

# Tulsa ewiConnect



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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## TAMARA CONNER

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**EWI OF TULSA 2022-2023 PRESIDENT**

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Greetings Tulsa EWI Chapter!

May is a month filled with joy and celebration as it offers us a plethora of occasions to recognize the achievements of those around us. The month of May heralds the beginning of a new journey for students graduating from high school and college. I will be among those proudly walking the stage to receive my Bachelors in Organizational Leadership from The University of Oklahoma on May 13! It has been quite an undertaking, and I am thankful I am at the end of this particular journey.

During this month, a time of both celebration and growth, Executive Women International (EWI) is bustling with activity. I extend my cheerful greetings to anyone celebrating a birthday this month and all the mothers who work hard to shape their families and communities. In this busy season, we see the fruits of our organization's many endeavors. Kelli Gernandt and her committee are wrapping up scholarship applications and distribution, and we eagerly anticipate our upcoming BCDP Scholarship Banquet on May 11. This event is undoubtedly one of the most important occasions of the year for our organization as we have the opportunity to recognize and honor some of the most deserving students and adults returning to school in our community. We are privileged to witness firsthand the hard work, dedication and academic excellence of some of the area's brightest individuals. What's even more remarkable is the collective effort of all those in attendance - the volunteers, sponsors and supporters - who come together to inspire and encourage our scholars. We eagerly await the highlight of the evening when we will hear from these exceptional students and witness their much-deserved recognition. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and setting the tone for future success in our community.

Our President-Elect, Samantha Schultz, and the Nominating Committee are beginning to think about building the EWI Board for the upcoming year. For those EWI members who have never served on a board, now is the perfect time to step up! Serving on the EWI Board will help to hone your attention to details, improve your

introvert/extrovert demeanor, and strengthen your leadership skills. This invaluable opportunity will also allow you to learn more about EWI, and why not have a bit of fun while doing so? Trust us, every person feels the same, and serving on the EWI Board takes up less time than you might imagine. So why wait? Step up now, and seize this chance to grow professionally and personally.

As an organization dedicated to empowering and connecting women in business, the Board members of EWI take great pride in answering any questions and providing insights into their roles within the organization. Whether current or past, each member is eager to share experiences and knowledge with those interested in learning more about EWI and its mission. For those seeking additional resources, My EWI offers an array of helpful tool kits covering various key positions.

Additionally, make sure to mark your calendars for June 23-24. Those are the dates for the upcoming TEXOMA Board Forum that will be hosted by EWI of Oklahoma City. This is always a great time to meet others in the Texas and Oklahoma City Chapters. Finally, LCAM will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, this year from September 13-16, 2023. This is always a great time to network and learn more about EWI. You will also leave having made lifelong friendships and bonds, not only within our Tulsa Chapter but with other Chapter members from all over the nation.

Thank you to the membership for such a fantastic April! I am looking forward to seeing you all at the BCDP Banquet and celebrating our scholarship recipients.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Conner  
President, 2022-2023



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# MAY

## MAY CHAPTER MEETING & BCDP SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET NOTICE

**Date:** Thursday | May 11, 2023

**Time:** 5:30pm Social | 6:00pm Meeting

**Venue:** Tulsa Tech – Broken Arrow Campus  
4000 West Florence Street  
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

**Parking:** Free Parking Available at  
the meeting location

**Dress:** Business

**Cost:** \$40.00 Members & Guests  
\$30.00 Sustaining Members

>RSVP by Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> so that we may provide the  
appropriate seating arrangements and dinner servings.

**No RSVP & No Shows to monthly meetings will be invoiced** so please be sure to respond to every chapter meeting invite. Click on the link provided or within the Connect newsletter. If you are unable to attend a meeting, let SAA, know within 24 hours of the meeting to be removed from the headcount by emailing [saaewitulsa@gmail.com](mailto:saaewitulsa@gmail.com).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

At this 2023 BCDP Banquet, EWI of Tulsa will award eight scholarships totaling \$25,000 through our Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST) and Executive Women International Scholarship Program (EWISP). Since 1980, EWI of Tulsa has awarded more than **\$653,479** in scholarships!



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

**Please click HERE** to connect to the RSVP form.  
We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Do you have a door prize you wish to donate? If so, please contact Tamara Connor at [Tamara.Conner@oneok.com](mailto:Tamara.Conner@oneok.com).  
As always, we appreciate your generosity.

[saaewitulsa@gmail.com](mailto:saaewitulsa@gmail.com)

## April Chapter Meeting Highlights



Top:

EWI President Tamara Conner, ONEOK

Middle:

Left- Peyton Shaffer, Polston Tax, Joni Whitehead, Anchor Search, Elizabeth

lobst, Helton Law Firm

Right- Sarah Bowen, Tulsa Zoo, Tinesa Siebert, The University of Oklahoma Foundation

Bottom:

Left- Group

Right: Suzanne McLaughlin, Allied Universal, Eva Blair, TCBlair & Associates, Tammy Payton, Unicare Building Maintenance, Tinesa Siebert, The University of Oklahoma Foundation



Dr. Joseph Moore with Moore Funeral Home, Inc. & Fitzgerald Funeral Service





Top:

Left- Jeannie Murphy, Grimsley's Janitorial Supplies  
Right- Elizabeth lobst, Helton Law Firm

Left:

Left- Judy Russell, ONEOK,  
Evon Markum, ASM Global

Right:

Joni Whitehead, Anchor Search





Welcome!

## Evon Markum

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER  
ASM TULSA**

Evon was born in San Antonio, Texas. Evon joined the ASM Tulsa team in August of 2022 after almost 20 years as Marketing Director for First National Bank/First Bank of Texas. In her new role, Evon focuses on expanding access and engagement for all Tulsans through the ASM Global Acts platform. Evon has served in many nonprofit roles including 13 years on a Congressional Hispanic Advisory Council and 16 years as the Volunteer Coordinator of the Parker County Health Foundations "Pink Luncheon", raising over \$1.6 Million that 100% went back into direct services. Evon's greatest joy beside her husband Don and their only child Stephanie Haddock, is her 2 grand boys. Evon & Don moved to Jenks Ok, to be close to the boys and make an impact on their lives.

# Welcome

## Suzanne McLaughlin

Business Development Manager  
Allied Universal Security



*Suzanne was born in Oklahoma City, OK, lived in Tulsa and attended Jenks High School. She attended college at LA Tech University and completed a degree in Business at Delta Tech in Lake Charles, LA. She has worked in Tulsa, South & North Texas, and currently resides in Melissa, Texas.*

*She travels every week as the Business Development Manager with Allied Universal Security Services since 2010. As a regional representative her territory includes part of North Texas, Arkansas, and her beloved Oklahoma.*

*Working as a "trail blazer" to help build and grow the more remote markets. She has worked in sales her entire career, never thinking of herself as a sales person, but views her job as an opportunity to meet new friends and help people. She has been happily married to Allen for 11 years, blessed with a blended family: 3 adult daughters, 3 son-in-laws and 3 precious grand children.*

**PEYTON SHAFFER**  
**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**  
**Polston Tax**

*Welcome*

Peyton grew up in Verdigris, OK. At 21 she became a flight attendant for a major airline where she was employed for six years. Four of those years were in Miami, FL and two in Dallas, TX.

She traveled internationally and enjoyed experiencing different cultures and foods and practicing other languages.

Peyton graduated from Florida International University with Latin honors and a degree in Marketing. She is now employed by Polston Tax in Tulsa as a Business Development Specialist.



# Welcome

## **Gayla Carson Gayla Carson Agency**



Gayla is a native Oklahoman. She graduated from Jenks High School and earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University - Go Pokes! Gayla began her career with Picerne Development Corporation in Phoenix, Arizona and worked with them for over twenty years as Vice President of Property Management and New Development. Upon returning to Oklahoma, she owned a Wedding Chapel with her mother, Billie Inbody, in Wagoner, Oklahoma. After selling the Wedding Chapel, she worked locally and traveled the US as a contract sales agent specializing in luxury furniture sales. Covid created a need for a career change, and she began a new career path with Farmers Insurance. **She opened the Gayla Carson Agency in March of 2022** in The Rose District in Downtown Broken Arrow. Gayla is the proud mother of two amazing sons, Tyler and Nicholas.

# WELCOME

## TRELLE BECK

Administrative Assistant  
**Schnake Turnbo Frank**



Trelle Beck, administrative assistant, was born in Macon, Georgia, but has lived in Texas and Oklahoma. Trelle came to Schnake in 2022. She brings 20 years of experience as an accomplished collegiate head golf coach. She received her bachelor's degree from Georgia State University. Trelle wears many hats for the Schnake team; from day-to-day operations of the office, accounting and oversees all corporate retreats.



Mrs. Lynda Wingo, Executive of Member Firm Miss Helens Private School,  
Receiving the 2023 Pillar of Service Award for the Volunteers of America!



#### March Meeting Feedback

- It was delish and their service was awesome! So friendly and kind.
- Very good, not a bite was wasted.

- It was a bit hard to hear without a microphone.
- Beautiful
- Venue was a blast and the room was abuzz! Great job bringing a unique piece of Tulsa history to life again!
- I loved the firm night and being able to hear more about what everyone does.
- Great meeting!
- Fun energy in the room - everyone seemed to enjoy presentations and efforts.
- Stellar membership progress and great speakers!
- Really enjoyed this meeting and the participating firms
- Enjoyed getting to learn/hear about the different businesses.



Good morning, EWI of Oklahoma and Texas Chapter Leaders!

The Oklahoma City Chapter is excited to announce our upcoming TEXOMA Forum to be held June 23-24. To help gauge number of attendees for our forum, please share if you and members from your Chapter plan to attend this year.

More details to come! We look forward to welcoming you to Oklahoma City in June!

Thank you!  
Sierra  
EWI OKC Chapter President



**Please contact Tamara Conner at [tamara.conner@oneok.com](mailto:tamara.conner@oneok.com) if you would like to donate door prizes for our upcoming meetings!**



## We NEED EWI Mentors!

Remember when you first joined? Scary, right? We would love to get a few new mentors to help guide our new members along the way. Please contact Tamara Conner for more information.

[tamara.conner@oneok.com](mailto:tamara.conner@oneok.com)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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- May 11- EWI of Tulsa Monthly Chapter Meeting
- May 12- EWI Corporate Chapter Leadership Call, 11:00 am
- May 25- EWI Corporate Webinar- RADS: Recognize and Avoid Dangerous Situations
- May 26- Tulsa Chapter Board Meeting



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE &**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

September 13-16, 2023

**CHATTANOOGA** T N



# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

## **May EWI Birthdays**

### **Representatives**

May 3- Susan Miller, Warren Professional Building Corporation  
May 11- Joni Whitehead, Anchor Search  
May 12- Felicia Senter, TulsaTech  
May 14- Sara Shaklee, Trust Company of Oklahoma  
May 15- Terri Burton, Mrs. DeHavens Flower Shop  
May 19- Marnie Choisnard, Health Zone at Saint Francis

### **Executives**

May 28- Jennifer Cummings, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

## **May Firm Anniversaries**

T.D. Williamson,.....	1975
Tulsa Tech.....	1998
The University of Oklahoma Foundation....	2022
Get Beyond.....	2022
SERVPRO of South Tulsa.....	2022
Arrowhead Consulting.....	2022
Community Food Bank.....	2022



### **2022-2023 Officers & Directors**

**President**



Tamara Conner, ONEOK, Inc.  
[tamara.conner@oneok.com](mailto:tamara.conner@oneok.com)  
918-588-7902

**Vice President/President-Elect**  
Sam Schultz, JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
[seschultz19@gmail.com](mailto:seschultz19@gmail.com)  
918-586-5203

**Secretary**  
Elizabeth Bugay, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma  
[elizabethbugay@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethbugay@gmail.com)  
970-305-0279

**Treasurer**  
Heather Stephen, Helmerich & Payne, Inc.  
[heather.stephen@hpinc.com](mailto:heather.stephen@hpinc.com)  
918-588-5709

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Sara Shaklee, Trust Company of Oklahoma  
[sshaklee@trustok.com](mailto:sshaklee@trustok.com)  
918-899-2594

**B/C/DP Director**  
Kelli Gernandt, Trust Company of Oklahoma  
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918-744-0553, 211

**Membership (Recruitment)**  
Joni Whitehead, Individual  
[joni@anchor-search.com](mailto:joni@anchor-search.com)  
214-704-0169

**Membership (Retention)**  
Tonya Solomon, ARC Document Solutions  
[tonya.solomon@e-arc.com](mailto:tonya.solomon@e-arc.com)  
918-663-8100

**Programs**  
Felicia Senter, Tulsa Tech  
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**Communications**  
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405-590-4689

**Advisors**  
Lori Heerlyn, T.D. Williamson  
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Judy Russell, ONEOK, Inc.  
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918-588-7931

Angie Walters, Schnake Turnbo Frank  
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918-557-8916

Janis Cohlmia, Tropical Plant Design  
[janis@tropicalplantdesign.com](mailto:janis@tropicalplantdesign.com)  
918-622-3400

### **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 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 Values**

Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Collaboration

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Find our Facebook page by clicking [here](#)!

Be sure to give it a "like" to see updates on your Facebook news feed!

We also have a Facebook group where you can show us your photos from our last meeting, let us know what's going on in your life and with your companies, and if you have any big events coming up! Share them [here](#)!

**Share your news and photos in the next CONNECT**

Submit info to [a.everett@servproteamjones.com](mailto:a.everett@servproteamjones.com)



## **Executive Women International (EWI)**

EWI of Tulsa is a chapter of Executive Women International ("EWI"). If you want to know more about EWI including the many development opportunities or connect with members in other chapters, please take the time to review the [EWI Corporate website](#).