

Houston EWIConnect

May / June 2023



From Our President

What a very special evening at the June 10 business meeting held at member firm The Omni Houston Hotel. We honored several past presidents, we had a special presentation by Ashley Zustovich, Marketing and Communications Director, Child Advocates, and David Jones, D Jones Photography, took complimentary head shots of our members.

I'm happy to share that additional goals have been achieved. The Quick Reference Guide was updated and passed out at the June meeting. David Jones, D Jones Photography, and Sanela Hasagic, Lockwood Andrews, and Newnam, have worked extremely hard to update the Houston Chapter's website; Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group, is working on a photo directory scheduled for delivery at the August meeting; and an updated Benefits of Membership was passed out at the June meeting.

I hope everyone is enjoying the presentations by our member firms that have been introduced by their representative at our monthly meetings. And making those with birthdays and anniversaries feel special as they are recognized at each monthly meeting (except for April, of course), and I still have to brag about our chapter - - -Executives Appreciation Night and Fundraiser was a huge success.

Chaired by Philanthropy Chair, Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests, on Thursday, June 29, several members and Patti's executive will help at the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation's Curiosity Cruiser at the Boys and Girls Club in Spring Branch. There will be approximately 150 children in attendance. The Houston Chapter will do a read along, provide four books to each student, and a tote bag that includes the Houston Chapter logo. It's going to be an exciting afternoon.

Another exciting Philanthropy project is making pillowcases for Child Advocates on Saturday, July 15, at member firm The Ballroom at Tanglewood. The goal is to make 50 pillowcases, but with all the volunteers and excitement, I truly believe we will far surpass this number.

As a reminder, this year the entire chapter is on the Membership Committee. If each representative brought in one new firm, our chapter would be the size it was pre-COVID. I firmly believe we can make that happen.

By now, everyone should know that Marji Zamora, Speedy Printing - Katy Freeway, has been nominated as EWI Corporate President-Elect. Congratulations Marji - we are so proud of you and know that you will be awesome.

The Houston Chapter continues to make me very proud. Together we are a very strong T-E-A-M!

I recently came across this quote and wanted to share: *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"*. Maya Angelou

Kay



2022-2023 Officers & Directors

President

Kay Bart
Skerl & Associates

President Elect

LaTonya Perez
The Rose

Secretary and Director-at-Large B/C/DP

Linda Petticrew
Shell Energy
Resources Company

Treasurer and Membership Director

Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group

Sergeant-at-Arms

Carole Pitts
John Daugherty, Realtors

Communications Director

Sanela Hasagic
Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam,
Inc.

Fundraising Director

Rebekah Wesley
Jackson & Company

Program Director

Debra Crabtree
Westpark Communications

Save the Date!

Friday and Saturday, June 23rd & 24th

TEXOMA Board Forum - Oklahoma City, OK

Thursday, July 13th

Firm Night - The Palm Restaurant

Thursday, August 10th

Annual Scholarship Celebration Night - Amegy Bank Tower

Thursday, September 7th

Annual Business Meeting - Downtown Aquarium Restaurant

Thursday, September 13th – 16th

Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting (LCAM) - Chattanooga, TN

Thursday, October 12th

Chapter Monthly Meeting - 2023-2024 Installation of Officers - The Forest Club

Representative Birthdays

<i>Carolyn Noack</i>	<i>July 3</i>
<i>Deborah Jones</i>	<i>July 23</i>
<i>Sara Waguespack</i>	<i>July 30</i>
<i>La Tonya Perez</i>	<i>August 2</i>
<i>Elisa Garcia</i>	<i>August 12</i>
<i>Paula Mischer</i>	<i>August 16</i>
<i>Priscilla Massey</i>	<i>August 19</i>
<i>Carolyn Toriggino</i>	<i>August 23</i>
<i>Rebekah Wesley</i>	<i>August 27</i>
<i>Linda Petticrew</i>	<i>August 31</i>



Company Anniversaries

<i>Black Haw Group LLC</i>	<i>July - 5 years</i>
<i>The Rose</i>	<i>July - 7 years</i>
<i>Atlantic Relocation Systems</i>	<i>July - 23 years</i>
<i>ELP Enterprises, Inc., dba MC Business Products</i>	<i>August - 9 years</i>

EWI of Houston Membership Update

As of June 13, 2023

36 Member Firms
39 Representatives

12 Sustaining Members
3 Honorary Members



Did You Know?

Did you know that the cost of 3 insured mammograms covers the cost of 1 uninsured mammogram at The Rose?



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 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 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.

Corporate Office

1288 Summit Avenue, Ste. 107, PMB124
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Direct: 262-269-5625
ewi@ewiconnect.com
www.ewiconnect.com

EWI of Houston Chapter May Meeting Recap

Submitted by Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group



Our May meeting was held on May 11th at Adair Kitchen with 24 in attendance, including seven of our new members. The May meeting was intended to be an informal meeting to allow everyone time to network and visit. Everyone was so engaged in conversing that it was decided that we better eat prior to the meeting so Mary Margaret Carroll gave the invocation and dinner was served.

Our President, Kay Bart, representing Skerl & Associates, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Kay recognized birthdays and firm anniversaries for the months of May and June.

Our Executive's Night at The Ballroom at Bayou Place was a huge success and Kay thanked everyone involved in making that happen.

EWI of Houston will be partnering with Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation with their Curiosity Cruiser at Boys and Girls Club in the Spring Branch area on June 29.

We also have a project in July with Child Advocates. Patti Strawther is working hard on both events so stay tuned for the details to follow.





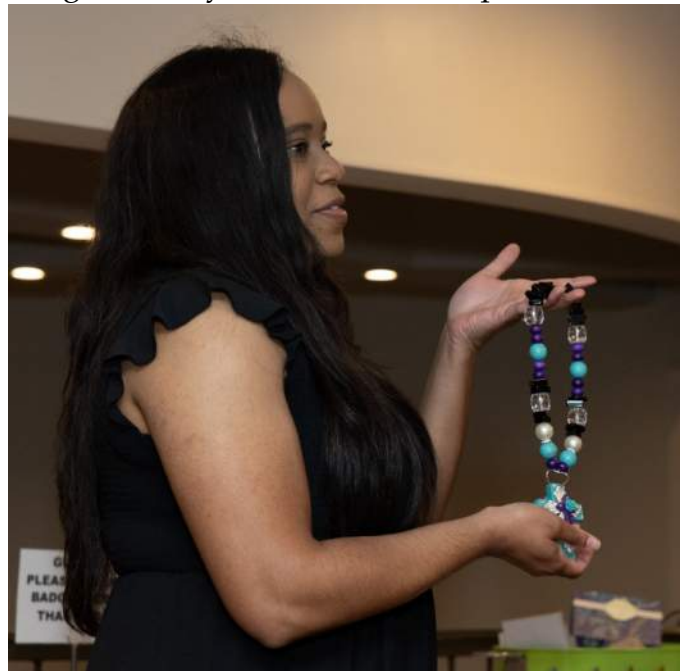
ASIST had 15 and EWISP had 52 scholarship applications. The judging is now complete, and the lucky recipients will be selected in the next couple of weeks.



Our 2023-2024 Membership Director, Cindy Baker, introduced four of our new members. Kay emphasized that we wanted to keep the momentum going so that EWI of Houston could grow to its fullest potential.

Keeping with Kay's goal of becoming better acquainted with our member firms, Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group LLC, discussed her firm, her executive, and her role. Before establishing BHG, Myron Blalock was a partner at Senterra LLC, which has a long history in Houston, Dallas, and Cabo San Lucas (who knew?).

There are many stories concerning how BHG came to be. One of Myron Blalock's core values is to work hard and make wise business decisions so that he can leave a legacy for his children and grandchildren and to give back to the community that he loves and supports. This is not only achieved through financial means, but by good character, and love for family and friends.



EWI of Houston May 2023 Meeting



*Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates
Jayson Garcia, Hyatt Regency Hotel
Diane Bart, Holthouse Interest*



*Shannon McNair, The Rose
Patti McLean, Daikin Comfort Technologies, N.A.*



*Jan Bonugli, The Palm Restaurant
Rusti Banagas, Holthouse Interest*



*Holly Borham, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty
Mary Margaret Carroll, MMCarroll & Associates
Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group*



*Ellen Ramsey, Let It Fly Events, LP
Martha Ceballos, ELP Enterprises*



*Shannon McNair, The Rose
Delynn Walker, Sustaining Member*

EWI of Houston May 2023 Meeting



*Holly Borham, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty
Anna Bryant, HEB*



Wendy Gonzales, The Plaza Group



*Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank
Rusti Banagas, Holthouse Interest
Jan Bonugli, The Palm Restaurant*



La Tonya Perez, The Rose



*Delynn Walker, Sustaining Member
Cheri Ferguson, Sustaining Member*



Shannon McNair, The Rose

New Member Update

Submitted by Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group



Anna Bryant - HEB

Anna was born in Kansas, lived in California, and ended up in Texas in 1972; her father was in the military. She attended Pasadena High School and San Jacinto College where she received a degree in Interior Design. Anna is the Sr. Community Coordinator for HEB and works directly under Lisa Helfman, Sr. Director of Public Affairs Houston Region. In her spare time, Anna likes to bake cookies and volunteer at the Pearland Neighborhood Center. Anna has been married to Ricky Bryant for 38 years and has two daughters, Jessica and Jennifer. Anna is an 18-year cancer survivor and loves helping people.

Rusti Banagas

Rusti moved here a year and a half ago from Beverly Hills, California, for her son. He had been out of school for 1.5 years due to the pandemic and she was determined to make sure he did not fall behind. They have friends here and have been visiting once a year for over 30 years. They have always loved Texas, so here she is. She was PTA president at her son's school for over 4 years, worked with young women graduating college in need of nice clothes for interviewing and landing a new job, and served in soup kitchens. Rusti is trying to teach her son to SERVE others, which has always brought her joy. Rusti is recently engaged, very happy, and thoroughly enjoying Houston. Rusti loves to travel and has been to 29 countries, but other than owning an interior design business in Costa Rica for 6 years, she has never lived outside of California. She loves designing and decorating. It's her passion and something that fills her weekends.

Rusti's executive, Michael Holthouse, is all about philanthropy and helping at-risk children build entrepreneurial skills. Every day is new and exciting. When Kay Bart suggested that she join EWI, she thought it was perfect. Rusti is looking forward to making the most out of her membership and is happy to be here.



Patti McLean

Patti is the Facilities and Events Manager for Daikin Comfort Technologies and works directly for Wendy Hall, Director of Communications and Culture. Daikin is a leading innovator and worldwide provider of advanced, high quality air conditioning and heating solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial applications and has been doing so for the past 99 years. Daikin’s corporate office is in Osaka, Japan, with Houston being America’s primary office. Patti is responsible for the management of food service, janitorial, and pest control contracts; all office/cube moves; furniture purchases; communication for manufacturing; and all internal employee events. Patti is a returning representative and is excited to renew old and gain new connections with the dynamic women of EWI. She stated that the diversity of the industries provides knowledge she would have never gained otherwise.



Jayson Garcia

Jayson is the Director of Sales and Marketing for Hyatt Regency Houston. His job is to increase overall topline revenue for the hotel. He also oversees the Marketing Department at the property to increase overall revenue through various marketing channels. Jayson has been with Hyatt for 6 years. He is joining EWI to support the EWI chapter here in Houston and to partner/assist in any way they can. Jason stated that he wanted to get involved because EWI is such a great pillar in the community and does so much for charities.



EWI of Houston Chapter June Meeting Recap

Submitted by Carole Pitts, representing John Daugherty, Realtors



EWI of Houston's June chapter meeting is always a very special meeting because we honor those extraordinary representatives who have given their all for the Chapter, our Past Presidents. In addition, a business meeting is held in June to nominate a slate of officers and directors for the next year's board, among other business. On top of that, David Jones with D. Jones Photography generously takes headshots of our representatives.

The meeting was held at our member firm, The Omni Houston Hotel - - always a beautiful venue. Those of us who got there early were lucky because we missed the terrible thunderstorm that arrived at the same

time as most attendees! There were quite a few damp heads, and I suspect that the valet was the real winner.

There were no damp spirits though during the networking hour. Representatives chatted with each other, got their headshots taken, inspected the lovely pillowcases that were laid out by our Philanthropy Chair, Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests, and the exciting door prizes being displayed by our acting Fundraising Director, LaTonya Perez, representing The Rose.

Kay Bart, representing Skerl and Associates, our current President (as well as one of our Past Presidents) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone giving special recognition to the seven other Past Presidents in attendance. She recognized firms celebrating EWI anniversaries in June and July and representatives and Sustaining Members who have birthdays in June and July. Kay then introduced our guest speaker, Ashley Zustovich, Marketing and Communications Director with Child Advocates Houston.



Ashley spoke to us about the mission of Child Advocates and how critical the help that its volunteers provide in advocating for children in the foster care system. She explained that these children have to move many times from home to home, often in the middle of the night, with nothing to put their belongings in. Enter the pillowcases! Patti Strawther had set up a community outreach project with Child Advocates where representatives from EWI of Houston will make pillowcases that will be given to children in the system. Not only will they gain a pillowcase but it can be used as luggage to carry their personal items. There was a lot of excited buzz from the audience and Patti had 25 volunteers immediately. This event, which is sure to be loads of fun, will be hosted by Stephanie Howard, representing The Ballroom at Bayou Place, at The Ballroom at Tanglewood and member firm H-E-B will provide lunch and snacks on Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Following Ashley, Kay returned to the podium and called the June Business Meeting to order. Lily Portales, representing Hilcorp Energy Company, read our Principles and Voting Rights. Sergeant-at-Arms Carole Pitts, representing John Daugherty, Realtors, (me), called roll and let Kay know that there was a quorum. Most board reports were on file. President-Elect LaTonya Perez, representing The Rose, gave a verbal report on Texoma and LCAM; Membership Director Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group, presented her report by welcoming back Lily Portales, as well as Stephanie Howard, representing The Ballroom at Bayou Place; and Nominating Chair, Shari Schiffman, representing Douglas Elliman Real Estate, presented her report. She recognized and thanked the hard-working members of her committee, then presented the slate of nominated officers and directors for 2023-2024. Shari then presented the delegates and alternate delegate to LCAM. There were no nominations from the floor so the delegates were elected by acclamation and approved by membership. Philanthropy Chair, Patti Strawther, presented her verbal report where she introduced the aforementioned pillowcase project as well as announcing





EWI of Houston's partnering with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation. Several representatives will volunteer at their Curiosity Cruiser handing out books and reading to children at the Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club. These are such worthy causes that Patti has found for us! There was no new business so Kay adjourned the business meeting.

Sustaining Member, Delynn Walker, gave a beautiful invocation (as always) after which we enjoyed a delicious dinner. Kay returned to the podium and gave an inspired speech about the Past Presidents. She reminded us that they gave up nights and weekends with their families, scheduled vacation around EWI meetings, missed family dinners, and have worked endlessly to ensure the continued success of the Houston Chapter. Each of them set an example of leadership for their respective boards, committee chairs, and fellow representatives through their decisiveness, accountability, confidence, trust, and knowledge. Kay introduced each Past President in attendance and invited them to the front so we could acknowledge and applaud them. She announced that in lieu of a gift for each one, EWI of Houston would give a

scholarship to a deserving EWISP and ASIST student in the name of the Past Presidents. The perfect gift!

Kay then thanked Georgia Graugnard and the staff of the Omni for all of their hard work. She invited LaTonya Perez to the podium for the door prize drawings. After which, as we left, we all were very grateful that the thunderstorm had passed.



EWI of Houston June 2023 Meeting



*Past Presidents (left to right)
Shari Schiffman, Donna Gurney, Linda Petticrew, Carolyn Noack, Kori Peters, Delynn Walker, Priscilla Massey
& Kay Bart*



Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests



Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate

EWI of Houston June 2023 Meeting



La Tonya Perez, The Rose



*Ashley Zustovich, Guest
Child Advocates*



*Delynn Walker
Sustaining Member*



Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors



Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group



Lily Portales, Hilcorp Energy Company

New Member Update

Submitted by Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group

Stephanie Howard



Craig and Stephanie Howard with The Ballroom at Bayou Place have been involved with EWI for many years. Although Craig's name has been listed as the Executive and Representative for many years, Stephanie has always played a big part when it comes to EWI. As of June 2023, Stephanie is now the Representative and Craig is the Executive for their membership.

Lily Portales

Lily has been a member of EWI since 2011 when she worked for Austin Industrial and EOG Resources. She recently joined Hilcorp Energy Company as the Executive Assistant to the CFO. She is married to Sam Portales and between them have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Executive in the News

Submitted by Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests

Postl's decades of stellar volunteer leadership being honored with Gold Heart Award



DALLAS - Jim Postl, retired CEO & President of Pennzoil-Quaker State Company, will receive the American Heart Association's Gold Heart Award – its highest honor given to a volunteer – at the Association's National Volunteer Awards event on June 14.

For more than 20 years, Postl gifted the Association with his time, talent and treasures, volunteering at the local, regional, and national levels. His legacy and leadership can be felt across the Association thanks to his chairing the Corporate Operations Coordinating Committee, Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, and Advocacy Coordinating Committee. Most notably, Postl has served as a member of the National Board of Directors since 2010.

During his term as chairmanship of the organization (2017-19), the Association experienced tremendous

growth in all areas of the business, including launching new research centers on atrial fibrillation as well as vascular disease and brain health in aging populations as part of AHA's investment in Strategically Focused Research Networks. The Association also championed legislation expanding access to care for heart attack and stroke patients and launched new guidelines in blood pressure and cholesterol management, stroke care and heart disease and stroke prevention.

Additionally, through his mentorship of staff and coaching from his committee seat, Postl challenged AHA team members to be their best at every turn. Jim and his wife Beverly have helped accelerate the Association's mission impact through their generous philanthropy over many years.

The June 14 Awards ceremony will air live from 6-8 p.m. and be broadcast live on Heart.org.



Spindletop Sneak Peek Event

Submitted by Barbara Stokes, representing Amegy Bank

Kay Bart, EWI of Houston President; Barbara Stokes, representing Amegy Bank; and Lily Portales, representing Hilcorp Energy Company attended Hyatt Regency's Spindletop opening event on June 22. The Spindletop had been closed to the public during Covid and just reopened. Instead of offering romantic dinners, the Spindletop will now host private events. The space will accommodate up to 175 guests and offers great views of Houston.

The evening event included food and beverage stations displayed around the Spindletop circular floor and live music. Guests were excited to see the Spindletop open back up. According to the Hyatt Regency staff, reservations have already been booked for 4th of July where guests can see fireworks shooting off all over Houston.

If you are interested in hosting an event, contact hourh-rfp@hyatt.com for details.



Spindletop
HOUSTON'S NEWEST AND ONLY
REVOLVING EVENT SPACE

UP TO
175
GUESTS!

AVAILABLE NOW!
CONTACT [HOURH-RFP@HYATT.COM](mailto:hourh-rfp@hyatt.com)
TO INQUIRE ABOUT DATES.

**HYATT
REGENCY**
HOUSTON

The advertisement features a central image of the Spindletop event space, a multi-level, circular structure with a red and orange color scheme, set against a backdrop of the Houston skyline at night. The text is arranged around the image, providing key information about the space's capacity and contact details.



"True-Blue" Referral Rewards Program

EWI Members are the life-blood of our organization. Our "True-Blue" Referral Rewards program recognizes members who are "True-Blue" EWI supporters. Beginning May 1, 2022, EWI is offering an opportunity for any EWI member to be rewarded for referring a new member to the organization.

Reveal your "True-Blue" loyalty for EWI by inviting a friend, co-worker, business partner, neighbor, networking contact or a connection from your social networks to join EWI. If your referral joins EWI, you will receive a \$25 "True-Blue" referral reward voucher redeemable towards any of the following EWI items:

- LCAM Registration
- Leadership Caucus Registration
- EWI Branded Merchandise in the EWI Online Store
- Corporate Membership Dues

As defined by Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, "True-Blue" is:

Unwavering in one's commitment; extremely loyal;

To show what one is really like: to reveal one's real nature or character

Synonyms: constant, dedicated, devoted, devout, down-the-line, faithful, fast, good, loyal, pious, steadfast, steady, true

***In memory of our executive and dear friend
Kathie Edwards – Resting Beside God***

Dear family, friends and admirers the world over,



Our beloved warrior, Kathie, passed from this life to the glory of God in our home this past Saturday night. On Friday afternoon, we brought her home from the hospital where she had battled so fiercely against pancreatic cancer for over 20 months. She clearly recognized she was home amongst her family and closest friends. We talked and laughed, and she continued with her playful wit. We were assisted by Heart-to-Heart Hospice care, and she was calm and comfortable during her peaceful passing. As time drew near, we all assembled around her bed and held her hand and praised and honored her as the angels helped her on her path to God. May she rest in peace.

We will have a visitation this Thursday, June 29th at the Klein funeral home at 16131 Champion Forest Drive for the immediate family between 4-5 pm and for the public between 5-8 pm. We will have a private burial, Friday morning June 30. A memorial service will be held between 2-4 pm at the same Klein Funeral Chapel as the viewing. Kathie had dignity to the end of her life. We were all blessed to know such a caring, generous, engaging and

selfless person. She always put others first and was an investor in people throughout her life. We were blessed to be together and to have a life rich in love, fun, friends and family.

Respectfully,
Ted Edwards
(Loving Husband)

Kathie Edwards, President and CEO of Westpark Communication, Kathie is the second-generation owner of the company founded by her mother in 1968. Kathie has been leading Westpark for over 30 years building a local company into a major player on the national scene, serving Fortune 500 corporations. Kathie has served on Board of Directors for Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, West Houston Chamber of Commerce and the Women Driving Business.



Philanthropy Update

Submitted by Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests

We have exciting philanthropy updates to share, and a request for volunteers for two activities. The first is June 29, and the second is July 15, 2023.

Read more below on EWI of Houston's educational and community outreach activities partnering with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club, and Child Advocates. We hope these initiatives tug at your heart, and you can participate.

First, in June, we have partnered with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation's Curiosity Cruiser at the Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club for a **book giveaway and read aloud**. Curiosity Cruisers mascots will be onsite entertaining the children and posing for photos and a group of children will participate in a read aloud in the new library. Volunteers will help the children select books from the Curiosity Cruiser.

"The Curiosity Cruisers are state-of-the-art mobile libraries that provide Houston children with access to books and exciting educational programs integrating reading with science, math, technology, writing, and the arts. This initiative is a partnership between the Ladies for Literacy guild and the Harris County Public Library aimed at empowering children with their very own home libraries and after school and summer STEM programming."

"Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston gives local youth access to positive role models, fun, and educational activities, nourishing meals, and opportunities to build character in a safe environment."

Location/Details:

Thursday, June 29, 2023; 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club

Volunteers: This event is currently full and we have started an alternate list.

It is anticipated they will have 100 children at the Boys & Girls Club summer programs and each child will choose four books of interest to them.



Second, in July we will be supporting Child Advocates Houston by providing them with pillowcases made with love. These are pillowcases we will make ourselves! The goal is to donate 50+ pillowcases using a variety of fabrics appealing to the various ages of children in foster care. We are well on our way as currently there are 22 completed pillowcases and 40 kits ready to be sewed.

"Child Advocates mobilizes court appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. We speak up for abused children who are lost in the system and guide them into safe environments where they can thrive."

The purpose of the pillowcase is two-fold. A pillowcase is provided to a child within their system, and it becomes that child's personal pillowcase. When a child is removed from their residence, or moved to another foster home, it can serve as luggage to carry their personal items.

Ashley Zustovich, Marketing & Communications Director, with Child Advocates attended the June 8 meeting at the Omni Hotel to talk about the organization.

Volunteers needed! How can you help? Don't sew? No problem!

Location/Details:

- July 15, 2023
- 10:00am – 4:00pm (*Representatives/Volunteers can participate any length of time their schedule will allow*)
- The Ballroom at Tanglewood, 5430 Westheimer Road. *Stephanie Howard, The Ballroom at Tanglewood, has graciously agreed to allow us to use the downstairs space.*
- Fabrics, snacks, lunch, and drinks provided. Special thanks to Anna Bryant and H-E-B for sponsoring the lunch/snacks. Contributions from EWI of Houston, Martha Ceballos, Patti Strawther, and sister, Brenda Bishop for funding and fabrics.

There will be several “stations” set up for volunteers, cutting, pinning, ironing, sewing, and a date with Jack (the ripper) for those whoops.

This is an opportunity to bring representatives together for fun networking while doing something nice for the community.

Interested? Please sign up no later than July 7, 2023, so plans can be finalized and lunch/snacks/drinks can be ordered. If you have a sewing machine and wish to volunteer to sew and bring your machine, please be sure to bring extra needles that are specific to your machine, plus bobbins and neutral colored thread. If you want to sew, but do not have a machine, a couple extras will be available. So, you can't sew, no worries! Other stations will provide opportunities preparing the kits, ironing, trimming, or for mistakes we need someone who wants to go on a date with Jack (the ripper)!

Watch the short YouTube video (7:55 min.) by Crafty Gemini on how to make a burrito pillowcase with french seams. [How to make a Pillowcase- Burrito/Sausage/Roll Up method - YouTube](#)

You will see how easy it is to do. It takes approximately one hour per pillowcase, but with your help we can set it up like a well-oiled machine and crank them out.

Reach out to Patti Strawther, patti.strawther@shell.com, with the following information no later than July 7, 2023:

- Name, and time you can volunteer
- Do you sew?
 - If yes, can you bring your machine or will you need to borrow one
 - If no, are you ok with being assigned a station depending on the need throughout the day?





Notes from the Board of Directors

I. Budget Report – Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group

BCDP Accounts

- Money Market Balance as of 5/31/2023: \$ 67,551.27
- Checking Balance as of 5/31/2023 \$ 79,517.95 Total: \$147,069.22

Operating Accounts

- Money Market Balance as of 5/31/2023: \$ 33,812.73
- Checking Balance as of 5/31/2023: \$ 24,948.76 Total: \$ 58,761.49

Certificate of Deposit

- As of 5/31/2023: \$50,000

II. BCDP Report – Linda Petticrew, Shell Energy Resources Company

Important 2023 Dates:

Friday, June 23 EWI Corporate Judging Evaluation closes

Friday, July 5 EWI Corporate office notifies Chapters of award winners

Friday, August 4 For Corporate Winners, student verification of enrollment forms (VOE) must be submitted to the EWI Corporate Office for prompt payment of funds to schools prior to school starting.

III. Fundraising Report – La Tonya Perez, The Rose (acting Fundraising Director)

June Door Prizes:

- Set of 4 Kate Spade polka dot wine glasses donated by LaTonya Perez, representing The Rose; winner - Linda Petticrew
- Oversize teacup, 2 tea infusers with 1.7 oz of loose-leaf Armenian mint herbal tea with a \$40 Starbucks gift card donated by friends of The Rose; winner - Debra Crabtree
- Aromatherapy candle, custom ceramic heart with homemade soaps and S' well purple bottle donated by Friends of EWI; winner - Martha Ceballos
- EWI Swag: EWI Tumbler and EWI Houston wristlet wallet with \$40 cash donated by Friends of EWI; winner - Priscilla Massey
- Sit Back and Relax package donated by Patti Strawther, representing James J. Postl Interests; winner - Lily Portales
- Astros Commemorative World Series White Wine; winner - Anna Bryant
- Astros Commemorative World Series Red Wine; winner - Linda Petticrew

Funds:

- June Door Prizes - \$410
- \$135 Cash
- \$225 Pre-sales Authorize.net
- \$50 Authorize.net (at the meeting)

IV. Conventions Report

Texoma Board Forum will be held in Oklahoma City, June 23-24, 2023.

LCAM 2023 will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, from September 13- 16, 2023.

V. Nominating Committee Report

The following individuals were elected as Delegates and Alternate Delegate to the 2023 LCAM in Chattanooga, TN.

2023 Delegates

Kay Bart, Skerl & Associates

LaTonya Perez, The Rose

Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group

2023 Alternate Delegate

Carole Pitts, John Daugherty, Realtors

The 2023 – 2024 Slate of Officers and Directors were presented to Membership at the June 8, 2023, meeting. They will be voted on at the September 7, 2023, Annual meeting.

Professional Development

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


Ten Ways to Find Your Inspiration, Written by Jan Gordon

The word inspire comes from the Latin word for inspirare, which means to breath upon or into. When we inspire others, we're living from our higher selves. When we're being inspired, we expand beyond what we previously were, or know our selves to be. Our lives have new breath. Our soul and our actions are one.

- 1. Know what inspires you.** Go back to your memories and recall when you felt most inspired. What was the common thread amongst the different times when you've been inspired? Was it a quality about another person or yourself? Was there a theme to the times when you've been inspired, or have been inspiring? Was it an action that a person took - or that you took? Think about what's inspired you in the past. Look to see what's missing now.
- 2. Learn to live with ambivalence while striving for perfection.** Inspiration lives between the two spaces of ambivalence and perfection. Inspiration speaks to the best within ourselves - ambivalence is the messiness of our lives, the life process. Perfection is the ideal, while ambivalence is its application. Inspiration is what moves us forward in life - through the ambivalence and towards the ideal.
- 3. Take a break from your life.** Go to a movie or hike a mountain to its highest vista. Surround yourself with the sound of the rhythm of water, while the warmth of the sun energizes your body. Move your body so you feel its life. Keep your focus on nothing other than your experience. Live in the present.
- 4. Inspiration isn't only what's done TO you.** Being inspired requires an openness of heart and spirit. Create an environment that supports an open heart, so that inspiration blossoms in your life. Just as a flower needs soil and water, so too does inspiration need openness of heart and spirit. Inspiration can't exist without this.
- 5. Sometimes we fall before we stand.** Don't beat yourself up when you fall from grace. Life is a process and isn't static. When you fall, don't beat yourself up for falling. Acknowledge the fall and it's impact on your life. At some point, you'll take action and stand up. Trust the process.
- 6. Divert your attention.** Forget about the joys that inspiration brings and live from another domain. An inspired life isn't only about inspiration. It's also about exhilaration, about passion and living life fully. Do something completely different than you normally would. Strike up a conversation with someone you typically wouldn't, and approach the conversation with naivete, openness and depth. There's a good chance that inspiration will come to you when you're least looking for it.
- 7. Surround yourself with what inspires you.** If a certain type of person inspires you, follow and nurture the attraction. Trust what inspires you, and let it guide your actions. If a Wagner opera inspires you, surround yourself with its music so you feel completely at one with the music, and with what inspires you. Lose yourself in what you love and be inspired.
- 8. Get outside of yourself.** Though you think you know what inspires you based on past experiences - this doesn't mean that you can't be inspired by something new that previously didn't affect you. Live in the present and pay attention to what tugs at your heart. This will give you a hint to newer sources of inspiration.
- 9. Grace + openness + life + soul = inspiration.** Create a formula consisting of the ingredients that define inspiration for you. We all have different perceptions and experiences of inspiration. Define what it is for you.
- 10. Inspiration is a quality and a state of being.** To be inspiring to others is to be self-generative and inspiring to ourselves. How can you be more self-generative? One must live in a state of being that allows for inspiration to take root. How can you cause and create your own source of inspiration? Where are you self-generative in your life, and how can you be more self-generative?

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Cosmo Cool Concepts, Inc. is woman owned and managed by Juliana Wathen, DMCP. Juliana is the President of the MPI (Meeting Professionals International) Houston Chapter for the 2023-2024 term. She is highly involved with Houston First, NACE and the Greater Houston LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce. She is a long-time volunteer for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and values her time giving back to the community.



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