

Houston EWIConnect

January/February 2022



From Our President

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. January is the time for renewal, and it brings a chance for everyone to re-group, re-energize, and re-plan.

Our Chapter celebrated its 65th anniversary in January and I feel truly blessed to be a part of the best chapter in the entire EWI organization. We are continuing to re-grow our chapter and we couldn't do it without all of you. Our January "Stepping Stone to Success" was Teamwork and that really sums it all up. It will take all of us working together as a team to succeed this year.

Our Fundraising Committee is hard at work focusing on Executive's Night. Your board is keeping busy running the day-to-day operations of the chapter as well as getting ready for Executive's Night. We need the rest of you to continue to work hard as well. EWISP Scholarship Applications have been sent out to the High School Counselors and the ASIST Scholarship Applications are on our website as well as Social Media. Please reach out to anyone you know who might want to apply.

Our February meeting is going to be a lot of fun, and we have the drawing for our "Be My Date" winners. In addition, we will have our annual Emerging Leaders workshop. This will be your chance to learn all about the various board positions and committees. We need all of you to be thinking about what you would like to do next year. Do you want to be on the board, do you want to chair a committee? Come learn all about it at our February meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Thursday!

Shari



2021-2022 Officers & Directors

President

Shari Schiffman
Douglas Elliman
Real Estate—Texas

President Elect

Kay Bart
Skerl & Associates

Secretary

Linda Peticrew
Shell Energy
Resources Company

Treasurer

Margo Faulkner
Sewell Automotive Companies

Sergeant-at-Arms

LaTonya Perez
Individual Member

Communications Director

Sanela Hasagic
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam,
Inc.

Director-at-Large B/C/DP

Carole Pitts
John Daugherty, Realtors

Fundraising Director

Patti Strawther
James J. Postl Interests

Membership Director

Shannon McNair
The Rose

Program Director

Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group

Save the Date!

Thursday, February 10th

Monthly Chapter meeting will focus on “Emerging Leaders” and will be held at Curtain Call with a full BBQ spread

Thursday, March 10th

Annual EWI of Houston Sustainers Luncheon will be held at Ouisie’s Table

Wednesday, April 6th

Executive Appreciation Night will be held at Ballroom at Bayou Place

Friday and Saturday, April 8th – April 9th

Regional Chapter Board Forum in Chattanooga - Hosted by EWI of Chattanooga

Thursday, May 12th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Location Pending

Thursday, June 9th

Monthly Chapter Meeting honoring Past Presidents will be at The Forest Club

Thursday, July 14th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Location Pending

Friday and Saturday, July 15th – July 16th

TEXOMA Board Forum in Houston - Hosted by EWI of Houston

Thursday, August 11th

Annual Scholarship Celebration Night Chapter meeting will be at Amegy Bank

Thursday, September 8th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Annual Business meeting - Location Pending

Thursday - Saturday, September 15th – September 17th

Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting (LCAM) - Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday, October 13th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - 2022-2023 Installation of Officers - Location Pending

Thursday, November 10th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Cyclone Anaya’s

December 8th

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Location Pending

Representative Birthdays



<i>Marji Zamora</i>	<i>January 6</i>
<i>Mary Speltz</i>	<i>January 6</i>
<i>Virginia Schneider Iloff</i>	<i>January 10</i>
<i>Delynn Walker</i>	<i>February 2</i>
<i>Wendy Gonzales</i>	<i>February 3</i>
<i>Lily Portales</i>	<i>February 6</i>
<i>Linda Day</i>	<i>February 6</i>
<i>Michele Votano</i>	<i>February 15</i>
<i>Carole Ann Pitts</i>	<i>February 21</i>
<i>Cindy Joutraw</i>	<i>February 25</i>
<i>Sandy Gracia</i>	<i>February 28</i>

Company Anniversary

<i>CenterPoint Energy, Inc.</i>	<i>19 years</i>
<i>VisitHOUSTON</i>	<i>19 years</i>
<i>Houston First Corporation</i>	<i>19 years</i>
<i>Texas Southern University</i>	<i>17 years</i>
<i>James J. Postl Interests</i>	<i>9 years</i>
<i>Amegy Bank</i>	<i>8 years</i>

EWI of Houston January Chapter Meeting Recap

Submitted by Ellen Ramsey, Let It Fly Events

The influential leaders of Executive Women's International (EWI) met January 13th for their monthly meeting and was hosted by Damian's Cucina Italiana located on Smith Street. As we know, EWI members are leaders in various industries and maintain a high level of influence and work directly for the President, CEO, CFO, Executive VP's, and other executive leaders within their company. The meeting consisted of catching up with friends, industry networking and participating in the wonderful array of raffle items the Fundraising committee had on display. The event focused on the Covenant House of Houston who help the local youth so they can better help themselves for a brighter future. Their motto is: "Covenant House builds a bridge to hope for the young people facing homelessness and survivors of trafficking through unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support." Our very own, Cindy Baker shared the amazing effort the Covenant House puts forth to support over 1,000 youth every year.

To name just a few:

- Provides housing and supportive services to youth facing homelessness
- Offer healthcare, aftercare, educational programs, meals, and mental health services.
Because the youth of today are so vulnerable to human trafficking, they provide education on this important topic.
- Assist with foster care and domestic violence survivors

The dinner program was extremely insightful, and the EWI leaders will continue to support their efforts in the future.

Old Friends

Many years ago, she said it,
And all these years it's stood the test,
New friends come and go,
"Old friendships are the best."

There's something in relationships,
Time adds to one and all;
Trust piled up, on trust,
Like bricks upon a wall.

Remembering when first we met,
Special times down through the years,
Sharing joys and laughter,
Being there to share the tears.

In times of short relationships,
Friends and lovers come and go:
There's special wisdom in the words,
"Deepest love takes time to grow."



EWI of Houston January 2022 Meeting



*Sara Waguespack, Sustaining Member
LaTonya Perez, Individual Member*



*Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates
Cindy Baker, The Black Haw Group
Cindy Joutraw, CenterPoint Energy, Inc.*



*Priscilla Massey, Past President
& Sustaining Member*



*Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates
Ellen Ramsey, Let It Fly Events*

Houston
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Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate-Texas



Mary Margaret Carroll, MMCarroll & Associates



Cindy Baker, The Black Haw Group



Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests

EWI of Houston Membership Update

As of January 19, 2022

37 Member Firms (1 firm w/rep. pending)
38 reps.
2 Individual Members

15 Sustaining Members
1 Life Member
6 Honorary Members

Philanthropy Committee Update

Submitted by Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors

Your 2021-2022 Philanthropy Committee is hard at work reviewing deserving organizations. If you have one in mind, please contact anyone on the committee.

So far, we have made a Chapter donation of \$650 to Blue Santa, plus our reps' donations of toys and money to Blue Santa. Sgt. Josh Munguia did a fantastic presentation at our December Chapter Meeting (plus we got a lot of wonderful pictures with the Blue Santa himself)!

We have also purchased backpacks that Covenant House was in need of. This is such an awesome example of teamwork! The Philanthropy Committee recommended a donation of \$500, plus we asked if Covenant House needed anything specific. Cindy Baker, representing the Black Haw Group, reached out to her rep at Covenant House and found out that they needed backpacks (30 of them). They wanted the backpacks before Christmas to give to their clients. Your Board moved to raise the donation by \$87.70 so that we could purchase the 30 backpacks. Shari Schiffman, representing Douglas Elliman - Texas, purchased the backpacks and had them delivered in two days. Cindy Baker delivered them to Covenant House the next Monday, days before their deadline!!! That's teamwork!!!

Stay tuned for more exciting news from your Philanthropy Committee, including our first "in-person" Reading Rally since 2019!





Notes from the Board of Directors

LCAM 2022 Rates Are:

- \$700 Early Bird registration (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022)
- \$800 Regular registration (July 1, 2022 – September 15, 2022)
- \$150 Leadership Caucus – One set price for all attendees!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **ASIST Report - Donna Turner, QL Capital Partners**
Committee meetings in progress, email w/application sent to schools/agencies on Jan 12.
- **EWISP Report - Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors**
In process of scheduling committee meetings, email w/scholarship link sent on Jan 12. Working on contacting schools where emails bounced back.
- **Philanthropy Report - Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors**
In process of scheduling committee meetings.
- **Budget Report - Margo Faulkner, Sewell Automotive Companies**
Report pending.
- **Communications Report - Sanela Hasagic, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.**
November/December Connect distributed on Dec 24. Jan/Feb Connect will be distributed before the February meeting.
- **Fundraising Report - Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests**
The Calendar Sponsorship Fundraiser has 32 registered calendars checked out as of December 10th.

Door Prizes:

There were 4 door prizes, plus 3 “bonus” items, for the December meeting. Barbara Camino and Carolyn Toriggino sold door prize tickets.

1. **FASHION:** Coach Attachment Card Case #C7398 in Khaki/Chalk – Donated by Marji Zamora, Representing Speedy Printing – Katy Freeway
2. **BEAUTY:** Gift Card to Ulta Beauty – Donated by Sanela Hasagic, Representing Lockwood, Andrews, Newnam, Inc.
3. **THEATRE:** Two Tickets to Neil deGrasse Tyson: Astronomy Bizarre, Monday, January 17th. Performance at Jones Hall 7:30 p.m. – Donated by Patti Strawther, Representing James J. Postl Interests
4. **DECOR:** Beautiful Crystal Vase – Donated by Shari Schiffman, Representing Douglas Elliman Real Estate – Texas

Bonus Items -

5. **PILLOWCASE SET 1:** Two matching standard size pillowcases with Cats. Made by Brenda Bishop (sister of Patti Strawther)
6. **PILLOWCASE SET 2:** Two matching standard size pillowcases with Sharks. Made by Brenda Bishop (sister of Patti Strawther)
7. **PILLOWCASE SET 3:** Two matching standard size pillowcases with Giraffes and Rhinos. Made by Patti Strawther

- Kendra Scott Give Back - \$81.81– funds were received per Margo on 1/3/22. 8 purchases were made at the December meeting. Funds directed to BCDP account.

- Lynch Creek Farms – Funds have not been received. Shannon McNair stated the funds were coming to her address and the amount should be \$71.
- January Door Prizes – Total \$335

- **Executive Night Report - Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests**

- Encourage board members and reps to follow up with their executive to request sponsorships and/or items for the auction.
- Encourage representatives to ask their executive to attend the event.
- Encourage board and reps to reach out to their network to request sponsorships and/or items for the auction and to invite them to attend the event.

- **Program Report - Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group**

Covenant House was unable to send a representative to speak to our group due to Covid protocol, so a very informal summary was presented.

- February 10th meeting will focus on “Emerging Leaders” and will be held at Curtain Call with a full BBQ spread. \$45 per person
- March 10th Sustainers Luncheon will be held at Ouisie’s Table. \$55 per person
- April 6th – Executive’s Night will be held at Ballroom at Bayou Place. \$75.00 per person
- May 12th – Margo is inquiring about an event at Sewell
- June 9th Past President’s meeting will be at The Forest Club
- July 14th Texoma – we are looking at the Omni for our monthly meeting as well.
- August 11th Scholarship Night meeting will be at Amegy Bank
- September 8th is our Annual Business meeting – Still Open
- October 13th is Kay Barts installation – Kay will decide venue
- November 10th – still open
- December 8th – Zoo Lights is confirmed
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- **SAA Report - LaTonya Perez, Individual Member**

January meeting had 19 in attendance with 22 RSVPs; a detailed report is on file.

- **Nominating Report - Rebekah Wesley, Jackson and Company**

The committee decided to have Emerging Leaders at February’s meeting. The program will be speed dating and the committee will provide question/topic cards revolving around committees and participation.

The committee will reach out to committee chairs and board members. The thought is that they will stay stationary and then the other members in attendance will rotate. If we need more “rotators” we will ask some of the committee chairs to rotate and the board liaison can answer questions about the chair’s committee. The committee is also considering a score card to help them rate what committees they may be interested in. We are currently working on questions.

Member Spotlight



**Lockwood, Andrews
& Newnam, Inc.**

A LEO A DALY COMPANY

Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) is a full-service civil engineering firm headquartered in Houston. With more than 350 technical, professional, and support personnel throughout 17 offices in the US, LAN provides complete planning, engineering, and program management services. LAN is a national leader in the engineering industry and is consistently ranked among the “Top 100 A/E Firms” according to *Engineering News-Record*. LAN is a LEO A DALY company, an international architecture and engineering firm.



Founded in 1935, LAN has grown from its humble beginnings as a small Houston firm to a national leader in the civil infrastructure engineering industry. LAN has worked to build a reputable, multi-disciplinary firm that draws on the expertise of individuals to develop designs and solutions that are entirely based on the needs of our clients and the general public. With more than 85 years behind us, our journey has been one filled with milestones.

transit, facilities, education, right-of-way, ports and marine, and mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural engineering.

LAN’s service areas of expertise include water, wastewater, transportation, stormwater management,



At LAN, our purpose is more than what we do on paper and more than the delivery of a set of drawings. Our purpose is the impact our work has on people. A pipeline provides clean drinking water to us; a road connects us to family; a detention pond protects us from floods; and a school building educates our children. Every day, we are driven by knowing that the work we do improves, protects and connects us as communities.