



Houston ewiConnect



NOVEMBER 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

LILY PORTALES | HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY

Dear EWI Houston Members,

I am truly honored to begin this new chapter with you as your 2025–2026 President. Thank you for the incredible support and kindness you’ve shared since Installation. Our October 14 meeting was a memorable and uplifting way to begin the year, and I’m grateful to everyone who helped make it such a meaningful evening.

During my acceptance speech, I shared the spirit behind our theme, “Waves of Wisdom, Currents of Change.” It reflects not only the knowledge and strength within our chapter, but also our readiness to embrace new ideas, deepen connections, and continue evolving together. I’m excited to carry this theme forward in everything we do.

Last month also included our Board Retreat at Kemah Boardwalk, where our new board and committee chairs came together to plan, connect, and prepare for the year ahead. It was a productive and energizing day, and I’m thankful for the enthusiasm each leader brought to the table.

At our November Monthly Meeting, we had the privilege of honoring our members and loved ones who served in the military and the families that support them. It was a meaningful moment of gratitude and reflection for our chapter community. You’ll find full recaps of all these events in the pages that follow.

As we look ahead, I’m filled with excitement for the opportunities this year will bring for engaging programs, inspiring speakers, community impact, and meaningful professional development. My focus as President is to strengthen communication, grow our membership, encourage participation, and create an environment where every member feels valued and connected.

Thank you for joining me on this journey. Together, we will ride the waves of wisdom gained through our shared experiences and embrace the currents of change that help us grow stronger as a chapter.

2025-2026 Officers & Directors

President

Lily Portales

Hilcorp Energy Company

President-Elect

Elisa Garcia

Houston First Corp

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Petticrew

Shell Energy Resources

Membership Director

Barbara Stokes

Amegy Bank

Director-at-Large B/C/DP

Cristina Barron

Martha Tuner Sotheby's International Realty

Sergeant-at-Arms

Anna Bryant

H-E-B

Communications Director

Victoria Maldonado

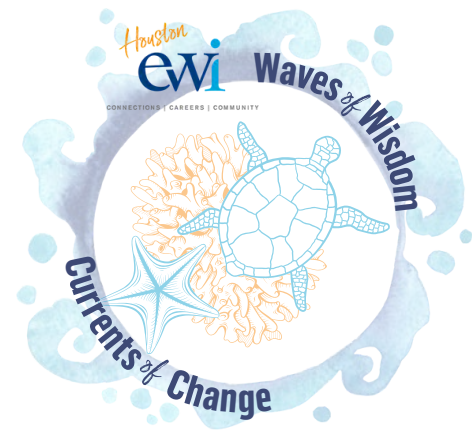
Harvest Midstream Company

Programs Director

Isabel McKinney

Hilcorp Energy Company

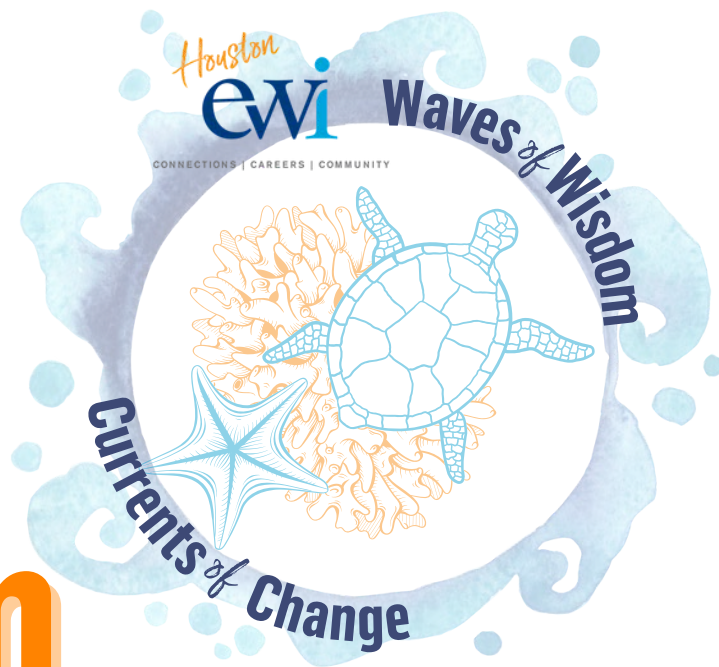
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Words of Wisdom

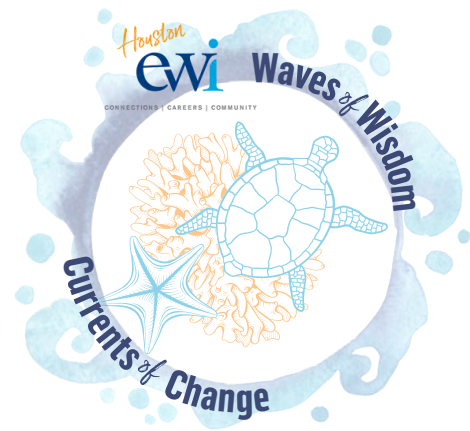


“We planted seeds, watched them bloom, and grew leaders in 2023 and 2024. Then we came together and made magic happen throughout the Chapter from 2024 to 2025. Now, let’s ride the waves of wisdom we created to navigate the currents of change and grow in 2025 and 2026!”



-Lily Portales, EWI Current President

<https://ewihouston.org/index.php>



“SEA” WHAT’S COMING

November 27

Thanksgiving

December 9

Chapter Monthly Meeting
Houston Country Club
Blue Santa Toy Drive

December 17

EWI Members Only Holiday Social
Lily Portales' Home - League City

January 13

Chapter Monthly Meeting
Amegy Bank on Main



Houston Police

*Blue
Santa
toy drive*

EWI DECEMBER MEETING

Houston Country Club
1 Potomac, Houston 77057

TUESDAY

Dec.

09

2025

5:45 - 8:30 PM

Please bring new unwrapped gifts for boys and girls of all ages to the December Chapter Meeting.

The Blue Santa team has provided us with a Wish List for items they are in most need of:

- Boy & Girl gym bags
- Axe (hygiene) sets for boys
- Blow dryers, flat irons, curling irons for girls
- Perfume (can be sets) for older girls
- Shaving kits/cologne sets for boys
 - Earbuds for boys
 - Caboodles for girls
 - Bluetooth speakers
 - Board Games - 10+
- Balls: boys & girls - 10+
(soccer, football, volleyball or basketballs)

For online monetary donations, please include "EWI" after your last name so we can track donations.



CLICK HERE to donate!

Waves of Celebration

NOVEMBER

REPRESENTATIVES BIRTHDAYS

KORI PETERS, PAST PRESIDENT - NOV. 1

BARI ROSS - NOV. 5

DAVID JONES - NOV. 6

CRISTINA BARRON - NOV. 11

JESSICA SEBESTA, PAST PRESIDENT - NOV. 24

DONNA GURNEY, PAST PRESIDENT - NOV. 30

SIENA SCHICKEL - NOV. 30

MEMBER FIRM ANNIVERSARIES

CORINTHIAN HOUSTON, 2024

OMNI HOTEL, 2008

Waves of Celebration

DECEMBER

REPRESENTATIVES BIRTHDAYS

MELISSA FORD, PAST PRESIDENT - DEC. 3

MARTY MOORE, PAST PRESIDENT - DEC. 3

GEORGIA GRAUGNARD - DEC. 7

CINDY BAKER, PAST PRESIDENT - DEC. 9

PATTI STRAWTHER - DEC. 11

BETTY STOLARSKI - DEC. 23

MEMBER FIRM ANNIVERSARIES

**MARTHA TURNER SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY - 2022**

A top-down view of a Thanksgiving dinner table on a dark wood surface. In the top left, a roasted turkey is served on a wooden platter with orange slices and rosemary. To its right are autumn leaves and a cluster of red berries. In the bottom left, a small bowl of cranberry sauce sits next to a walnut and a pinecone. In the bottom center, a dark wooden plate holds a fork and knife on a red and white plaid napkin, surrounded by autumn leaves, a pinecone, and small round tarts.

From EWI of
Houston Chapter

May you and your family have a
Happy Thanksgiving



WELCOME TO THE REEF!

**NEW TIDES BRING NEW CONNECTIONS!
WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**



Richard Boles
Hundred Percent Hospitality



Kathy Neal
Shell Trading Supplies



Siena Schickel
**Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty**

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD INSTALLATION

Charting New Waters: A New Member's Reflection on Installation Night

As a new member attending my first EWI Installation Night, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect — but the evening turned out to be an inspiring introduction to the heart of Executive Women International. From the moment I arrived at the beautiful Corinthian Houston, I felt the warmth and professionalism that define this organization.

The program highlighted the values that set EWI apart: leadership, connection, and community impact. As a new member, I've often admired how effortlessly EWI women uplift one another, but seeing the Installation ceremony firsthand brought that spirit to life. Watching leaders step into their roles for the coming year reminded me why I joined: to grow, to connect, and to serve alongside women who truly embody leadership. Being installed as a board member for the first time was both humbling and empowering. Standing with the other leaders, I felt anchored by their encouragement and inspired by the trust placed in me.

Throughout the evening, members shared stories of their journeys, the waves they've navigated, and the successes they've celebrated together. Hearing these experiences as someone new to the organization—and new to leadership—made me even more grateful to be part of a community that not only welcomes new sailors aboard but equips them to grow and thrive. Installation Night left me feeling energized for the year ahead. I'm ready to set sail in this new role, make meaningful contributions, and "make waves" in the best way possible. I'm proud to serve, proud to learn, and proud to be part of the EWI family.



-Victoria Maldonado, Harvest Mistream



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS BOARD INSTALLATION



Lily Portales, Hilcorp Energy Company



Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group



Amanda Billstone, The Chifley Hotel,
Sanela Hasagic & Courtney Castellanos, LAN Inc



Liz Palacios, Hilcorp Energy Company



Guest Irma Baez, Isabel McKinney, Hilcorp &
Guest Mary Alaniz



Past Presidents Kori Peters &
Carolyn Noack



Lily Portales, Hilcorp & Cindy
Baker, Black Haw Group

Group Picture: Top row (left to right): Shari Schiffman, Barbara Stokes, Cristina Barron, Patti McLean, Cindy Baker

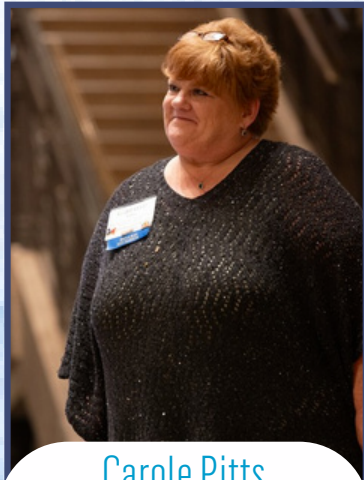
Bottom row (left to right): Linda Petticrew, Anna Bryant, Cindy Joutraw, Lily Portales, Elisa Garcia, Victoria Maldonado, Patti Strawther

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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS BOARD INSTALLATION



Mary Margaret Carrol,
Sustainer and Guest Lisa Anheiser



Carole Pitts
Martha Turner Sotheby's
Realty



Guest Lan Pena



Linda Petticrew, Shell & Shannon McNair,
The Rose



Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corp; Linda
Petticrew, Shell, & Anna Bryant, H-E-B



Rosalind Moore
Corinthian Houston



Guest Sam Portales



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS BOARD INSTALLATION



Shelbie DeZell, Hilcorp (Executive)



Richard Boles, Hundred Percent Hospitality



Guest Frank Garvey
Patti Strawther, James J. Postl Interests



Lily Portales, Hilcorp & Guest
Barry Babyak

Group Picture:
Mary Margaret Carrol,
Martha Ceballos, Lisa
Noack, Carolyn Noack,
Cheri Ferguson

Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty
Top row (left to right): Robin Conner
(Executive), Alex Barron (Guest), Siena
Schickel, Paul Kilian (Executive)
Bottom row (left to right): Stephanie Cleary
(Executive), Cristina Barron, Carole Pitts

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD RETREAT

October 25 - Board Retreat

The EWI Houston board retreat in Kemah, TX was an inspiring day of connection and collaboration. Hosted at The Aquarium Kemah Boardwalk, the retreat kicked off with an overview of plans for the year ahead, followed by engaging team-building activities guided by guest speaker and executive coach, Landi Spearman of Organized Shift, that highlighted our unique work styles to help us better understand each other. A lively marshmallow tower challenge sparked creativity and friendly competition, and we enjoyed a delicious lunch overlooking the interesting fish The Aquarium holds. The day concluded with a scenic boat cruise on Galveston Bay, offering the perfect setting for continued bonding and strengthening relationships within the board. This board retreat set the tone for the upcoming year that while we will work hard to achieve our goals, we still make time to enjoy each other's company and try new experiences together.



-Cristina Barron



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD RETREAT



2025-2026 Board Lunch



Isabel McKinney, Hilcorp



Lily Portales, Hilcorp
Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corporation



Debra Jaime, The Rose



Landi Spearman, Organized Shift; Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank; Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group; Debra Jaime, The Rose



Carole Pitts, MTSIR
David Jones, D. Jones Photography



Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank; Cristina Barron, MTSIR; Linda Petticrew, Shell; Anna Bryant, HEB; Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corporation



Landi Spearman, CEO Organized Shift



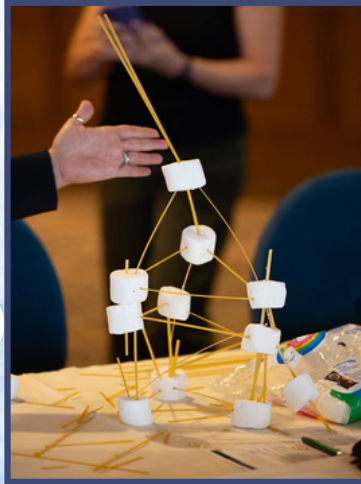
2025-2026 Board

Houston eViConnect

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS BOARD RETREAT



Anna Bryant, H-E-B



Cristina Barron, MTSIR; Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank; Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corporation; Anna Bryant, HEB



Shari Schiffman
Douglas Elliman Real Estate



Group Picture (left to right): Patti McLean, Daiken; Cindy Baker, Black Haw Group; Carole Pitts, Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty; Cindy Joutraw, Centerpoint Energy

CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

November 11, 2025 – The Chifley Houston

Our November monthly meeting brought the EWI Houston Chapter community together for an evening of connection, gratitude, and warmth. Held at The Chifley Houston Hotel, the venue was beautifully decorated for Christmas, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere.

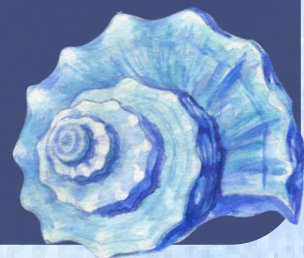
President Lily Portales opened the night by welcoming members and guests, offering support for Linda Petticrew and her family, and leading us in honoring Veterans Day. We were pleased to welcome several guests, including Shelby ByBee of Beehive Coaching and Consulting and Ms. Norma Jean Skille, mother of member Kristin Skille. We celebrated November birthdays, recognized member firm anniversaries, and introduced our newest members—each contributing to the continued growth of our chapter.

Following a lovely invocation from Elisa Garcia, members enjoyed dinner and fellowship. Our guest speaker, Christina Hutchinson of Mark Kamin & Associates, shared an impactful professional development message that offered meaningful insight and inspiration.

After the meeting, The Chifley Houston provided a tour of their meeting spaces, hotel rooms, and festive Christmas-themed suites, giving members a wonderful look at their amenities and holiday charm. The evening wrapped up with our Fundraising Committee leading the always-fun Door Prize Drawing. Thank you to everyone who joined us—we look forward to gathering again next month as we continue riding the Waves of Wisdom together.



-Isabel McKinney



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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER MEETING



Linda Petticrew, Shell



Lily Portales, Hilcorp
Courtney Castellanos, LAN Inc.



Anna Bryan, H-E-B
Elisa Garcia, Houston First Corporation



Shannon McNair, The Rose
Carole Pitts, MTSIR



Barbara Stokes, Amegy Bank



Lisa Diaz, Metromarketing Services, Inc.



Christina Hutchison
Mark Kamin & Associates

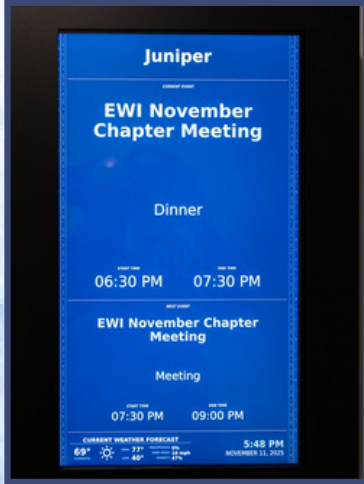


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CURRENTS & HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER MEETING



Marilyn DeSimone, Landry's & Kathy Neal, Shell

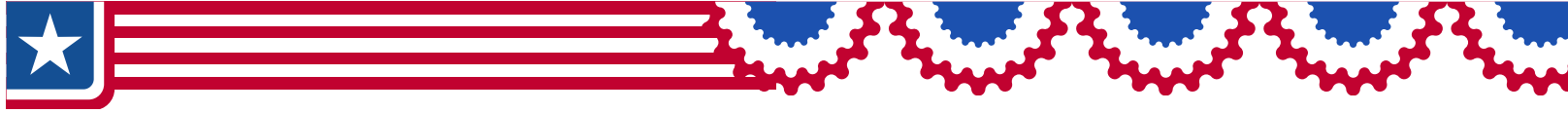


Shari Schiffman, Douglas Elliman Real Estate, Guest Shelby ByBee



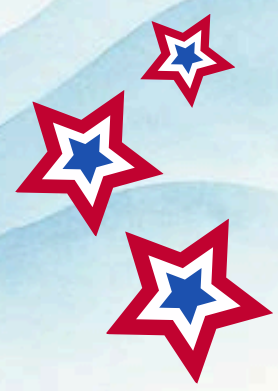
Amanda Billstone, The Chifley

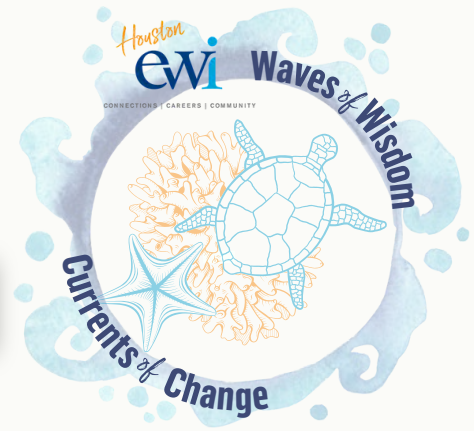




- ★ Master Seargent Blaine Stokes - US Air Force, 23 years (deceased)
Father of Cindy Baker, EWI Past President & Father-in-Law of Barbara Stokes, EWI Member
- ★ Jennifer Reagan - US Army, 8 ½ years - 2 in Afghanistan
Granddaughter of Kay Bart, EWI Past President
- ★ Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Stokes- US Marines
Son of Barbara Stokes, EWI Member & Nephew to Cindy Baker, Past President
- ★ Garry Reagan - US Marines, 4 years
Son-in-law of Kay Bart, EWI Past President
- ★ Seaman Recruit Brandon Stokes - US Coast Guard
Grandson of Barbara Stokes, EWI Member & Great Nephew to Cindy Baker, EWI Past President
- ★ Ryan McKinney- US Army
Son of Isabel McKinney, EWI Member
- ★ Malcom Chatham - US Marines (deceased)
Husband of Carolyn Toriggino, EWI Member
- ★ James Hardy - US Air Force, 10 years
Husband of Priscilla Hardy, EWI Past President
- ★ Sgt Major William Schaffer - US Army, over 20 years
Father of Shari Schiffman, EWI Past President
- ★ Richard Peña - US Army (deceased)
*Veteran of the Vietnam War
Father of Lily Portales, EWI Current President*
- ★ Battalion Command Sergeant Major Javi Perez - US Army, 23 years
*currently serving in the Reserves
Husband of LaTonya Perez, EWI Past President*
- ★ John T. Wilson - US Army
*Old Guard in Washington, DC and also in Afghanistan
Nephew of Carolyn Noack, EWI Past President*
- ★ Jesus C. Cruz - US Air Force
Father of Anna Bryant, EWI Member
- ★ Jeff Wheeler - US Navy
Nephew-in-law of Carolyn Noack, EWI Past President
- ★ Lt. Col. John F. Wilson, US Air Force
*Veteran of World War II and the Korean War
Father of Carolyn Noack, EWI Past President*
- ★ Army Medic Edward Petticrew - US Army, over 20 years
Father-in-Law of Linda Petticrew, EWI Past President
- ★ John F. Wilson, Jr. - US Army
Brother of Carolyn Noack, EWI Past President
- ★ Ed Ferguson - US Army & US Marines (deceased)
Husband of Cheri Ferguson, EWI Member
- ★ Michael E. Dwyer - US Army
*Veteran of the Vietnam War
Brother-in-law of Carolyn Noack, EWI Past President*
- ★ Sgt Atrau-Jovian Maldonado - US Army
Husband of Victoria Maldonado, EWI Member
- ★ George Pitts - US Airforce
Brother-in-law of Carole Pitts, EWI Member
- ★ John Pitts- US Airforce
Brother-in-law of Carole Pitts, EWI Member
- ★ Robert Portales - US Army (deceased)
Brother-in-law of Lily Portales, EWI Current President

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SERVICE**





CURRENTS OF GROWTH

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CURRENTS OF CONVERSATION

Podcast: "Lead with Soft Skills" – Focuses on essential abilities like effective communication, confidence-building, personal branding and overcoming limiting beliefs.

 [Listen Here](#)



CURRENT READS

Read: "5 Executive Assistant Performance Review Examples Done Right" (ProAssistant)

 [Read It Here](#)

Visit the EWI Corporate site for past professional development webinars.

 [Click Here](#)



CURRENTS OF REFLECTION

"I am thankful for EWI because..."



KEEP THE CURRENT FLOWING

Help us grow the wave of wisdom! If you have a resource, article, or insight worth sharing email Victoria Maldonado at

[**vmaldonado@harvestmidstream.com**](mailto:vmaldonado@harvestmidstream.com)



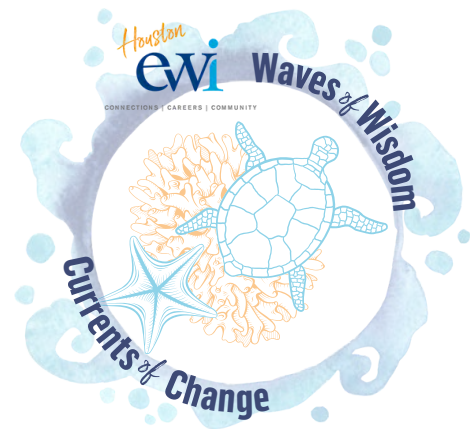
THE CYBER CURRENT

Read: "12 Essential Technology Skills (And How To Improve Them)" (Indeed)

 [Read It Here](#)

<https://ewihouston.org/index.php>

Tides *of* Generosity



**HELP US CREATE A WAVE OF SUPPORT
FOR EWI OF HOUSTON'S BIGGEST
FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR!**

PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Turn fashion into fundraising! Donate new or gently loved designer handbags to add a splash of flair to our event!

Contact: Lily Portales

lily.portales@hilcorp.com



LIQUOR WAGON

Donate unopened liquor, mixers, or chic barware to help us craft a show-stopping cocktail raffle. Every bottle adds to the splash!

Contact: Shari Schiffman

Sharon.Schiffman@elliman.com



WINE PULL

Help us build an unforgettable wine pull! Donate wine valued at \$25+ or make a tax-deductible cash gift to support premium bottle purchases.

Contact: Patti Strawther

pattistrawther@hotmail.com





EWI of Houston Mission Statement

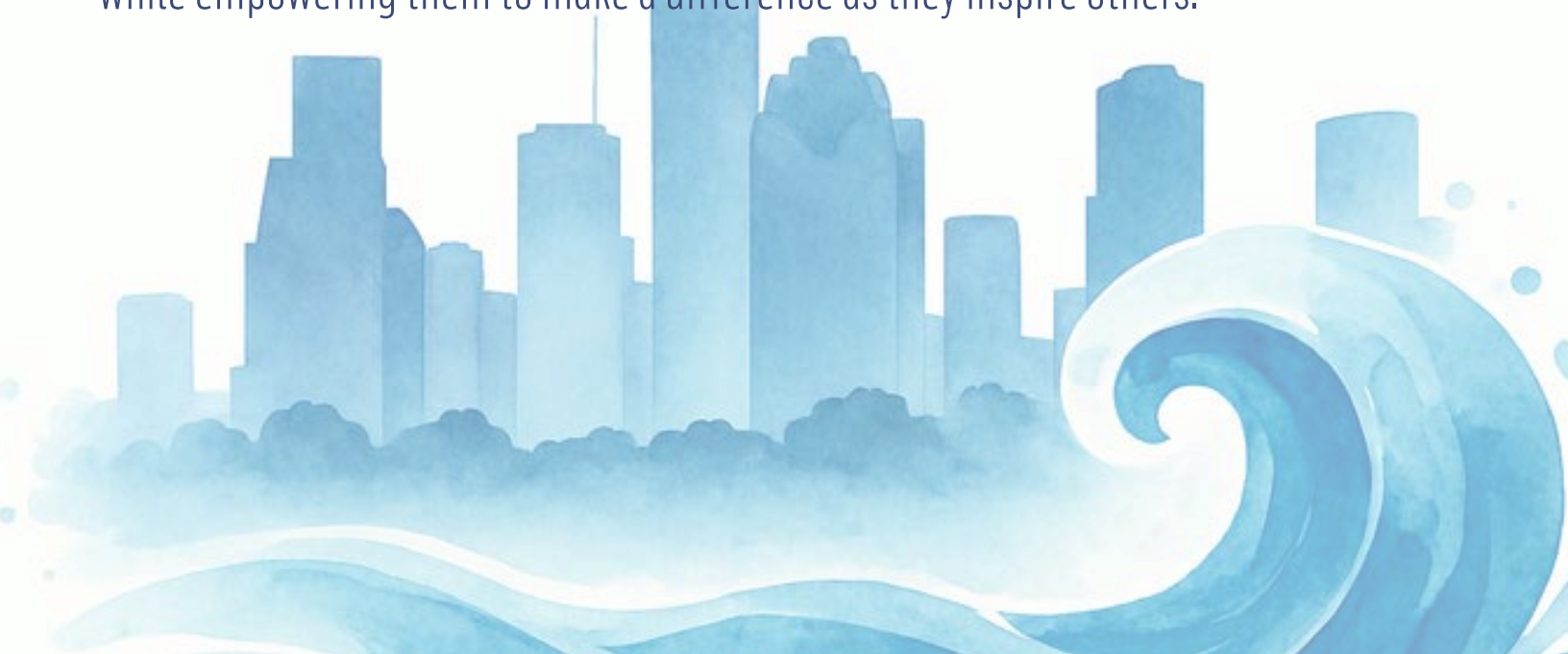
EWI of Houston aspires to be the premier business organization of choice for member firms and their key individuals. Recognized by the Houston community as an avenue to achieve personal and professional excellence, every activity of the Houston Chapter will fulfill at least one of the objectives of the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

Our 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.



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.

Corporate Office

225 Michigan Street, PO Box 1933 Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Direct: (262) 269-5625

ewi@ewiconnect.com

www.ewiconnect.com

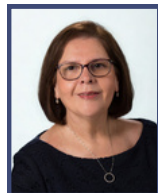


Leadership

Board of Directors



President
Lily Portales
Hilcorp Energy Company
lily.portales@hilcorp.com



President Elect
Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corp
egarcia@houstonfirst.com



Sergeant at Arms
Anna Bryant
H-E-B
bryant.anna@heb.com



Membership Director
Barbara Stokes
Amegy Bank
barbara.stokes@amegybank.com



Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Petticrew
Shell Energy Resources
linda.petticrew@shell.com



Communications Director
Victoria Maldonado
Harvest Midstream
vmaldonado@harvest
midstream.com



Program Director
Isabel McKinney
Hilcorp Energy Company
imckinney@jdhcap.com



Director at Large
Cristina Barron
Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty
cristina.barron@sothebys.realty



Advisor & Parliamentarian
Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group LLC
cindyb@blackhawgroup.com



Advisor
Shari Schiffman
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
Shari.Schiffman@elliman.com

Leadership

Committee Chairs



ASIST Committee Chair
Debra Jaime
The Rose
djaime@therose.org



Bylaws Committee Chair
Cindy Joutraw
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
cindy.joutraw
@centerpointenergy.com



Courtesy Committee Chair
Elisa Garcia
Houston First Corp
elisa.garcia@houstonfirst
.com



EWISP Committee Chair
Patti Strawther
James J. Postl Interests
pattistrawther@hotmail.com



Hospitality Committee
Chair
Anna Bryant
HEB
bryant.anna@heb.com



Member/ Retention
Committee Chair
Carole Pitts
Martha Turner Sotheby's
International Realty
Carole.Pitts@sothebys
.realty



Nominating Committee Chair
Cindy Baker
Black Haw Group LLC
cindyb@blackhawgroup.com



Philanthropy Committee
Chair
Patti McLean
Daikin Comfort
Technologies, N.A.
patti.mclean@daikin
comfort.com



Professional Development
Committee Chair
Isabel McKinney
Hilcorp Energy Company
imckinney@jdhcp.com



Communications Director
Victoria Maldonado
Harvest Midstream
vmaldonado@harvest
midstream.com



Strategic Planning
Committee Chair
LaTonya Perez
The Rose
lperez@therose.org



Web Committee Chair
David Jones
D. Jones Photography
studio@djonesphoto.com

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<https://ewihouston.org/index.php>