

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT



Dear EWI, Ladies!

What do I miss the most during this pandemic? I miss the freedom of driving to work and interacting with my team and learning from them. I miss the freedom of eating lunch and socializing with co-workers and peers, especially our EWI lunch meetings. I miss comforting hugs from friends. I miss traveling and visiting new places. I miss the freedom of smiling and seeing others smile back without a face-mask.

I miss the freedom of visiting my favorite restaurant for a meal or a date night at the movies. But what I miss most is the interaction with people and all that comes with that.

What things am I grateful for because of the pandemic? I am grateful for more time around the dinner table with my immediate family and our long conversations. I am grateful that I have had more time to cook and share meals. I am grateful for more time to read and work on my sewing projects ( I am currently sewing a queen size quilt for my son). I am grateful for the extra money I'm saving not buying makeup, clothes, or gas. I am grateful for the less-frenzied pace and the taste of this slower, more soulful life.

After all, this ends, I will intentionally make more margins in my days. I will make more space in my schedule to slow down and savor the moments, take in the beauty of nature, really taste my food, and breathe deeply. I will make breathing room that allows for a *real* connection with others and for deeper listening that allows me to show up for the people in my life. I will intentionally focus on helping others.

Which brings me to EWI and our upcoming opportunities to help others through our Reading Rally. We will be starting up our Reading Rally activities with planning meetings in the next weeks; please look for emails with details. I especially challenge our newest members to join us and learn about the Reading Rally! And mark your calendars for JULY 1 for our July ZOOM Monthly Meeting. Our speaker will be County Judge, Barbara Canales! Don't miss it; it will be great to hear her insights into our current situation. Stay safe, everyone!

We are EWI!

Gracie Martin  
Ensemble Group

### 2019-2020 Officers & Directors

#### President

Gracie Martin, Ensemble Group

#### Vice-President/President-Elect

Virginia Whitham,  
Navy Army Community Credit Union

**Secretary-** Karen Barnes,  
LK Jordan and Associates

**Treasurer -** Marcia Keener,  
MJKeener Coaching

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jessica Nesblett, High Touch  
Technologies

#### Programs

Janet Maxwell, Wittigs Office  
Interiors

**Scholarships -** Laura Hausman,  
Northern Beef Industries

**Publications-** Lisa Wright,  
Your Personal Best Training Studio

**Website PR –** Barbie Baker  
JBBM Marketing

**Membership -** Sharon Trott

#### Ways & Means

Carla Hoffman,  
Hoffman Hearing Solutions, LLC  
Taylor Cravey  
Taylor Cravey Photography

**Reading Rally –** Gracie DeRusse

#### Director At Large

Donna Patterson,  
CAPTRUST Financial Advisors



Why EWI? Easy – connections!

I joined EWI in 1990 as Director of Corporate Communications for Central Power & Light Company (now AEP). In 2001, I formed my own company and transitioned within EWI as Trott Communications. I retired and changed my membership to sustaining in 2019.

During 30 years of EWI involvement, I've benefited from leadership opportunities, skill development training, networking, and monthly luncheon programs. I have enjoyed supporting our philanthropic projects – the career and community legs of our EWI mission. But it's the connection leg that is foremost when I think about my EWI experience.

Why EWI? Undoubtedly for me, it has been the opportunity over three decades to meet many, many amazing, awesome, talented, capable, accomplished, smart, funny, and fun-loving businesswomen I might never have had the chance to know otherwise. (Incidentally, Susan Hutchinson was board president when I joined!)

Because of EWI, I've developed associations that have led to other opportunities as well as lasting friendships. For instance, sometime in the mid-1990s (I forget the exact year), I served on the board as secretary. The board president was an up-and-coming entrepreneur named Nelda Martinez. A few years later, I had the privilege of working on all of her campaigns for public office. Good friends today, we both enjoy looking back to our time in EWI when we first met. And, thanks to having the opportunity to know Nancy Wesson-Dodd through EWI, my association with the YWCA has been a long and enjoyable one. So has our friendship.

I can't name them all. There are so many EWI women past and present that I have enjoyed socializing with, doing business with, learning new skills from (like salsa dancing!), or buying just the right outfit from (I purchased my favorite raincoat from an EWI member firm). I still find inspiration in the book written by the late Bobbi Sims', a former chapter president, and now I am getting more physically fit thanks to EWI connections. As I've served on various boards and committees with fellow EWI'ers, I've appreciated and learned from their wealth of knowledge and talent and their willingness to share it as we worked together to solve chapter issues or plan exciting events.

It's the EWI connections that are top of mind and cherished the most when asked, "Why EWI?"

Sharon Trott

## DATES TO NOTE

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

\*EWI ZOOM Monthly Meeting /  
Speaker: Barbara Canales

### ZOOM info:

**Topic:** EWI July Monthly Zoom Meeting

**Date:** Jul 1, 2020

**Social Time:** 11:30 AM

**Program Begins:** 12:00 PM

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99533421811?pwd=Z3kxcUINby9Fak1sUGFmUFIybGpsZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 995 3342 1811

**Password:** 470693

### One tap mobile

+13462487799,,99533421811#,,,,0#,,470693# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,99533421811#,,,,0#,,470693# US (San Jose)

### Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Meeting ID:** 995 3342 1811

**Password:** 470693

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

\*EWI Board Meeting

## JULY ONLINE NOON SPEAKER

Our speaker will be County Judge, Barbara Canales

### Presenting: Insights into Our Current COVID19 Situation in Nueces County

Wednesday, July 1, Online



**Barbara Canales** was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. She was valedictorian of the W. B. Ray High School graduating class of 1984. Barbara earned a degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Texas and a law degree from the University Of Houston School Of Law. She is the mother of five adult children.

[More >](#)

### Description of Office

- The presiding officer of the Commissioners Court
- Represents the county in many administrative functions Serves as budget officer in counties with fewer than 225,000 residents.
- Most have broad judicial duties, such as presiding over misdemeanor criminal and small civil cases, probate matters, and appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court.
- Serves as head of emergency management



Your EWI Board noted at the Zoomed Noon meeting in June; there was an awkward silence after the speaker presented due to our muted microphones. The following are some ideas for acknowledging a “job well done” on ZOOM silently after answered questions.

- Mime your applause, bravo, or thank you in your webcam, so the speaker and others can see you.
- Add a thank you or congratulatory comment in the chat. CHAT is the BEST place for your questions as well.
- Write out a thank you, bravo, or applause and hold it up for the speakers and others to see when appropriate to do so.

Let your style for saying “Thank You” come from YOUR personality, and it WILL be appreciated!

## Board Officers & Nominating Committee Approval

Ladies, at our upcoming member meeting on Wednesday, July 1, we need to approve the establishment of the Nominating Committee. At this meeting, we are proposing the following members for this important function:

- Donna Patterson, Chair
- Myra Lombardo
- Mary Helen Johnston
- Laura Hausman
- Virginia Whitham

This committee, tasked with filling our officer positions for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, is looking for members who would like to serve or to recommend someone to serve in a board position.

Please contact me at [donna.patterson@captrust.com](mailto:donna.patterson@captrust.com), or you can call me at (361) 779-4828.

Donna Patterson  
 Director at Large  
 CAPTRUST Financial Advisors



### MISSION

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

### VISION

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


### VALUES

Integrity | Excellence |  
 Respect | Collaboration



## June Zoom Meeting

# APPROVED Minutes of the Board of Directors 6.24.20

 <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting</b>                      EWI of Corpus Christi                      EWI #: _____                      May 27, 2020                 </div>	
<b>Call to Order</b>	Gracie called meeting to order 12:07 pm
<b>Roll Call</b>	Gracie Martin, Jessica Nesblett, Janet Maxwell, Sharon Trott, Laura Hausman, Karen Barnes, Carla Hoffman, Taylor Cravey, Virginia Whitham
<b>Minutes:</b>	
There were no minutes from April.	
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	
Janet Maxwell motioned to approved the financials. Donna Patterson 2nd. All in favor. Gracie gave kudos to Marcia for having banking integrated with Quickbooks online.	
<b>President's Report:</b>	
Gracie mentioned the June meeting would be via Zoom. Our speaker will be Lenora Keas the Chief Operating Officer at Del Mar College and a very special guest on our Zoom call, our Corporate EWI President, Felicia Senter.	
<b>Vice President's Report:</b>	
Virginia talked about Reading Rally chair and still looking - possibly Linda Calhoun. Talked about possible virtual reading rally; pick up bags of books.	
<b>Communications:</b>	
Gracie brought up if we should charge for Zoom Monthly meetings. Jessica said there were 18 people at the last Zoom meeting. Sharon Trott asked if there is a charge for Zoom meetings over 40 minutes. Gracie said she is using her personal account so EWI does not need to pay. Gracie mentioned she uses her Zoom account for other meetings beside EWI. Donna Patterson said we should not charge for monthly meeting. Lisa Wright needs picture of Lenora Keys and Felicia Senter for the newsletter. Gracie said she will send it out as well.	
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	
<p><b>Scholarship:</b> Laura reported there was a slim slate of applicants this year for scholarships. Linda is getting with HEB regarding the HEB donation for scholarship. Laura said we are having a hard time getting qualified applicants and suggested possibly allocating additional HEB funds to reading rally? Jessica asked if she could tell Seniors to apply and Laura said yes. Last year we gave the additional portion to a valid candidate. Laura will send a link to Coastal Bend Community Foundation for online application. \$3,000 is for the EWI-Bobby Sims Scholarship. Someone asked when would HEB \$ arrive. Janet asked if we could use it for the next semester? Laura will look in to this. Sharon also suggested saving \$ for next year. Donna said may be more of a shortage than last year. Laura said the quality of candidates was not there and some applied that was going for their PHD. This should not be considered a woman in transition. Donna asked for the statement for the CBCF to be changed to the EWI PO Box. Marcia said she would check. Laura will verify they have the correct address.</p> <p><b>Reading Rally:</b> Nancy still wants to have Reading Rally and are open to suggestions. Virginia will call Gracie.</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Sharon is meeting with Membership Committee to see how members feel about a virtual Chapter Connect with this day and time with COVID-19. She will update roster and sent it out. Question was asked if Corporate is considering a Dues discount in light of COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Ways &amp; Means:</b> The committee is working with Marlin Works on EWI shirts for the membership as well as all EWI members. As of now, Alamo Drafthouse is still not up and running, so we do not have a date on a movie night for the community. We are having some limitations to virtual fundraising. We are working with local restaurants on setting up a virtual cooking demonstration.</p>	
<b>Programs:</b>	
Janet menation Barbara Canales is schedule to speak in July. Susan Hutchinson, Christine Saleh and Virginia ? Speaking in August and possible the Mayor candidates in September. Will have the installation of officers for October.	
<b>Adjourned:</b>	1:00 PM
<b>Submitted:</b>	Karen Barnes