

### Letter from the President



Dear wonderful EWI membership!!

Happy New Year!!! 2018!!! My hope is that all your wishes for the New Year and/or Increased wishes for Success for Initiatives already started- bring much satisfaction to your life during 2018. I am overwhelmed and humbled when I think of all the creativity, leadership and talent our organization possesses. I truly believe there is nothing we can not accomplish!!!

This thought was strengthened after our January membership meeting. Cleo Rodriguez Jr President and CEO United

Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce was such an inspiring speaker!!! He definitely has the future of Corpus Christi on the front line. I know we all support this vision.

One of the messages he brought forth hit an important cord with me. He talked about what the community wanted. My thought was what does the membership of EWI want?? In what direction would you like to see the organization progress? What do we hold to be our greatest values and how can we actualize them. Do we need an opportunity to discuss??

This may or not be something the membership is interested in discussing. Please let me know. Email is good..... What I am proposing is a Town Meeting at one of our lunches. Agenda: Discuss the direction of the organization and the how or if we want our presence to impact our Corpus Christi community.

Let me know your thoughts.....and wishing you the best for 2018

Bunny

Associate Dean  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

#### 2017-2018 Officers & Directors

##### President

Bunny Forgione,  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

##### Vice President

Donna Patterson,  
South Texas Money Management

##### Secretary

Betty Baxter, Keetch and Associates

##### Treasurer

Mary Jane Hamilton  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

##### Ways & Means

Carla Hoffman, Individual  
Charlotte Hintz, Orion Drilling

##### Membership Director

Karen Barnes, L.K. Jordan and Assoc.

##### Sergeant-at-Arms

Lisa Wright,  
Your Personal Best Training Studio

##### Programs

Janet Maxwell, Wittigs Office Interiors

##### Director At Large

Kathryn Dirks, Etcetera

##### Publications Director

Sheri Emerick,  
Art Museum of South Texas

## Kudos and Announcements:

**From Donna Patterson and Mary Hime:**  
*South Texas Money Management* would like to invite you to the annual “Market Update and Outlook Presentation” featuring the STMM Investment Team, Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ortiz Center, Nueces Room. Contact Joni Bedynek at [jbedynek@stmmltd.com](mailto:jbedynek@stmmltd.com) to RSVP.

**From Myra Lombardo:**

Presented by



The Food & Wine Classic – an annual fund raising event for public broadcasting station KEDT. Guests can sample over 100 varieties of domestic and imported wines from a complimentary Food & Wine Classic wineglass while tasting gourmet culinary creations from over 20 of South Texas’ finest food establishments.  
**Co-Chairing the event are Biby and John Dykema.**

**General admission tickets are \$100. Thursday, January 25, 2018 7 – 9:30 P.M. The Ortiz Center 402 Harbor Dr. CONTACT: Mary Ann Buchanan**  
 South Texas Public Broadcasting System, Inc.  
**361-855-2213**

**TICKETS:** Order Online at [www.kedt.org](http://www.kedt.org) (under Food & Wine Classic) Or purchase by phone **855-2213** or at KEDT - 3205 S. Staples through Thursday at 1pm. **Tickets can be picked up at the station up until Thursday at 3:30pm (station will stay open until 6:00pm on Wednesday) or at will call at the event.**

Tickets can also be purchased at the event when doors open.

DRESS ATTIRE: Semiformal

**Jackie Ray** has once again earned the designation of President’s Circle for Sales Excellence with Omni Hotels and Resorts. By achieving 105%+ of her production goal, she and a guest will enjoy a special retreat in April at one of Omni’s premier resorts, Orlando at Champion’s Gate. Jackie’s excited to be able to enjoy the lazy river and pool, golf course and spa. She also hopes to say hello to her friend, Minnie Mouse while there.

**From EWI Membership:**

Here are a few Membership categories to consider for recruiting new members:

- Florist
- Hair Salon
- Physician
- Dentist
- Veterinarian
- Nursing Professional
- Military
- Retirement Community
- Oil and Gas
- Port
- AND MANY MORE!

**DON’T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!!**

## January meeting notes:



Cleo Rodriguez, Jr.  
President and CEO of  
United Chamber of  
Commerce speaks at the  
January EWI meeting.

Cleofas (Cleo) Rodriguez, Jr. the new-ish President and CEO of the United Chamber of Commerce spoke at the January EWI meeting. A few facts about the United Chamber:

- ~ The Chamber wants to help not just small and large businesses but also non-profits as well.
- ~ The Chamber's goals are to create local, national and international opportunities for local businesses.
- ~ The Chamber's series of Town Hall meetings have provided them great feedback and they invited everyone to participate
- ~ The Chamber is working on a 3-year Plan
- ~ The Challenge Wish List is a vibrant downtown! It's a worthy goal!!
- ~ There is a LOT OF POWER IN THIS ROOM!

We agree!

**The Program for February is a  
PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI UPDATE!**

*Don't forget, if you haven't signed up for a committee please contact Donna Patterson! And if you haven't signed up for a door prize month, or if you would like to give the invocation please contact Janet Maxwell.*

**Next Board Meeting is January 31  
Next Chapter Meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup>  
SEE YOU THEN!!**