



From Our President

It's so hard to believe that it is already April and we are getting ready for our annual Executive Appreciation Night. As we honor our Executives, I want everyone to remember that we would not be the successful organization we are without the contributions of our member firms. Their support allows each of us to make a difference in the lives of so many less fortunate individuals.

Our Fundraising and Program Committees have worked so hard to plan a very special evening on April 6th at The Ballroom at Bayou Place, one of our member firms. Craig Howard and his team will be providing us with a wonderful meal and outstanding service. I hope your Executives will join us for a fantastic evening as we show our gratitude to them for their continued support of EWI of Houston and our various philanthropic endeavors.

In addition to honoring our Executives, we also come together for one of the sole purposes of our organization - to raise funds to support our local students who are going to college for the first time or back to college to finish up. We are only able to support our Scholarship Programs, Reading Rallies, and other events through the help of each and every one of you.

This will be a fun filled evening with both a silent auction and a live auction. Once again, we will be using Qtego's online bidding services. This will make it easy for everyone to participate even if they can't be there in person.

Hope to see everyone on April 6th and wishing everyone a Happy Easter!

Shari



2021-2022 Officers & Directors

President

Shari Schiffman
Douglas Elliman
Real Estate

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!

Wednesday, April 6th

Executive Appreciation Night will be held at The 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 will be held at Sewell Automotive Companies, Inc.

Thursday, June 9th

Monthly Chapter Meeting honoring Past Presidents will be held 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 held 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 will be held at Cyclone Anaya's Woodway

December 8th

Monthly Chapter Meeting will be held at the Houston Zoo

Representative Birthdays

<i>Sandy Bertram</i>	<i>March 2</i>
<i>Shari Schiffman</i>	<i>March 2</i>
<i>Courtney Castellanos</i>	<i>March 5</i>
<i>Debra Crabtree</i>	<i>March 15</i>
<i>Barbara Stokes</i>	<i>March 25</i>
<i>Pat Thomas</i>	<i>March 30</i>
<i>Margo Faulkner</i>	<i>April 14</i>
<i>Shannon McNair</i>	<i>April 14</i>
<i>Martha Cebellos</i>	<i>April 18</i>
<i>Ellen Ramsey</i>	<i>April 21</i>
<i>Marilyn DeSimone</i>	<i>April 23</i>
<i>Sanela Hasagic</i>	<i>April 25</i>

Company Anniversaries

MMCarroll & Associates	21 years
D Jones Photography	19 years
John Daugherty, Realtors	17 years
Metromarketing Services, Inc.	13 years
The Ballroom at Bayou Place	4 Years
Corinthian Houston	2 years

EWI of Houston February Chapter Meeting Recap
Submitted by Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank, and Liz Palacios, Hilcorp



What a busy night! Thank you, **Craig Howard** representing **The Ballroom at Bayou Place**, for hosting us at the Curtain Call...open bar, appetizers, Bingo, networking, and awesome door prizes...what a fun night.

Our invocation was led by **Cindy Baker**, representing **Black Haw Group**.

The Nominating Committee led by **Rebekah Wesley**, representing **Jackson and Company**,

organized a Bingo game to help us learn who to reach out to with questions and when important events are for this year.

Just a few questions for the night...Do you know the right answer?

- When and where is Texoma?
- When and where is LCAM?
- When is Scholarship Night?
- Who would you call if you are interested in being a Committee Chair or Board member?

Consider joining the board or serving on a committee.

We need everyone's participation this year.

Our Fundraising Committee led by **Patti Strawther**, representing **James J Postl Interests**, has been working hard to make Executive Appreciation Night special.

Get out there and invite your family, friends, and co-workers to join us on April 6, 2022, at The Ballroom at Bayou Place.

We will have a live and silent auction, a wine pull, a liquor wagon, and lots of other items to bid on.

The Be My Date Calendar Sponsorship Fundraiser raised over \$7000 for our Operating Account!

Be My Date Winners:

First: Isabella Guffisberg

Second: Martha Ceballos

Third: Martha Ceballos



Let's not forget about our door prizes!

Door Prize Winners:



- **Theatre:** Two Tickets to the Society for the Performing Arts performance Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on Saturday, February 19th 7:30pm. Donated by **Patti Strawther**, representing **James J. Postl Interests**.

o **Winner: Lindsey Duhon**

- **TWO PACKAGES:** Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo BBQ Cookoff! This fabulous package included 4 VIP Passes to the Houston Pork

Authority Tent (good for 3-days: Thurs, Fri & Sat), and 4 entrance passes to the Cookoff good for any one day of the cookoff. Donated by **Martha Ceballos**, representing **ELP Enterprises, Inc., dba MC Business Products**.

o **Winners: Shannon McNair & Cindy Baker**

- **Two tickets** to Tim McGraw HLS&R rodeo performance on Wednesday, March 2, Section 105 (lower level). Donated by **Kay Bart**, representing **Skerl & Associates**.

o **Winner: Barbara Camino**



EWI of Houston February 2022 Meeting



*LaTonja Perez, Individual Member
Courtney Castellanos, Lockwood, Andrews &
Newnam, Inc.*



Rebekah Wesley, Jackson and Company



*Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy Resources Company
Michelle Votano, Atlantic Relocation Systems
Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors*



Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests

EWI of Houston March Chapter Meeting Recap

Submitted by Courtney Castellanos, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.



Spring was in the air for our March chapter meeting that was held at Ouisie's Table. What could have been more fitting for our Sustaining Members luncheon? Our WOW (Women of Wisdom) were in our presence, and it was a wow of a day. The sun was shining into our meeting space and the French doors were open into the courtyard – it was the perfect way to warm up with all of the yoyo weather we have had lately. The meeting room was set with two long tables with chairs on each side. To carry on the Spring theme and to get us excited for a

brand-new season our president, **Shari Schiffman**, representing **Douglas Elliman Real Estate** provided beautiful floral coin purses that complimented the personalized place cards prepared for each attendee. We were very excited to see the Sustaining Members that were able to join. Thank you so much to **Sandy Bertram, Barbara Camino, Cheri Ferguson, Priscilla Massey, Carmen Nadolney, Carolyn Noack, MarySue Patronella, Bari Ross, Pat Thomas, Carolyn Toriggino, and Sara Waguespack**. Our invocation was led by **Priscilla Massey, sustaining member**. We dined on a choice of Shrimp & Grits, Meatloaf or Parmesan Chicken. Everyone seemed to enjoy their meal and to cap off the lovely lunch, we were served a sweet little trio of mini desserts.

Patti Strawther, representing **James J. Postl Interests**, our 2021-2022 Fundraising Director, gave a status for the fast-approaching Executive Appreciation Night. The chapter set a goal for the prizes to auction off and we are halfway to our goal. Patti expressed she is pleased with the wide variety of prizes that have been committed – there will be something that will appeal to everyone. Our prizes will also include a wine pull and a liquor wagon. If you have contributions for the wine pull or liquor wagon, please contact **Shari Schiffman** and **Patti Strawther** to coordinate contributions. After we all got a little more excited for Executive Appreciation Night, it was time to draw for door prizes.



Door Prize Winners:

- Rodeo Time – 4 tickets to see Chris Stapleton on Thursday, March 17th. Excellent Seats donated by **Patti Strawther**, representing **James J. Postl Interest**
 - **Winner: Jessica Sebesta**
- Jewelry – Beautiful Kendra Scott three-tiered necklace. Donated by **Cindy Baker**, representing **Black Haw Group**
 - **Winner: Pat Thomas**
- Let’s Wine About It - 2 Bottles Whistling Ducks Wines - The Long Road Home and Sunset Rose. Donated by Sustaining Member **Carolyn Noack**
 - **Winner: Kay Bart**
- Artfully Unique - Beautiful Stone Flower created by artist, and EWI Representative, **Michele Votano**, representing **Atlantic Relocation Systems**.
 - **Winner: Patti Strawther**
- Theatre – Can’t Beat This!: Two Tickets to Society for the Performing Arts performance of Drum Tao at Jones Hall on Monday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. Excellent Seats! Donated by **Patti Strawther**, representing **James J. Postl Interest**
 - **Winner: Michele Votano**
- Nothing Better Than Cash - \$65 cash to represent EWI of Houston’s 65 Year Anniversary. Donated by **Delynn Walker**, representing Texas Southern University
 - **Winner: Debra Crabtree**



In closing, **Priscilla Massey** spoke for all of the Sustaining Members and thanked everyone who participated in setting up the wonderful meeting. Shari ended our meeting expressing her excitement for Executive Appreciation Night and emphasizing what a wonderful night it will be and thanked everyone who has contributed and will be contributing. And for all that attended the meeting today.

We all left with a spring in our step and a fresh look into a new season.

EWI of Houston March 2022 Meeting



Bari Ross, Sustaining Member



*Carolyn Toriggino, Sustaining Member
Carolyn Noack, Past President and Sustaining Member*



Cheri Ferguson, Sustaining Member



*Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate
Margo Faulkner, Sewell Automotive Companies*





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

Fundraising Update

Submitted by Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests

We hope you will be joining us for our Annual Fundraiser! This extraordinary evening will be celebrating our executives and our mission – bringing together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

The Fundraising Committee has been hard at work preparing for the Executive Appreciation and Annual Fundraiser on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at the beautiful The Ballroom at Bayou Place. Craig Howard has gone above and beyond with his contributions toward this event, making it not only successful, but providing a means so that our fundraising efforts and goals make the biggest impact. But, it has taken more than just the Fundraising Committee. The involvement from so many representatives, and their executives, colleagues, friends, and connections have made a huge difference in the awesome auction items. The auction is live now so if you haven't already reviewed the site, please do so. This auction has something for everyone, and at all price points! Support EWI today by bidding or by making a monetary donation.

While a lot of focus the past few months has been on preparing for our biggest fundraising event, the Fundraising Committee has been making an impact on the budget by selling door prize tickets at the monthly meetings, and we had the drawing for the Be My Date Calendar Sponsorship at the February meeting. The Be My Date Calendar Sponsorship netted a total of \$7,016.00, after providing prizes. With 24 calendars turned in, and 2,863 entries in the drawing, the lucky winners of the drawing receiving Visa gift cards were 1st Isabella Guffisberg, 2nd Martha Ceballos, and 3rd Martha Ceballos. It was Martha's lucky night, and she graciously has donated one of the gift cards toward an auction item!

For the monthly door prize ticket sales, we added \$560 in February and \$445 in March toward the Operating Budget. If you haven't contributed an item for the monthly door prizes, reach out to Patti Strawther to let her know which month between May-October you would like to participate. Having great items has contributed to ticket purchases, which you can now buy online, even if you are unable to attend the monthly meeting.

My motto since becoming Fundraising Director has been "Together, we can do this"!



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

I. ASIST Report - Donna Turner, QL Capital Partners

Committee meetings in progress, applications closed on March 18th, judging begins on April 4th, winners will be selected by May 23rd

II. EWISP Report - Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors

Committee meetings in progress, 81 applications received, applications close on March 18th, judging begins on April 4th, winners selected by May 23rd

III. Philanthropy Report - Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors

In process of scheduling committee meetings, working on planning Reading Rally and project selection to benefit senior citizens and Undies for Everyone

IV. Budget Report - Margo Faulkner, Sewell Automotive Companies

BCDP Accounts

Money Market Balance as of 2/28/2022: \$ 17,345.26

Checking Balance as of 2/28/2022: \$ 52,461.96 **Total: \$ 69,807.22**

Operating Accounts

Money Market Balance as of 2/28/2022: \$ 33,708.93

Checking Balance as of 2/28/2022: \$ 21,622.11 **Total: \$ 55,331.04**

Certificate of Deposit: As of 2/28/2022: \$50,000.00

V. Communications Report - Sanela Hasagic, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.

The January/February Connect was distributed on February 10, 2022. Deadline for the March/April Connect is March 25, 2022. March/April Connect will be distributed on Friday, April 1, 2022.

VI. Fundraising Report - Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests

A Fundraising Deposits Register form was created and will be provided to the Treasurer with funds collected where the Fundraising Director and Treasurer will sign off at transfer of monies. There is also a summary of other fundraising funds collected since previous report for recordkeeping purposes.

Communications:

- Door prize information was provided to LaTonya Perez, SAA, to include in the monthly meeting registration and reminders.
- March 7, 2022 - email to Courtesy Distribution List: EWI Fundraising Announcement: March Door Prizes listed with link to purchase tickets online, and auction donor form provided for Executive Appreciation Night 2022.

There were 6 door prizes for the March meeting. Priscilla Massey assisted in selling door prize tickets.

- *Artfully Unique* - Beautiful Stone Flower created by artist, and EWI Representative, **Michele Votano**, representing Atlantic Relocation Systems.
- *Let's Wine About It* - 2 Bottles Whistling Ducks Wines - The Long Road Home and Sunset Rose. Donated by Sustaining Member **Carolyn Noack**

- *Theatre – Can't Beat This!*: Two Tickets to Society for the Performing Arts performance of Drum Tao at Jones Hall on Monday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m. Excellent Seats! Donated by **Patti Strawther**, representing James J. Postl Interests
- *Nothing Better Than Cash* - \$65 cash to represent EWI of Houston's 65 Year Anniversary. Donated by **Delynn Walker**, representing Texas Southern University
- *Jewelry* – Beautiful Kendra Scott three-tiered necklace. Donated by **Cindy Baker**, representing Black Haw Group
- *Rodeo Time* - Chris Stapleton performance – Thursday, March 17th; Section 112, Row CC, Seats 1-4 (need ARS app to transfer tickets). Donated by **Patti Strawther**, representing James J. Postl Interests

Funds:

March Door Prizes – Total \$445

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

\$32,000.00 Funds/Sponsorships received, or committed, as of March 14th include:

January: Hilcorp (5K)

February: James J. Postl Interests (5k), Mary Wilson (\$500 directed toward Adelaide DeBow Scholarship Fund),

March: Sterling (1k), Harvest Midstream (5K), Amegy Bank (\$2,500), Rosanna & Myron Blalock (\$2,500), Douglas Elliman Real Estate (\$2,500), Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty (1k), H-E-B (\$5k), Cheri Ferguson in honor of Ed Ferguson (\$1k), Skerl & Associates (\$1k)

Donated items, or commitments, continue to come in and tracked on a spreadsheet. At the March 10th monthly meeting, an overview was provided of the items received targeted items needed. It was also requested for all representatives to encourage their executive to attend, and to invite co-workers, friends, and family to attend the annual event. An auctioneer has been selected. Randy "Col." Davis came recommended by Kay Bart. Invitations were created by Marji Zamora and will be printed and mailed by Speedy Printing - Katy Freeway to executives and extended additional targeted guests by March 17. An electronic version will be sent to representatives once it is finalized.

VIII. Program Report - Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group

- April 6 – Executive Appreciation Night will be held at the Ballroom at Bayou Place. \$75.00 per person
- May 12 – Auto upkeep and safety presentation at Sewell - working on pricing
- June 9 - Past President's meeting will be at The Forest Club
- July 14 Texoma – we are looking at the Omni for our monthly meeting as well.
- August 11 - Scholarship Night meeting will be at Amegy Bank
- September 8 is our Annual Business meeting
- October 13 is Kay Bart's installation – Kay will decide venue
- November 10 – Cyclone Anaya's on Woodway – Blue Santa
- December 8 – Zoo Lights is confirmed

IX. SAA Report - LaTonya Perez, Individual Member

March meeting had 32 in attendance with 32 RSVPs; a detailed report is on file.

X. Nominating Report - Rebekah Wesley, Jackson and Company

No report.

Member Spotlight

THE Ballroom AT BAYOU PLACE



Located on the 2nd Floor of Bayou Place in Downtown Houston, the over 15,000 square foot event center provides everyone from brides to businesses a premier event venue located in the heart of Houston's Theater District. With floor-to-ceiling windows and sweeping balconies, guests are treated to a striking backdrop of the Houston skyline with the ability to create an open-air environment to enjoy the view.

The Ballroom is your full-service event venue offering a suite of services that will make event design and production easy on the client. Nestled in the heart of Houston's Theater District, The Ballroom at Bayou Place is downtown Houston's largest private event venue. The Ballroom is expertly equipped to host large corporate functions, dream weddings and other social events, but is equally capable of catering to the details of the most intimate gatherings. When you choose to host your event at The Ballroom at Bayou Place, a world of possibilities is opened to you and the event of your dreams can easily become a reality.

Customer service is our creed. At The Ballroom, we strive to remove the stress that comes with planning and hosting an event. As our client, we will work in partnership with you to ensure that your needs are met and that the ultimate customer – your guest or clients – are treated to an unforgettable experience.

The Ballroom is managed by event industry veteran Craig Howard. Howard is a Houston native with 40+ years of experience producing and managing events. He has lead teams by directing events for companies such as The Ritz Carlton and Cirque du Soleil that are known for their world-class events, as well as, managed several large-scale event centers. Also noteworthy, Howard has directed events for four Super Bowls.

