



Developing leaders to  
create positive results  
in Texas government.



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DECEMBER 2005

## EWTTG Holiday Luncheon and Installation of 2006 Officers

By Penny Johnson

A beautiful period mansion decorated with greens and sparkling ornaments in the company of good friends is the perfect place to begin the holiday season. Join us at Green Pastures on Tuesday, December 6th at 11:30 a.m., teddy bear in hand, for our members-only, annual Holiday Luncheon. At this festive celebration, we acknowledge our accomplishments, bid farewell to our outgoing Board of Directors and install the incoming Board.

Two special guests will install the 2006 Board of Directors. Ann Spence worked in accounting until she became a stay-at-home mom and volunteer in her church and the hospital auxiliary. She has made several short-term Medical Mission trips to Mexico and Thailand where she supervised a kitchen feeding over 200 people. Ann is interested in arts and crafts; teaches needlepoint, French hand sewing and purse making. Plus, she is a Grandmother Extraordinaire. Her BSBA in Accounting is from the University of Arkansas.



Linda Gerber is the Senior Lecturer and Associate Chair of the Department of Marketing and International Business at the McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin. She joined the UT faculty in 1990, where, in addition to her teaching responsibilities, she served as Director of Academic Programs for the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), where she created and managed programs designed to enhance the global perspective of business education. Her international teaching experiences include temporary positions with ESC, Paris, ESADE in Barcelona, the Helsinki School of Economics, and the Steinbeis Institute in Stuttgart and Berlin.

### The 2006 Board of Directors:

Beverly Bavousett, President  
Connie Williams, President-Elect  
Mary Castleberry, Vice President  
Elizabeth "Betsy" Ford, Financial Officer  
Clare Dyer, Secretary-Treasurer

Lori Field, Affiliates Director  
Cindy Hale, Communications Director  
Julie Atchison, Membership Director  
Laure McLaughlin, Program Director  
Carla James, Public Relations Director

The Holiday Luncheon menu features House Salad with Basil-Cilantro Vinaigrette, Chicken Crepes with fresh mushrooms, onions, and white wine with a parsley-almond sauce, Cotillion rolls and butter — and back by popular demand — Chocolate Crumble Ball with Hot Fudge Sauce for dessert! The cost of the luncheon is \$20.

Bring a teddy bear to be donated to children receiving services through SafePlace and/or a canned food or monetary donation for the Capital Area Food Bank.



**Dec 03 Houston Affiliate Holiday Party, noon, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Cafe Red Onion, 12440 Northwest Freeway (Hwy 290) in Houston. RSVP to Rebecca Rae by noon, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at [rebecca.rae@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:rebecca.rae@txdps.state.tx.us) or 281-517-1315.

**Dec 06 Annual Holiday Luncheon, 2006 Officer Installation and Teddy Bear Drive** at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 W Live Oak, 11:30 a.m., \$20.

**Dec 08 Dallas Affiliate Holiday Party and Ornament Exchange**, Inwood Quarters Café at 3109 Inwood Road (214-351-6111), informal social 6:00 p.m., dinner 6:30, program 7:00. \$25 per person, with exchange of ornaments costing \$20 or less. Please RSVP to Diane Pletka, 214-648-6792 or [diane.pletka@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:diane.pletka@utsouthwestern.edu).

## 2005 OFFICERS

### President

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### President-Elect

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### Affiliates Director

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### Membership Director

Debra Lyon  
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### Public Relations Director

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## A Note from the President

By Ginny Booton

I want to end the year with a note of gratitude. First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President and for supporting the number of changes and updates we have made this year to our infrastructure and image. Second, I would like to thank the board for their willingness to tackle everything I threw at them and more.

More than I could have imagined, you are heroines who worked tireless hours to achieve the goals we set out last December. What an honor it was to serve with you.

Another significant tribute goes to all of the speakers in our program series. Under the creative leadership of Gloria Brown-Oliver, the Program Committee provided the organization with a year of inspiring luncheon speakers and quality monthly training programs. Each event was carefully planned to enhance our leadership knowledge and to build upon the conference theme, our grand finale. The line up was quite impressive, and I thank all of the speakers for their time and insight:

### Our Showcases:

- Sharon McGee, CEO RM Mechanical, Inc.
- Ann Fuelberg, ED, Employees Retirement System of Texas
- Kelly White, Former ED, Safeplace
- Alicia Key, Director, Information Technology Support, Office of Attorney General
- The Honorable Sarah Weddington, Adjunct Professor, University of Texas at Austin
- Ann Heiligenstein, Deputy Commissioner, HHSC
- Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Commissioner, DSHS
- Rebecca Powers, President, Impact Austin
- Cathy Bonner, CEO, Bonner Inc.

### Our Symposiums:

- Mina Brown, Professional Coach
- Amy VanWyngarden, Co-Founder Living Order, Inc.
- Donna Van Fleet, Former IBM Vice President
- Patti DeNucci, President, DeNucci & Co.
- Dr. Nancy Oelklaus, Executive Coach
- Sue Cullen, Sue Cullen & Associates
- Patti Speier, Executive Director, Seton Cove
- David Biemer, Department of Aging & Disability Services
- Joelyn Weeks, Weeks & Associates Consulting
- Fazlur Prince Rahman, St Edwards University
- Christina Moore: St Edwards University

A thunderous round of applause is due to Shannon Franklin and her conference committee. They exceeded all conference goals and have set quite a high bar for future committees. For all of the sponsors of the conference and silent auction donors, we appreciate your generosity and support. Without you we would not be able to offer the high quality conference that women travel from around the state to attend, nor would we have the resources to offer scholarships to our many members who seek to grow personally and professionally.

And how do I convey my admiration and appreciation of the dedicated women that worked with me this year to ensure the 2005 board left a legacy of success, innovation, courage and change? I could fill pages of the newsletter with stories. Standing Committee Chairs: Pam O'Connor, Susan Durso, Jan Thomas, Denise Pittard, Tammy Stone and Lynn Whitten - thank you and your committee members for serving our community, providing scholarships to our members, finding funds for our conference, monitoring our legislature this session, arranging one-of-a-kind educational events and for selecting an outstanding slate of board members for the upcoming year.

Thank you, Maria Hanke, for organizing our member walk in the Race for the Cure and, to Penny Johnson, our Executive Director, for running along beside me this year and keeping pace. Thank you all of my coaches, cheerleaders, supporters and encouragers. You have all lived up to what EWTC is all about – Creating Positive Results in Texas Government. May you all have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones and a fulfilling new year.

## Public Relations Committee

EWTG Woman of the Year

By Rebecca Davio, Chair



EWTG celebrated our 2005 Woman of the Year—Joelyn Weeks—at our annual professional development conference. With an emphasis on celebration, EWTG held a late afternoon reception including hors d'oeuvres, sparkling cider, and the music of the Connally High School jazz band playing in the background.

The committee unveiled a video featuring photographs of each of the past winners. As part of the announcement of the 2005 winner, there was also a video presentation of photos of Joelyn from childhood through her current participation in EWTG. She has served in many capacities, including the several board positions: 1995 Program Director, 1998 President-elect, and 1999 President. She has also chaired several conference program committees and served as 2005 Conference Program Co-Chair. She continues to chair and serve on various EWTG committees each year. As 1995 Program Director, she implemented the successful mini-course training program and as 1998 President-Elect, she helped implement the stellar Executive Success Team mentoring program. She is currently facilitating an executive success team while also participating in another team. She has also lead several mini-course and conference workshops, the most recent being the September mini-course, presented on her birthday. She also has worked tirelessly behind the scenes. In 2001 she was named EWTG Volunteer of the Year, a unique award created for Joelyn to recognize the woman who never said “no” when asked to take on any project to benefit EWTG.

The award celebrates more than 26 years of state service, including employment with the Comptroller's Office, OAG, TDI, ERS, and the House of Representatives. Joelyn now works for DIR in the Statewide Technology Operations Division.

The award also recognizes Joelyn's giving nature, especially to elderly friends and loved ones. For years, she traveled every weekend and holidays to East Texas to assist several elderly ladies. She also participates in local community involvement activities. In 1999 while serving as EWTG president, Joelyn also worked full time, attended graduate school, and cared full-time for her disabled grandmother, who lived in Lufkin. The award lauds Joelyn's graduation from the Leadership Texas in 1997 and the completion of both her bachelor's and master's degrees while working full time.

Ginny Booton, EWTG President, presented the award, an engraved lead crystal bowl from Tiffany's. Joelyn joins the company of the distinguished past honorees: Elaine Powell, in 1993 the first recipient, Claudia Stravato 1994, Frankie Watson 1995, Mary Lou Ralls 1996, Lora Weber 1997, Mary Lambert Howerton 1998, Donna Rolland 1999, Denise Pittard 2000, Penny Johnson 2001, Jan Thomas 2002, Susan Johnson 2003, and Carol Willis 2004.

EWTG is fortunate to have such a steadfast and dedicated member. Thank you, Joelyn, for being an inspiration and role model for us all.

## Scholarship Committee

2005 Scholarships Announced

By Lynn Whitten

In November the board approved the 2005 EWTG Scholarships, based on recommendations by the Scholarship Committee. Chaired by Pam O'Connor, the committee, which consisted of Ginny Booton and Delores Groneck, reviewed the applications and assessed their merits, based on EWTG participation and value of the training to the applicants, their employers and/or EWTG. The following members were awarded 2005 scholarships:

Diana Maldonado and Lori Field for the 2005 conference.  
Susan Johnson and Adele Noel for formal education

The board is also pleased to announce that all four members who applied for Leadership Texas scholarships were accepted in the class of 2006. Leadership Texas scholarships were awarded to Julie Atchison, Susan Durso, Clare Dyer, and Connie Williams. Congratulations to all of these deserving and valued members.

## Conference Committee

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference  
By Shannon Franklin, Chair

The Executive Women in Texas Government 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference, held November 21 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, was an exciting day filled with education and inspiration. The conference theme, *Developing Leaders from Within*, was carried out through conference activities that encouraged participants to develop the leaders within themselves, within their organizations, and within their communities.

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson, Texas State Representative, kicked off the conference with an inspirational speech about her experiences as a groundbreaking African American, female legislator. She encouraged women to support each other as we strive to become leaders ourselves.

Dynamic instructors taught 36 skill-building workshops on a variety of leadership-focused topics, including: supervision; networking; human resources best practices; and change management. Dr. Patricia Hayes, SETON Healthcare Network Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, gave the lunchtime keynote address. She discussed her primary leadership principles, including recognition of the inherent value of every person.

Participants got a jump on their holiday shopping with conference exhibitors and about 150 unique Silent Auction items. The conference featured 28 exhibitors, including state agencies, retailers, non-profit organizations and local businesses. Savvy shoppers also had the opportunity to bid on donated Silent Auction items. The items included a homemade quilt, tickets to the ballet, hotel stays and several gift baskets donated by EWTG Executive Success Teams. This year's Silent Auction raised more than \$8,300 to provide professional development and continuing education scholarships for EWTG members.

Thanks to generous donations, EWTG was able to host several drawings for attendees. Tina Washington from the office of Court Administration won a \$10 gift certificate and Lynn Woods from TXDOT won a \$20 gift certificate, both from Pampered Chef. Ann Lehnick from TXDOT won the Exhibitor Grand Prize of a \$300 Nordstrom certificate. Kay Jones from the Health and Human Services Commission won 2 round trip Southwest Airlines tickets.

The conference closed to the music of the talented Connally High School Jazz Band and a reception honoring the 2005 EWTG Woman of the Year, Joelyn Weeks. EWTG thanks all the hard-working volunteers who helped make this year's conference a huge success!



*The Honorable Senfronia Thompson, member, Texas House of Representatives, the opening keynote speaker.*



*Connie Hofmann, member of the Silent Auction Committee, made and donated this quilt.*



*President, Ginny Booton, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Patricia Hayes, Mary Howerton, who introduced her, and Shannon Franklin, Vice-President.*

## Racing for the Cure

By Laure McLaughlin

At my age, there aren't many "firsts" left—not a lot of good ones, anyway—but I did have one recently: walking in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Sunday, November 6 with the fabulous women of EWTG.

Maria Hanke did a wonderful job of getting a team of EWTGers together to raise spirits, money and awareness of the battle against breast cancer. Ginny Booton, Kim Powley (Ginny's friend from North Carolina), Reni Johnson, Karen Smith, Jennifer Hamilton, Tammy Stone, Sarah Bauer and I all talked and laughed and panted our way to the finish line at Auditorium Shores. Other EWTGers Mary Cheryl Dorwart, president of the Austin Komen affiliate and Carol Willis were busy making sure everything came off without a hitch. Joelyn Weeks capped it off by organizing a terrific, all-important post-walk brunch at El Mercado.

I also had another "first" earlier this year, one that was more frightening and ominous. That was the discovery of a large, shadowy, starburst-shaped mass on my most recent mammogram. After being poked, prodded, and mashed (you ladies know what I mean) by a series of technicians and physicians, each saying I needed further tests, the breast surgeon finally told me, "I know you're not going to hear much after the word 'cancer', but I want you to remember one thing—we can take care of this."

And so we did. As it turned out, biopsies and surgery revealed that the mass was actually precancerous, something I likened to a group of surly teenagers hanging around a 7-11 after midnight. Had a regular mammogram not found that mass, I doubt I ever would have until it was much more serious.

I was lucky—no, blessed—on so many fronts. I had tremendous emotional and prayer support from family, coworkers, bosses, friends, neighbors, friends of friends and clergy—so much so that I was a bit embarrassed by the attention. I had wonderful medical support. I didn't even need chemo or radiation, although that was initially a real possibility.

So I walked in the Komen Race for the Cure that Sunday not for myself, but in deep gratitude for those who have gone before, for those whose battle with this disease may have been lost, but who won the war because they advanced the cause that allowed people like me to benefit from early detection and treatment.

Next year, after a few more mammograms and doctor's appointments, I plan to "race" again, right along with the young women who walked in memory of "Mom" or "Aunt Lydia." And I'll count my blessings when I do. Hope to see you there.



### Stars Over Texas

**Mary Castleberry**, who retired last summer from the Department of State Health Services, has gone to work for Maximus, Inc. She may be reached at: [mary\\_castleberry@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_castleberry@hotmail.com)

**Joelyn Weeks** has accepted a position at DIR to work in the Statewide Technology Operations Division. Her work phone is 463.3735; email is [joelynw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joelynw@sbcglobal.net).

**Mercie Zapata** also has moved to the Statewide Technology Operations Division of the Department of Information Resources. She may be reached at <mailto:mercie.zapata@dir.state.tx.us> and office phone number is 463-5363.

**Tammy Stone** has moved to a new position at the Texas Department of Transportation. She is working in Transportation Planning and Programming as a Transportation Planner for the Lower Rio Grande Valley border area. Her work number is 486-5025.

## Spotlight on EWTG Standing Committees

### Community Service Committee: Susan Durso, Chair



**Tell us about your committee and who has served with you this year.**

The Community Service Committee oversees EWTG's activities in the community. I have attached a list of the members.

Mary Cheryl Dorwart  
Lynn Whitten  
Janet Hyndman  
Barbara Wells  
Paula Griffin  
Patricia Brown  
Kimberly Khan

**What was the highlight of your year? Something you are most proud of?**

I am very proud of the number of donations we were able to collect from our EWTG members to support Any Baby Can, Safe Place and the Capital Area Food Bank. But the highlight for me were the days that EWTG volunteers worked at the Capital Area Food Bank sorting food donations for delivery to needy individuals.

**Why would our members want to chair or participate on this committee?**

There are numerous reasons to chair and/or participate on this committee: it is always rewarding to do something for your fellow man, particularly those who are less fortunate; participating on or chairing a committee introduces you to many new faces among the EWTG members; participating with an organization that you have not previously been exposed to will make you aware of new volunteer opportunities in the community; participating in EWTG makes the experience of membership in EWTG more rewarding.

**How has your participation benefited or impacted you personally?**

For all of the reasons just stated, *and* I was pleased that my husband volunteered to participate in the Capital Area Food Bank project. I have been trying to find some type of volunteer work we could do together that he would enjoy and stick with.

### Nominations Committee: Jan Thomas, Chair



**Tell us about your committee and who has served with you this year.**

The Nominations Committee selects the slate of officers that are recommended to serve on the Board of Directors for the next year. The 2005 Nominations Committee consisted of the following members:

Ginny Booton  
Judith Rhedin  
Barrie Cogburn  
Lora Weber  
Bev Bavousett

**What was the highlight of your year? Something you are most proud of?**

Finding EWTG members who are willing to serve and interested in the future of EWTG.

**Why would our members want to chair or participate on this committee?**

Serving on the Nominations Committee is a short-term commitment that allows you to participate and impact the future of the organization. It is an excellent way to spend time with the committee members, making new friends and renewing established friendships.

**How has your participation benefited or impacted you personally?**

It allowed me to give back to EWTG through my time and talents, which I enjoyed, since I have received many benefits from the organization.

## Legislative Issues Committee: Denise Pittard, Chair



### Tell us about your committee and who has served with you this year.

The Legislative Issues Committee monitors legislation of interest to EWTG members.

### What was the highlight of your year? Something you are most proud of?

I enjoyed keeping track of legislation and sharing it with EWTG committee members in the form of a newsletter article.

### Why would our members want to chair or participate on this committee?

It is rewarding to learn first-hand what is going on at the Legislature and to be able to keep EWTG membership informed. The legislative process can be a very exciting and fascinating process.

### How has your participation benefited or impacted you personally?

It keeps me knowledgeable about issues or new legislation that may affect state agencies and state employees, as well as others, in their day-to-day operations, and allows me to make a contribution to EWTG.

## Houston Affiliate News

By Rebecca Rae, Chair

The Houston Affiliate will have a double celebration December 3. Members will join together to celebrate the holiday season and the affiliate's tenth anniversary. Members are asked to bring the name of their favorite charity to enter into the charity drawing. A donation will be made in the name of the Houston affiliate to the charities that are drawn. There will be two exciting door prize drawings. One prize will be to celebrate the holiday season and the other will be in honor of the Affiliate's anniversary.

The event will be at noon, Saturday, December 3 at Cafe Red Onion, 12440 Northwest Freeway (Hwy 290) in Houston. RSVP to Rebecca Rae by noon, December 2nd at [rebecca.rae@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:rebecca.rae@txdps.state.tx.us) or 281-517-1315.

## 2005 Affiliate Officers Houston Affiliate:

### Rebecca Rae, Chair

Texas Department of Public Safety  
281.517.1250  
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### Holly Faison, Secretary-Treasurer

Texas Department of Public Safety  
281.517.1316  
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EWTG announces with great sorrow the death of Gene Oestrick, an EWTG member since 1990, who was retired from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

## 2005 Affiliate Officers Dallas Affiliate:

### Angela Brodrick, Chair

UT Southwestern Medical Center  
214.648.2672  
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### Vicki Moores, Treasurer

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### Linda Fountain, Development Director

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### Connie Finney, Membership Director

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## Dallas Affiliate News

By Diane Pletka

We were honored to have the Dallas County Sheriff, Lupe Valdez, speak at our November meeting. Sheriff Valdez comes from a humble background as one of eight children of migrant farm workers. She was raised in San Antonio, and in her early years she worked in the fields. Since then she has come a long way, working her way through school to earn a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington. She attended college while working in law enforcement.

Her history includes 12 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, where she served as an officer in both the military police and military intelligence. She has served as a jailer in a county jail and then in federal prison. She has also served as an investigator in multiple agencies; one was as a U.S. Customs agent. All together, she has served almost 30 years in law enforcement.

Texas has 254 sheriffs, and 253 of them are male. She said that the biggest thing that separates them is not gender, but the cowboy hat. She doesn't like to wear it because as she said jokingly "it messes up her 'do'". Sheriff Valdez demonstrated throughout her talk that she has a great sense of humor.

She shared simple, yet great, words of wisdom. She encouraged us to not be timid, but speak up when we know something is wrong. She said that it is okay to make mistakes, but it is important to learn from them and go on. She said to choose your friends wisely, and told a story of two different people and how their lives differed as a result of who they chose to hang out with. Sometimes it takes getting out of our

comfort zone to be with the people who are most beneficial for us. She also encouraged us to get out of our comfort zone when we faced challenges.

Sheriff Valdez was a personable and engaging speaker with years of wisdom. She was gracious with her time, and took many questions. We didn't want to quit, but she had to go. It was a privilege to have her as our guest, and encouraging to know that the Dallas County Sheriff is a woman dedicated to law enforcement and to making things better wherever she serves.

**General Meeting Information:** Dallas Affiliate meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8 and will be our holiday party. It will be held at the Inwood Quarters Café at 3109 Inwood Road (214-351-6111). There will be an informal social at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. There will be an ornament exchange with ornaments not costing over \$20. If you would like to receive the Dallas Affiliate monthly email program announcement, or to RSVP regarding your attendance, please call Diane Pletka at 214-648-6792 or email her at [diane.pletka@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:diane.pletka@utsouthwestern.edu)

The Dallas Affliate is pleased to announce the following 2006 Leadership Positions:

Susan Rossiter - Affiliate Chair

Cary Wilkerson - Treasurer

Chris McDaniel - Communications Director

Vicki Moores - Development Director/Public Affairs

Eileen Sandy - Membership Director

The Dallas Affiliate recognizes the Fall Conference Committee:

Connie Finney, Chair

Members: Vicki Moores, Eileen Sandy, Sheri Ray, and Susan Rossiter.

This group did an outstanding job promoting EWTG and attracting 7 new members.

# MEMBERSHIP



## First Year Members

Deborah Agbottah	Comptroller of Public Accounts	debbie.agbottah@cpa.state.tx.us
Peggy Aschenbeck	Retired, Office of the Attorney General	apeggyj@hotmail.com
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Tammy Stone is giving away six passes to The Women's Museum in Dallas. The tickets, worth \$30, expire December 31, 2005. Please contact Tammy at [tgstone@direcway.com](mailto:tgstone@direcway.com) or 496-1404 (cell). For more information, check the web site, [www.TheWomensMuseum.org](http://www.TheWomensMuseum.org).

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