

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At LCAM, Speaker Kim Becking asked, “What can we celebrate from the past 19 months?” It is true, we naturally focus on the negative and what didn’t happen, instead of celebrating our successes. We may have not raised as much money as we would have hoped to or lost members, but we have still the best we were able to as a Chapter and have plenty of reasons to celebrate; therefore, I felt it would only be fitting to celebrate EWI of Houston in my last Connect President’s letter.



**Rebekah Wesley**  
Jackson & Company

EWI of Houston has:

- gathered together for in-person meetings since March 2021
- given to Blue Santa, His Grace Foundation, Small Steps Nurturing Center, Dress for Success, and Yes Prep North Forest Title 1 Middle School
- honored 11 deserving scholarship winners giving them \$33,000 to pursue their college goals
- raised over \$45,000 for our BCDP Projects
- raised over \$6,000 for the 2022 Special ASIST Scholarship Honoring Adelaide DeBow.
- had three new members join since June 2021
- received two 2021 Lucille Johnson Perkins Awards for Small Firm, Let It Fly Events, and Non-Profit, The Rose, at LCAM
- received 2021 Chapter of Excellence at LCAM

In EWI, your professional life, or your personal life, remember to keep it positive!

- Focus on the can and the now
- Focus on what you are, instead of what you are not
- Don't stop because of fear, move because of purpose
- Be the good, see the good
- Celebrate the little things
- Keep moving forward
- Reimagine what's possible
- Stay grounded in optimism, hope, gratitude, laughter, and joy

The challenges we have faced as a chapter the past 19 months are not gone and there will be more this coming year, but we have to remember EWI of Houston is only as strong as its member firms and representative. I challenge all of you to get more involved in our Chapter, maybe join a committee you have never been on before. Try something new this year. Imperfect action is better than no action. Let's continue to R.I.S.E. – Recognize, Invest, Support, and Engage our time and talents to EWI of Houston and its representatives.

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” – J.K. Rowling

It has been my pleasure serving as your President. I look forward to watching and being a part of EWI of Houston as we grow and become stronger each year.

May we all be DRIVEN to succeed in all we do!



**2020-2021**

## Officers & Directors

**President**

Rebekah Wesley  
Jackson & Company

**President Elect**

Shari Schiffman  
Douglas Elliman Real Estate—Texas

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Sandy Gracia

**Treasurer**

Cindy Baker  
Black Haw Group

**Communications**

Margo Faulkner  
Sewell Automotive Companies

**Director-at-Large**

**B/C/DP**

LaTonya Perez

**Fundraising**

Shannon McNair  
The Rose

**Membership**

Carole Pitts  
John Daugherty, Realtors

**Program**

Wendy Gonzales  
The Plaza Group

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

LaTonya Perez



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# CHAPTER DATES

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## MONTHLY MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021- MAGGIANO'S, 2019 POST OAK BLVD (77056)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022- LOCATION -TBA

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022- LOCATION -TBA

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022- LOCATION- TBA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022- LOCATION- TBA





# Installation of the 2021-2022 Leadership Team

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021**  
**MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY**

2019 POST OAK BLVD, HOUSTON, TX 77056

**5:45-6:30PM NETWORKING | 6:30PM DINNER**  
CASH BAR (CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

## MENU

### BUTLER SERVED APPETIZERS

STUFFED MUSHROOMS | CRISPY ZUCCHINI FRITTÉ

### FIRST COURSE

CLASSIC CAESAR SALAD | CHOPPED SALAD

### ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

RIGATONI "D" WITH CHICKEN, MUSHROOMS, AND MARSALA  
MOM'S LASAGNA

OVEN ROASTED PORK LOIN WITH BALSAMIC CREAM SAUCE  
SALMON, LEMON & HERB

### DESSERTS

TIRAMISU  
CHOCOLATE LAYERED CAKE

## \$55 PER PERSON

INCLUDES ICED TEA, FOUNTAIN SODA OR COFFEE

**COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE WITH DINNER**  
**COURTESY OF DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE - TEXAS**

COMPLIMENTARY SELF PARKING | VALET AVAILABLE \$8

**RESERVE TABLES OF 6 AVAILABLE**



RSVP'S due by Friday, October 8, 2021

RSVP & Pay Online at [www.ewihouston.org](http://www.ewihouston.org).

Checks payable to EWI of Houston may be mailed to:  
Rebekah Wesley, Jackson & Company

707 Hawthorne Street, Houston, Texas 77006





# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

Omni Hotels

13 years



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bari Ross

November 5th

David Jones

November 6th



# Philanthropy News

Submitted by LaTonya Perez, Individual Member



EWI of Houston donated over 70 books to Small Steps

Kentasha McMorris was so grateful for the donation

EWI of Houston helped 40 students and 13 classroom teachers at Yes Prep North Forest Middle School with school supplies for the entire year!





# Houston ewi

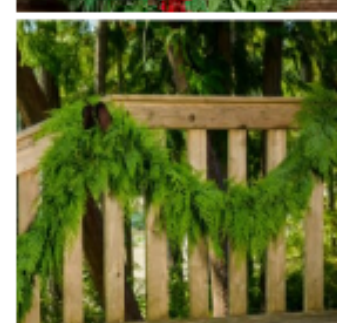
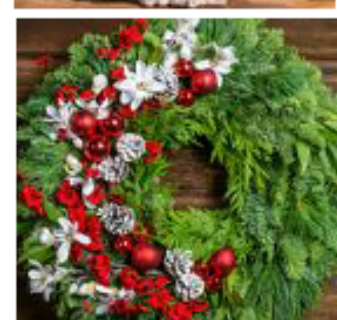
CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNIT

Once again we have partnered with Lynch Creek Farms to offer Fall and Holiday décor to benefit our scholarship programs.

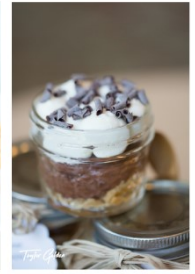
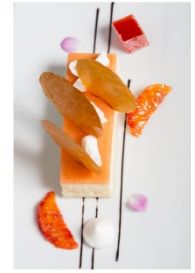
Shop now for great Fall items, Holiday client/employee gifts, or treat yourself to something to brighten up your home. Shop now through the first week of December.

A variety of centerpieces, tabletop trees, signs, décor, garlands, and wreaths are available.

Please share with friends, family and co-workers.



<https://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/272536>



Jackson Hicks, "Prince of Parties", Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and award-winning caterer began working in high-end wine retailing after attending Baylor University. His clients quickly took note of his innovative approach to meal preparation and wine pairings and soon sought his advice for organizing details of their own lavish parties and events. This naturally led to the launching in 1981 of the now internationally-renowned catering firm, Jackson & Company. Since that time, for over 40 years, Jackson & Company has been providing epicurean food and upscale service to distinguished guests from around the world. Known for our "best-in-class" customer experience and attention to detail, we rigorously train our staff to adhere to the highest standards of operational excellence, while graciously greeting guests with a welcoming smile.

Jackson & Company is dedicated to selecting the finest quality ingredients, masterfully prepared by our chefs and presented with exquisite flair. Our culinary team selects menu items that are locally sourced to create fresh and delicious selections. Our culinary range reflects the diversity of our clients and our city and menus can be further customized to fulfill your exact specifications.

We are elated to announce that in October 2020, Jackson & Company went private and partnered with another Houston-area boutique events institution, The Astorian Group, whose collective mission is to continue to forge Jackson Hicks' impassioned vision of creating a luxury hospitality brand, delivering best-in-class service paired with exquisite food and drink, all the while adhering to Jackson's guiding principles and memorable "personalized touches" and continuous pursuit of excellence.

Jackson & Company cannot wait to pamper you and your guests with the finest white glove treatment for your next event. Whether it's favors, boxed meals, an intimate dinner at your home, or a corporate event, Jackson & Company is here to serve you.



# Membership Report

Submitted by Carole Pitts, 2020-2021 Membership Director, representing John Daugherty, Realtors

## Membership Status as of October 7, 2021

38 Member Firms, with	17 Sustaining Members
42 Representatives, which includes	1 Life Member
1 firm with a rep. pending	6 Honorary Members
Individual Member: 1	
Individual Pandemic Member: 1	
Firms with 4 Representatives: 0	
Firms with 3 Representatives: 0	
Firms with 2 Representatives: 2	
Firms with 1 Representative: 35	

Our Membership Challenge is over, and we had a wonderful response, many thanks to all of you! We had eight referrals, four of which were guests at a Chapter Meeting. Several are very interested in joining, but the timing is not quite right at this time. EWI of Houston did a great job, and I want to encourage all of you to keep up the good work. You, our membership, are the very best source of new members for EWI of Houston!

We have had two member firms (Avenida Brazil Churrascaria Steakhouse and The Day Team at Keller Williams Southwest) join EWI of Houston since September 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, both were outside of the Membership Challenge, but we are thrilled to have them join our ranks, and look forward to introducing Linda Day at our October Chapter Meeting.

It has been my honor to serve as your 2020-2021 Membership Director.

Thank you,

Carole Pitts

John Daugherty, Realtors

Please welcome Katie Aguirre, representing Avenida Brazil Churrascaria Steakhouse who graciously hosted our September Chapter Meeting, to EWI of Houston.

Katie is originally from Pflugerville, just north of Austin. She moved to Houston in 2011 to attend the Conrad N. Hilton College at U of H (go Coogs!) where she earned her degree in hotel restaurant management with an emphasis in events and a minor in Graphic Communications Technology.

In her spare time, Katie likes to decorate her house, do DIY projects and hunt. She is married to Johnny and has three fur kids, Luna (a catahoula pit mix), CoCo (a Siamese cat), and Boo (a long-haired black cat).

Katie has been very involved with NACE for the past 10 years and was on their Board of Directors and Executive Board for a combined 5 years. She is honored to be a part of EWI and is very much looking forward to broadening her horizons and getting to know women and men outside of her industry. To Katie, EWI is an exclusive and special organization with many philanthropic and mentorship opportunities; plus everyone is so kind and welcoming!



Photo courtesy of D. Jones Photography



## September Meeting Recap

Submitted by Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Eneergy Resources Company

Back in 2005 the September Meeting was my first EWI meeting. I did think it was a little boring, but what I noticed and learned from this meeting later gave me a good look at what EWI was all about and how things worked.

Our September Meeting each year is our Annual Business Meeting and it is important to attend so we have a quorum to vote on chapter budget, incoming Leadership Team and more. My first thought was oh, this restaurant was kind of far from my office and home but with the toll road it did not take much time at all to get there and what a great chance to try out a new restaurant and visit one of our new members establishment.

The business meeting went smoothly. It was short and sweet with voting on the budget, incoming leadership team, and the nomination committee for next year was all chosen.

The meeting was at Avenida Brazil Churrascaria Steakhouse with cocktails in the bar area and appetizers passed. We had quite a few husbands and guests attend the meeting too. We then moved to one of their many meeting rooms and met our newest member Katie Aguirre from Avenida Brazil. She told us about their new location, all about their private rooms, and how the waiters would bring out the meat and sides.

We first visited the salad bar and boy was it a large salad bar and SO delicious. I could have eaten the salad bar all night. It had everything you would think of and more including soup. I did not get to try everything.

Then while we were eating our salad, the meat started coming and I could not believe how many different cuts of steak they brought out as well as lamb, salmon, shrimp, scallops, and so much more. I think my favorite, if you chose one, was their special house steak and it was SO delicious.

It turned out to be a fun meeting getting to see so many members and catching up along with having such a delicious dinner.



# September Meeting Recap

Submitted by Linda Petticrew, representing Shell Energy Resources Company



Guests Larry Wesley and Dan Ceballos



Margo Faulkner, representing Sewell Automotive Companies and LaTonya Jackson, Individual Member



Guest Mary Esquivel, Wendy Gonzales, representing The Plaza Group, Mary Margaret Carroll, representing MMC and Associates, and Barbara Stokes, representing Amegy Bank



Guest Sarah Sweet, Cindy Baker, representing Black Haw Group, and Rebekah Wesley, representing Jackson & Company



## LCAM 2021 Recap

*Submitted by Kay Bart, Representing Skerl and Associates*

LCAM 2021 was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 15-18, at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel. The theme this year was Reach, Renew, Reimagine.

However I like the theme of leadership caucus which was Excite, Elevate, Envision. I can honestly say there were many moments of Excitement, the speakers Elevated our personal and professional goals, and the programs gave us Vision.

Representing the Houston Chapter were Rebekah Wesley, Shari Schiffman, Marji Zamora, Margo Faulkner, Kay Bart, Wendy Gonzales, Deborah Jones, and Liz Palacios.

The conference started off with an opening breakfast and speaker. Kim Becking's presentation "Resign as General Manager of the Universe: Five Keys to Avoid Burnout and Move from Chaos to Calm" was truly "Exciting". She is one of the best speakers I've heard in a long time.

The Academy of Leadership was given by Lori Giovannoni – "Leadership Strategies to Remain Valuable in a Volatile World". Anyone that has ever taken one of her AOL modules knows how she can Elevate you and help you Envision your present and future. Congratulations to Rebekah --- she completed the requirements to become an AOL Alumni, and Kay was recertified.

One of the highlights of this conference was the BCDP Celebration and Literacy Breakfast. The Albuquerque chapter thought "outside the box" for their Reading Rally this year. Their chapter put together an awesome and inspiring Reading Rally by making a slide show/movie about the importance of reading. Truly inspiring!

Two of our firms made the Houston Chapter proud this year by receiving the Lucille Johnson Perkins Awards. Let It Fly Events was recognized as Outstanding Member Firm – Small, and The Rose as Outstanding Member Firm – Non Profit. Rebekah accepted the awards on their behalf. Another proud moment --- the Houston Chapter received the 2021 Chapter of Excellence Award. Rebekah accepted on behalf of the chapter.

The Annual Meeting was held Saturday morning. It was short and sweet this year. Rebekah and Shari were Delegates; Margo and Kay were Alternate Delegates. The new Corporate Board was installed. Our very own Marji Zamora was installed as a Director.

There were team building sessions, professional development workshops, leadership caucus, networking, and making new friends.

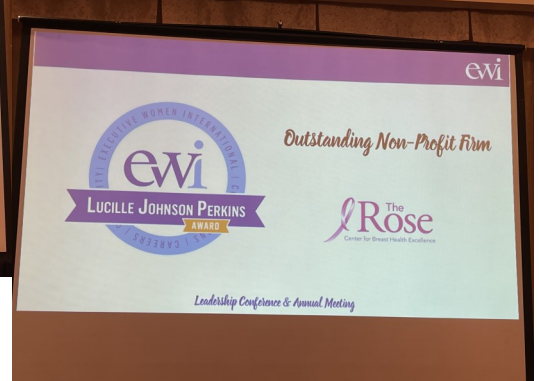
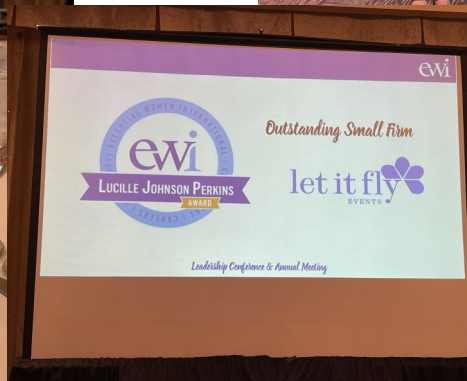
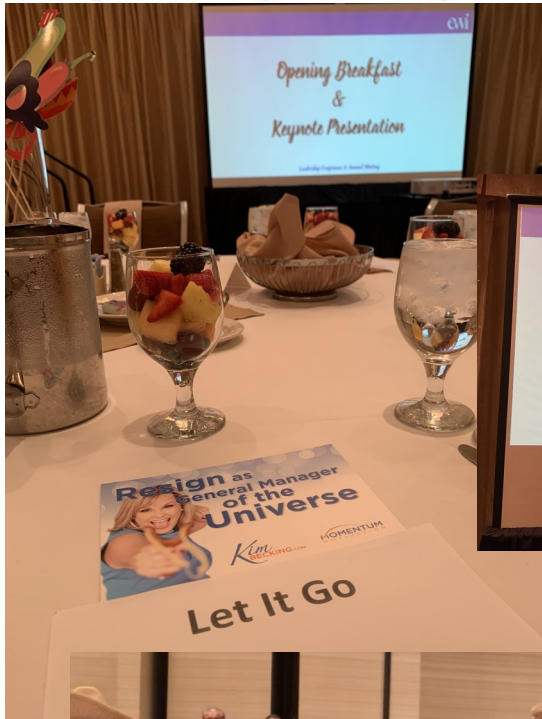
We also had some fun along the way. The Opening Reception was an opportunity to meet and greet where each chapter gave out stickers and pins. Team building Friday afternoon was a surprise. We were entertained by a Mariachi band and the Ballet Folklorico dancers. Prior to dinner, we gathered in the chapter suite for a champagne toast to Rebekah and Margo. They were each presented a gold Kendra Scott hot air balloon pendant from the chapter. We went to dinner Friday evening at DH Lescombes in Old Town. Closing night (co-chaired by Shari) was Casino Royale and Gala. We got to dress up and have chapter photos taken, we were served a very nice steak dinner, had a great band for a little dancing, and of course lots of people taking their chances at the casino.

I had such a great time that I'm looking forward to LCAM 2022 in Corpus Christi.

# LCAM 2021 Recap

Submitted by Kay Bart, Representing Skerl and Associates

## LCAM 2021 ewi Reach Renew Reimagine



# LCAM 2021 Recap

*Submitted by Kay Bart, Representing Skerl and Associates*





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EWI of Houston Vision Statement

EWI of Houston aspires to be the premier business organization of choice for member firms and their key individuals. Recognized by the Houston community as an avenue to achieve personal and professional excellence, every activity of the Houston Chapter will fulfill at least one of the objectives of the EWI Mission Statement.

Our Mission

EWI brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

Our 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 Vision

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

EWI of Houston Connect Newsletter

**Feature your firm in a monthly Firm Spotlight!  
Have news? Share it in the Connect Newsletter!**

**Contact:**

Margo Faulkner, Communications Director  
[mfaulkner@sewell.com](mailto:mfaulkner@sewell.com)

**Submission deadline:** 3rd Friday of each month.

EWI Corporate Office

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you may also text this number as it is a cell phone!

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# 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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**DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**  
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# 2020-2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM



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**EXECUTIVES' NIGHT**  
**Open Position**



**PHILANTHROPY**  
**Open Position**



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**HISTORIAN**  
**Open Position**



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Open Position**



**COURTESY**  
**Open Position**



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**PUBLIC RELATIONS/ SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**Open Position**



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