

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EWI Members,

As we reach the final stretch of our EWI year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your hard work and commitment to this organization. It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I'm pleased to have accomplished both my personal and presidential goals for EWI.

I am particularly proud of the success of our STEM event and the commitment we've made to host it again next year. Together, we have grown our membership, strengthened our financial position, and achieved numerous successes, even as other EWI chapters face challenges.

I want to extend special thanks to my 2023-2024 Board and Committee Members. You have been the best team I could have asked for. It wasn't always easy to keep me out of trouble, remind me of deadlines, and guide me through the proper way to conduct our meetings. I have learned so much from each of you, and I hope to share these lessons with future presidents.

I am excited about the upcoming year under Catherine's leadership. Her great ideas, positive energy, professionalism, and creativity will undoubtedly inspire and propel our group to new heights.

As my journey comes to an end, I want to thank you all once again for your support. Let's continue to lean on each other, sharing both laughter and tears as we move forward together.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Carla J. Durant

EWI ABQ President 2023-2024

2023-2024 EWI Albuquerque Officers & Directors

President: Carla Durant, Sandia National Laboratories

Vice President/Pres-Elect: Catherine Czaja, Reiki Cat Southwest

Secretary – Shelly Swope, Accent Southwest Windows & Doors

Treasurer – Mary Ann Kaye, Casas de Guadalupe

Sergeant at Arms: Jessica Chavez, Jaynes Corporation

Committees:

Membership – Samantha Patrick, Sidecar Consulting

Programs – Mary Ann Kaye / Shelly Swope

Philanthropy – Myra Herrmann, Keller Williams / Sharon Thorpe

Fundraising – Samantha Patrick

Communications – Sandra McGinnis, Individual Member

Parliamentarian – Shirley Dean, Life Member

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Guest Speakers from Sandia National Laboratories:

Kara Komula, Chemical Engineer

Hello, my name is Kara Komula, and I am a Chemical Engineer at Sandia National Laboratories. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University of New Mexico.

Besides my engineering responsibilities, I serve as the Chair for ANGLE (Advancing the Next Generation of Leadership Excellence), an employee resource group focused on career development, networking, and public outreach. In this role, I support 13 sub-chairs and advocate for ANGLE's mission: to create opportunities for workforce members to connect with each other, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Albuquerque community. This mission is accomplished through professional development, STEM outreach, community service, and networking activities.



Additionally, I am the Outreach Lead for a subgroup within the Sandia Women's Action Network (SWAN), which aims to enhance the work environment, promote professional growth, and address gender bias. The SWAN Outreach Subgroup is dedicated to community support and organizing events to increase the visibility of women in science. I am passionate about fostering a supportive and inclusive environment at Sandia through my involvement in ANGLE and SWAN.

Amy Tapia, Manager of Community Involvement

Amy is the Manager of Community Involvement at Sandia National Laboratories. This department is responsible for employee and corporate giving, volunteerism, and K-12 STEM education outreach. Amy has been involved in K-12 STEM education partnerships designed to encourage students to pursue STEM careers for 25 years. She has worked at Sandia National Laboratories for 35 years, working in Security, Energy and Environment, and Community Involvement.

Amy is a native of Albuquerque and received her BBA and MBA from the University of New Mexico. She is a 1999 Leadership Albuquerque graduate and completed the Boston College Management Certificate in Corporate Citizenship. Amy is currently serving on the CNM Foundation board. In her personal time, Amy most recently served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a foster youth, is active in her parish community, and has been a blood donor for more than 30 years.



WHEN: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting – all members welcome!

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. | Check-in/Networking

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Dinner/Program

RSVP BY Friday, September 6, 2024:

<https://ewiabq.org/professional-development>

WHERE: Mimi's Café, 4316 The 25 Way, Albuquerque, NM

COST: \$35 – in advance or at the door

BIRTHDAYS



Happy September Birthday to...

Mary Ann Kaye, Sept 6



MEETING RECAP

Sergeant-at-Arms Report – August 2024

RSVPs received last month:

- Number of members who RSVPd for August meeting - 17
- Number of members attending - 15
- Number of guests – 3

Please remember to RSVP for the September meeting before close of business on **Friday, September 6th**.

Thanks,

Jessica Chavez, *Sergeant-at-Arms*

MEMBER NEWS

Hi everyone, it's your personal wine ambassador, Meredith. I'm excited to let you know about my new wine adventure. I will be introducing my new Boisset Collection of French and Napa wines in two experiences: One on Friday, Sept 20th from 3-5 pm and another on Saturday, Sept 21st from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Please RSVP for details and guest gate code. I look for to seeing you.

Meredith Yost



I came across this link recently, and thought some of you might be interested. Enjoy!
<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/small-business/small-business-grants-for-women>

Rachel Justus

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

A warm EWI welcome to our newest members, Lucrecia Dawes and Jolie McGinnis!

Lucrecia Dawes

My name is Lucrecia Dawes and I am looking forward to being a part of a great group of ladies. I was raised in Farmington and graduated from UNM in 2003 with my BA in Communications. I have a 20-year-old son, DJ, who is my forever sidekick. Right before he turned 8 he got sick and lost his ability to talk, walk, and care for himself so the last 12 going on 13 years have been dedicated to him and his care. During this time, we've lived in Albuquerque, Houston and outside of Baltimore.



We recently moved back from MD in November since my family is here and we have our support system and to be totally honest, it's my comfort zone. I'm a firm believer in self-care because you cannot pour from an empty cup. I have been fortunate enough to find employment with the flexibility needed to be a mom and caregiver first. I currently work from home as an analyst at Summit Electric Supply. I am thrilled to be back home in NM and continuing on a journey of fulfillment and growth with the right people in my corner.



Jolie McGinnis

Hi, my name is Jolie McGinnis. I am EWI of Albuquerque's newest and youngest member. I have been an informal member of the chapter for many years due to my mother being a part of the group. I was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and graduated from Sandia Preparatory School in 2020, right at the beginning of covid. My original plan after graduating high school was to go to college and become a radiology tech. Needless to say, covid had other plans and I wasn't interested in doing college online, so I decided to start working. My very first job was working at Auto Glass Services as a summer job for Julie Kirkpatrick before I graduated high school. After that I went on to work at Walmart as a stocking associate and loved almost every minute of it. After being there for 2.5 years, I was presented with the opportunity to go work at Sandia Labs as a custodian. I plan to build my career at Sandia Labs and am patiently awaiting the right opportunity to move on and up.



When I'm not working, I like to spend my time at the barn with my horse, Fanfare. Fanfare, and horses in general, have been an important part of my entire life. I started riding when I was 6 and haven't stopped. Working with horses, I have learned perseverance, grit, and patience. My other horse, Crimson, is living her best life as a therapy horse at Cloud Dancers. I've included a few pictures of them.

I look forward to being an official member of EWI, to being around other women who will help me to grow professionally, and to learning new skills.



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES



Help support and learn what is happening on EWI of Albuquerque's social media pages. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ewiabq> and on Instagram @ewi_abq.

We would also like to feature your firm on social media!

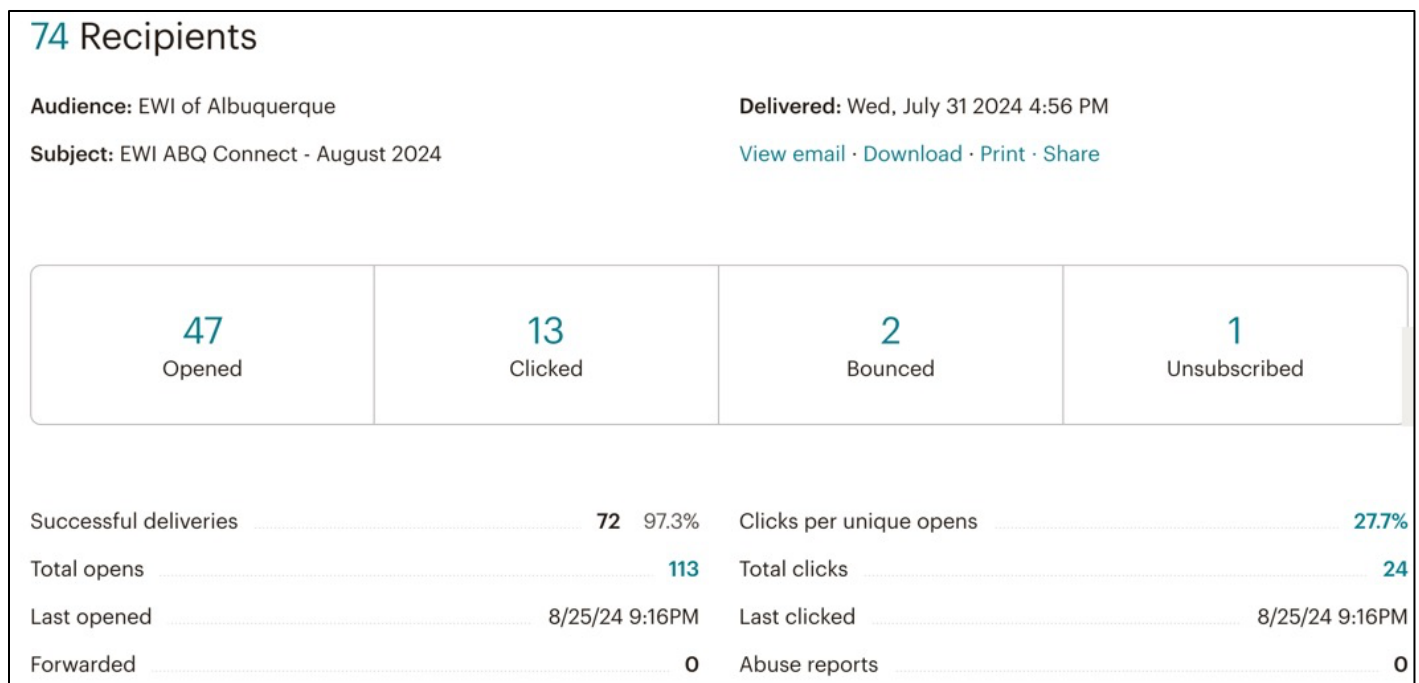
Submit a short paragraph about you and your firm with contact information and pictures (can be you and your company logo or whatever you'd like to share). Submit to reikcatsouthwest@gmail.com.

Catherine Czaja, Social Media Lead

Newsletter Update

Would you like to give kudos to a fellow member? Thank a member for services provided by her firm? Brag about an award you or a fellow member received? Is your firm hosting a special event or having a special promotion? Spread the word in our newsletter! Email your newsletter submissions to Rachel Justus at rlj0101@comcast.net.

Curious about our newsletter stats? Here's what last month looked like:



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

I'm thrilled to share the success we've had this year! Thanks to your unwavering support, we've almost reached our fundraising goals and even won a \$1,000 EWI Literacy Grant. This grant will significantly enhance our STEM Event and the Reading Rally at Hodgin Elementary, empowering young minds and fostering a love for learning. As we wrap up this incredible year, let's take a moment to celebrate the impact we've made together. Your dedication and contributions have been instrumental, and I'm excited to see what we can achieve in the coming year!

Samantha Patrick



SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY

Labor Day, September 2

Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.



Source: <https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>



CORPORATE NEWS



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

CASINO DEL SOL | TUCSON, AZ
September 18–21, 2024



**Visit ewiconnect.com for corporate news and to
connect with EWI members
across the U.S. and Canada!**

Our 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.

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 Values

Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Collaboration