan at lcornathan@columbusconventions.com or 614-827-2661.

TEXOMA

Date: July 30 - August 1, 2026

Corpus Christi, TX

More info to come!

 [Click here](#) to visit the EWI

Corporate site for past professional development webinars.

<https://ewihouston.org/>



EWI of Houston Mission 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 Vision

To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference as they inspire others.



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

Corporate Office

Vicki Chapman, EWI

c/o SWBC

9311 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 600

San Antonio, TX 78216

210-321-7535

www.ewiconnect.com



Leadership

Board of Directors



President
Lily Portales
Hilcorp Energy Company
lily.portales@hilcorp.com



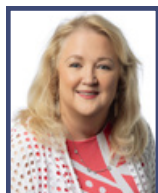
President Elect
Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corp
egarcia@houstonfirst.com



Sergeant at Arms
Anna Bryant
H-E-B
bryant.anna@heb.com



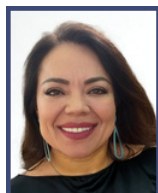
Membership Director
Barbara Stokes
Amegy Bank
barbara.stokes@amegybank.com



Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Petticrew
Shell Energy Resources
linda.petticrew@shell.com



Communications Director
Victoria Maldonado
Harvest Midstream
vmaldonado@harvest
midstream.com



Program Director
Isabel McKinney
Hilcorp Energy Company
imckinney@jdhcap.com



Director at Large
Cristina Barron
Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty
cristina.barron@sothebys.realty



Advisor & Parliamentarian
Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group LLC
cindyb@blackhawgroup.com



Advisor
Shari Schiffman
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
Shari.Schiffman@elliman.com

Leadership

Committee Chairs



ASIST Committee Chair
Debra Jaime
The Rose
djaime@therose.org



Bylaws Committee Chair
Cindy Joutraw
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
cindy.joutraw
@centerpointenergy.com



Courtesy Committee Chair
Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corp
elisa.garcia@houstonfirst
.com



EWISP Committee Chair
Patti Strawther
James J. Postl Interests
pattistrawther@hotmail.com



Hospitality Committee
Chair
Anna Bryant
HEB
bryant.anna@heb.com



Member/ Retention
Committee Chair
Carole Pitts
Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty
Carole.Pitts@sothebys
.realty



Nominating Committee Chair
Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group LLC
cindyb@blackhawgroup.com



Philanthropy Committee
Chair
Patti McLean
Daikin Comfort
Technologies, N.A.
patti.mclean@daikin
comfort.com



Professional Development
Committee Chair
Isabel McKinney
Hilcorp Energy Company
imckinney@jdhcp.com



Public Relations &
Social Media Chair
Victoria Maldonado
Harvest Midstream
vmaldonado@harvest
midstream.com



Strategic Planning
Committee Chair
LaTonya Perez
The Rose
lperez@therose.org



Web Committee Chair
David Jones
D. Jones Photography
studio@djonesphoto.com

Surf the Digital Wave

Connect with EWI Houston



<https://www.facebook.com/EWIHouston>



<https://www.instagram.com/ewiofhouston/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12076399/>



<https://ewihouston.org/>

