

# Houston EWIConnect

May / June 2022



## From Our President

It's hard to believe that half of the year is gone already. This has been an exciting year for our Chapter as we move back towards the pre-pandemic days of in-person meetings, great fundraising and awesome scholarship awards. June is also the time that we look back on our history and honor those special women who have brought us to where we are today – our Past Presidents.

These women stand out from all other successful people. They learned to work with different personalities while still being able to nurture, motivate and inspire others. This unique group of women helped to lay the foundation for our chapter and continue to be mentors, supporters and friends. They are part of our great history and were always willing to step up and take on difficult challenges. These women led the way to our past successes and continue to lead us towards are future ones. Although they all had impressive careers and busy lives, they still found time to accept a leadership role in EWI.

Our June 9th meeting at The Forest Club was our time to show them just how much we appreciate them and all they have done for our chapter. Leadership is an important element which separates the extraordinary from the pack. Leaders have drive, energy, determination, self-discipline, willpower and spirit. These Past Presidents of EWI of Houston are the "Stepping Stones to the Success" of our chapter. We are now preparing to host the 2022 TEXOMA Board Forum on July 15 - 16 at the Omni Houston. This is again an opportunity for our Chapter to come together and show what we are all about. We will be welcoming members from the chapters in our region as well as members of the EWI Executive Board and other chapters across the country. There is still time for you to attend. The registration form can be found on our website. If you register and pay for the TEXOMA Board Forum and bring a door prize valued at a minimum of \$25, your July meeting fee will be waived. I encourage each of you to seriously consider attending this great event.

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July Holiday, let's not forget the reason behind the holiday. It is a time to celebrate our freedom. A freedom that was fought for almost 250 years ago that gave us everything we have today. Let us all continue to fight to ensure Freedom will always be available for those who really want it. Be safe!

Shari



### 2021-2022 Officers & Directors

#### President

Shari Schiffman  
Douglas Elliman  
Real Estate

#### President Elect

Kay Bart  
Skerl & Associates

#### Secretary

Linda Petticrew  
Shell Energy  
Resources Company

#### Treasurer

Margo Faulkner  
Sewell Automotive Companies

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

LaTonya Perez  
The Rose

#### 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, July 14th***

Monthly Chapter Meeting - Omni Hotel Houston

## ***Friday and Saturday, July 15th – July 16th***

TEXOMA Board Forum in Houston - Hosted by EWI of Houston

Omni Hotel 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 15<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>***

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*

*Don D. Jordan*

*May 9*

*Kay Bart*

*May 18*

*Mary Margaret Carroll*

*June 18*

## *Company Anniversaries*

**Jackson and Company**

**30 years**

**Skerl & Associates**

**21 years**

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

**19 years**

**Harvest Midstream**

**15 years**

**Let It Fly Events, L.P.**

**13 years**

**The Plaza Group**

**4 years**

**Speedy Printing – Katy Freeway**

**3 years**

**QL Capital Partners**

**3 years**

**Douglas Elliman Real Estate**

**2 years**

**Westpark Communications**

**1 year**

## *EWI of Houston May Chapter Meeting Recap*

*Submitted by Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Energy Resources Company*



Our May Chapter meeting was a firm night at Sewell Mercedes-Benz of West Houston and what a fun and interesting evening it was. We all gathered in a glass room with floor to ceiling windows so we could see outside and into the showroom and see all the beautiful cars.



We had a selection of heavy Hors d'Oeuvres and desserts that were all so delicious. Margo took us for a tour of the dealership and first we got to see the customer lounge. Sewell is famous for their customer service and their lounge really shows you that with comfortable seating, charging stations, snacks, and drinks. You can just relax or work while you wait for your car.

We then went to the body shop and heard from Sewell's Estimator, Edgar Villarreal. He talked to us about what to do if you ever get into an accident and what insurance will cover. He made us all think about calling our insurance agents and making sure we were covered for the right things like a rental car, new parts to repair your car, not used ones, if we got into an accident.



There were a lot of questions after Edgar went through some of the scenarios he had seen.

We then walked over to the service department and boy I have never seen a service department that clean and organized. There was tile flooring with each mechanic having their own bay to work at and it was so clean and tidy.





Code Leveritt, Technician, talked to us about their service department and took questions from the group.

We had some great door prizes with dinner for two at Avenida Brazil Churrascaria Steakhouse, a roadside emergency kit, a Visa gift card, a voucher for flowers from Lexis Florist, and a Wine Bottle Opener and Gift Package. I won this month and won the roadside emergency kit. It is a great kit with everything you need. Thank you, Margo.

It was a pleasure touring the dealership and really got to see how Sewell feels about their customers. Thank you, Margo, for a fun and interesting evening. It was so nice to visit with so many members and even had a few husbands attend this month.



# Houston EVIConnect

## EWI of Houston May 2022 Meeting



*Shannon McNair, The Rose  
Mary Margaret Carroll, MMCarroll & Associates*



*Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy Resources Company  
Carolyn Noack, Past President*

# Houston eViConnect



*Sandy Gracia, Individual Member  
Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates*



*LaTonya Perez, The Rose  
Rebekah Wesley, Jackson and Company*



*Shannon McNair, The Rose  
Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group  
Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank*



## ***EWI of Houston June Chapter Meeting Recap***

***Submitted by Sanela Hasagic, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.***



Our June Chapter meeting was a Business Meeting honoring our Past Presidents. It took place at the Forest Club, a hidden gem off of Memorial Drive. We were situated in an elegant and inviting private dining room.

The evening started with a networking hour and a photo session with David Jones. David Jones kindly provided updated headshots for the chapter members. We were very excited to see several Past Presidents in attendance.



Our President, Shari Schiffman representing Douglas Elliman Real Estate, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Shari then called Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group, to the podium to welcome everyone to The Forest Club on behalf of her executive Myron Blalock. After that, Courtney Castellanos, representing Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., read the Principles and Voting Rights.

The business meeting went smoothly. It was short and sweet with written and verbal reports, and voting on nominated LCAM delegates. Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group, returned to the podium to give the invocation after which we enjoyed our salads and dinner. Our dinner menu included Market Greens Salad with Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts and Citrus Vinaigrette, followed by Herb Pan Roasted Chicken, Parmesan Risotto, Baby Carrots, and Haricot Verts. For dessert we had a delicious Fresh Fruit Tart. To finish off the lovely dinner, we were served a refreshing Brandy Freeze.

After dinner we continued the program. Shari called Past Presidents in attendance to come out to the stage to be recognized for their service to EWI. Many thanks to **Bernice Lanclos (1975), Kay Bart (2003), Priscilla Massey (2008), Carolyn Noack (2015), Linda Petticrew (2016), Marji Zamora (2018), Jessica Witek (2019) and Rebekah Wesley (2020/2021)** for your leadership, knowledge, and guidance.



Shari then called Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson and Company, to the podium to present the Past President's award to LaTonya Perez, The Rose. Thank you, LaTonya, for your hard work, enthusiasm, and passion for EWI.

After the award presentation, our Fundraising Director Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests, held the drawings for the terrific door prizes that we had the opportunity to win.

- Jewelry - Lovely 18" crystals Sunset Carnival Necklace by Adornable U, donated by Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson and Company. Winner: Shari Schiffman
- Decor - Stunning Waterford Crystal 10" Bowl in the Brookside Pattern, donated by Becky Dunn, representing MetroMarketing Services, Inc. Winner: Shari Schiffman
- Road Trip: \$50 Shell Gift Card, donated by Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Energy Resources Company. Winner: Shannon McNair
- Bonus Items 1 & 2, donated by: Patti Strawther. Winners: Martha Ceballos and Marji Zamora



*EWI of Houston June 2022 Meeting*



*Dee Dee Rzasnicki, Guest  
Bernice Lanclos, Past President*



*Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate*



*LaTonya Perez, The Rose  
Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group*



*EWI of Houston June 2022 Meeting*



*Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
Kay Bart, Skeerl & Associates*



*Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests*



*Rebekah Wesley, Jackson and Company  
LaTonya Perez, The Rose*



*Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy Resources Company  
Priscilla Massey, Past President*




## ***EWI of Houston Membership Update*** ***As of June 13, 2022***

32 Member Firms (1 firm w/rep. pending)  
35 reps.

15 Sustaining Members  
6 Honorary Members


## ***ASIST Winner Update*** ***Submitted by Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors***

**Victoria Lopez**  
I am a Senior at the University of Denver, and I have a passion for c





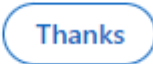
**Victoria Lopez** (She/Her) · 1st  
I am a Senior at the University of Denver, and I have a passion for casting movies and television shows. Specifically, I am interested in...

MAY 24

 **Victoria Lopez** (She/Her) · 4:36 PM  
Hello,

My name is Victoria Lopez and I won a scholarship from EWI Houston ASIST in 2020. I just wanted to reach out and thank you and your team for believing in my college journey. I wanted to keep you updated by announcing that because of your generosity, I will graduate next year with a Communications and Film degree. Thank you again for supporting me through the pandemic and making attending, and now graduating, college a reality for me.

Have a great Summer!  
Victoria Lopez

## ***EWISP Winners Update***

***Submitted by Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors***

**From:** Araceli Ramos <[ramosara1820@gmail.com](mailto:ramosara1820@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 8:46 PM

**To:** Carole Pitts <[carolep@johndaugherty.com](mailto:carolep@johndaugherty.com)>

**Subject:** Graduation

Dear Carole, I hope you are well

I miss y'all so much. I would like to share my graduation with y'all. It is an honor and y'all were part of my journey!!!

Thank you!



## ***Ballroom at Bayou Place in the News***

### **Former Hess Club building near Galleria reopens as event venue**

By Jeff Jeffrey – Reporter, *Houston Business Journal*  
Jun 13, 2022

The building that once served as the longtime home for the Hess Club, a century-old institution serving the engineer and contractor community, has found new life as an event venue. The Hess Club shut down in 2020, becoming yet another casualty of the financial fallout brought on by the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. However, Tanglewood Property Group, the Houston-based company that owns the building at 5430 Westheimer Road, recently entered into a deal with the operators of the Ballroom at Bayou Place downtown to open a second event venue location in the former Hess Club building. The building, since rebranded as the Ballroom at Tanglewood, hosted its first event in early June. The Peru to the World Expo brought in more than 500 visitors to sample food created by 28 Peruvian chefs from across the country. “It was a great event that brought a lot of people together to enjoy the Peruvian culture,” said Craig Howard, co-owner of the Ballroom at Bayou Place and its subsidiary companies. “It really shows how perfect this location is for events.”

#### **Come together**

Howard said he and his partners worked with the Hess Club to host events in the past. So, when the club was preparing to shut down, its leaders reached out to Howard to see if it would be OK for the Ballroom to take referrals for future events. At the time, Hess Club President Jack Miller said in a letter to the organization's members: “Even in the best of times the HESS Club has struggled to earn a profit. ... The special events marketplace is very competitive and has proven to be difficult for the HESS club. Quite frankly, a board of directors that consists of engineers and contractors is not well suited to navigating the special events marketplace.” After talking to Miller, Howard said, “It wasn’t 24 hours later when I thought, ‘Why don’t we just take over the building?’”

Howard and his team were interested in the property because it offered something different from the Ballroom at Bayou Place downtown. For one thing, it's smaller than the group’s downtown venue. “We do a lot of business in corporate events and large-scale weddings with upwards of 500 people,” Howard said. “But we were having to turn away clients who wanted to do a wedding, a bar/bat mitzvah, a quinceañera or nonprofit event for 75 to 100 people because the numbers just didn’t make sense. This will allow us to offer a venue that can cater to events of that size.” Additionally, having a foothold in the booming Galleria area offered an opportunity to attract a new client base, Howard said. “This way, we can cater to the west Houston audience that doesn’t want to make the trip into downtown because of parking or whatever else,” he added.

Access to parking was an especially attractive feature of the former Hess Club building, Howard said. The building is located next to the office tower at 5444 Westheimer Road, which has an underground parking garage, and the A.D. Players at The George Theater at 5420 Westheimer Road, which has a large surface parking lot. “We’re already worked out deals with both places to use their parking lot for large events,” Howard said. “It’s great because our events tend to be on nights and weekends, so there shouldn’t be too much competition for either parking locations.” Once the Ballroom team identified the former Hess Club building as an attractive opportunity, Howard entered into what would be a lengthy negotiation process with Tanglewood Property Group to lease the 21,000-square-foot space. It took more than 10 months before a final deal was reached. “We knew that what the Hess Club was paying was something we weren’t willing to pay, so we wanted to make a deal that was more in line with our

business,” Howard said. Tanglewood Property Group Vice President [Dean Wilkins](#) agreed that putting the lease together took some work.

“If this were an office lease or something like that, we could do it with our eyes closed,” Wilkins said. “But this was a different kind of business. We wanted to give them the best chance to succeed, while still making a good deal.” What the two sides ended up agreeing upon was a set base rate that would eventually start to decrease as the Ballroom of Tanglewood became more successful. In return, the Ballroom would start to pay an additional rate based on a percentage of the revenue the event venue brought in.

“They have an ongoing business downtown that is very, very busy,” Wilkins said. “We are confident they are going to be successful.” Both Wilkins and Howard declined to provide the specifics of the final lease arrangement.

### **Taking off**

The Ballroom at Tanglewood is already seeing signs of success, Howard said.

So far, the building has booked more than 31 events, even as it finished up an extensive renovation effort. While much of the building will retain the feel of the Hess Club, Howard and his team updated all of the paint, lighting, kitchen equipment and audio/visual systems. “The real centerpiece is the chandeliers we’ve added,” he said. “They’re really spectacular.” With the influx of new business, Howard said he is confident his company will soon start to see revenue that rivals what the company brought in prior to the pandemic. When Covid hit and public gathering places were forced to shut down temporarily, the Ballroom downtown saw its earnings plummet.

In 2019, the company was taking in \$5.6 million, between its venue, catering and floral businesses. That dropped to just \$330,000 in 2020. Last year, the company’s revenue jumped to \$3.6 million, and Howard said he expects the holiday season to help boost the company’s income to about where it was before the pandemic. “We have definitely seen a drop-off in corporate events since the pandemic broke out,” he said. “But even during the pandemic, we never stopped getting calls for weddings and other non-corporate events. In many cases, we worked with brides to relocate their weddings to the Ballroom at Bayou Place because we were large enough to implement social distancing. We will see what the holiday season brings. But we are confident that having two venues will help us bring in a broader range of clients.” What helps, Howard said, is that the Ballroom team offers a full-service approach to events. By having its own in-house catering and floral team, clients don’t have to shop all over town to find vendors. “We are willing to work with anybody on any budget,” he said.

## 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 - Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors

Committee meetings in progress, scholarship winners have been selected.

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

Committee meetings in progress, scholarship winners have been selected.

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

No report.

#### IV. Budget Report - Margo Faulkner, Sewell Automotive Companies

##### BCDP Accounts

Money Market Balance as of 4/30/2022: \$ 17,345.28

Checking Balance as of 4/30/2022: \$ 115,434.85      **Total: \$ 132,780.13**

##### Operating Accounts

Money Market Balance as of 4/30/2022: \$ 33,709.20

Checking Balance as of 4/30/2022: \$ 26,933.42      **Total: \$ 60,642.62**

**Certificate of Deposit:** As of 4/30/2022: \$50,000.00

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

Deadline for the May/June Connect is June 17, 2022. May/June Connect will be distributed on Friday, June 24, 2022.

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

##### Communications:

- May 18 - email to Courtesy Distribution List: requesting door prize contributions for the Texoma Board Forum.
- May 19 - Door prize information was provided to LaTonya Perez, SAA, to include in the monthly meeting registration and reminders.
- June 8 - email to Courtesy Distribution List: EWI Fundraising Reminders: Last Call for pre-purchase of the June Door Prizes listed with link to purchase tickets online. Reminder that David Jones would be doing headshots at the meeting, and if anyone was contributing a door prize for Texoma Board Forum to bring to the meeting.
- June 8 - email to Shari Schiffman and Latonya Perez: Requested Texoma Registration responses for individuals who indicated they will provide a door prize in order to receive the free July monthly meeting for follow up and tracking.

##### June meeting door prizes:

- Jewelry - Lovely 18" crystals Sunset Carnival Necklace by Adorable.U. Value: \$90, donated by Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson and Company. Winner: Shari Schiffman
- Decor - Stunning Waterford Crystal 10" Bowl in the Brookside Pattern. Value \$80, donated by Becky Dunn, representing MetroMarketing Services, Inc. Winner: Shari Schiffman
- Road Trip: \$50 Shell Gift Card. Donated by Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Energy Resources Company. Winner: Shannon McNair
- Bonus Items 1 & 2 - Donated by: Patti Strawther. Winners: Martha Ceballos and Marji Zamora

**Funds:**

June Door Prizes – Total \$395.00

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

Thank you/tax receipt letters have been mailed to donors, along with an EWI card signed by the board members who attended the May board meeting.

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

- July 14 - Omni hotel \$60/pp
- August 11 - Scholarship Night meeting will be at Amegy Bank
- September 8 is our Annual Business meeting – possibly Morton's
- 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**

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

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

*Proposed Slate for 2022-2023 Officers and Directors*

***2022-2023 Officers***

President: Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates

President Elect: LaTonya Perez, The Rose

Secretary/Treasurer: Margo Faulkner, Sewell Automotive Companies

Sergeant-At-Arms: Carole Pitts, John Daugherty Realtors

***2022-2023 Directors***

Director-at-Large: Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy Resources Company

Fundraising: Rebekah Wesley, Jackson & Company

Membership: Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group

Program: Debra Crabtree, Westpark Communications

***2022 Delegates***

Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate-Texas

Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates

2022 Alternate Delegate

LaTonya Perez, The Rose

# Member Spotlight

## OMNI® HOTELS & RESORTS galleria | houston



Omni Houston Hotel completed a \$30 million renovation to various common spaces elevates the hotel as a destination within the Houston area. This hotel features 378 spacious guest rooms and suites and more than 40,000 square feet of space to include multiple ballrooms, two conference areas, and customizable poolside outdoor space.

Property highlights include the following:

- **Birdies Cafe & Bar:** Café serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a grab & go coffee bar that turns wine lounge in the evening.
- **La Reserve Whiskey Lounge:** Whiskey room featuring premium blends and Texas tapas in a cozy setting that pays homage to Houston's history.
- **MoonShot Waterside Bar:** Poolside craft cocktails and chef-inspired shareable delights paired with lush resort grounds, cozy fire pits, and ample casual seating.
- **The Black Swan:** Local favorite to enjoy cocktails and dance the night away to contemporary music and live DJ. The Black Swan nightclub proudly serves a selection of beers, wines and spirits for a true taste of Texas.
- **Mokara Spa:** Full-service spa with eight treatment rooms, a relaxation lounge, and services such as massage therapy, facials, body treatments and more to revive, rejuvenate and restore.



Omni Houston Hotel is offering an exclusive promotion\* allowing you to confirm your event and reward yourself. Spend a minimum of \$25,000 in revenue and receive a two-night stay with breakfast buffet in Birdies Café & Bar and complimentary valet parking.



Our director of special events, Georgia Graugnard, excels at dreaming up creative ways to elevate your event. Georgia has been a member of EWI for 35 years, matching her years of experience. For a Houston experience like no other, contact Georgia Graugnard at [ggraugnard@omnihotels.com](mailto:ggraugnard@omnihotels.com) to learn more.

Centrally located in the prestigious Uptown Post Oak/Galleria area, Omni Houston Hotel is just minutes from all the excitement that Houston, Texas, has to offer and convenient to George Bush Intercontinental Airport, and William P. Hobby Airport.

*\*A minimum spend of \$25,000 can be group room block, catering, or any combination. Event must be a contracted with binding cancellation at Omni Houston Hotel. Gift certificate blackout dates and terms and conditions apply. Event must be booked by August 30, 2022. This promotion cannot be combined with any other promotional offers and discounts. Offer can be discontinued at any time.*