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APRIL 2006

Showcase Luncheon Committee

April 26 Luncheon: Larry Olson, Department of Information Resources "Shared Success: Building a Better Texas through Shared Responsibilities"

by Laure McLaughlin, 2006 Program Committee Chair



Larry Olson, Chief Technology Officer for the State of Texas and Executive Director of the Department of Information Resources (DIR), will be the keynote speaker at the EWTG monthly luncheon on Wednesday, April 26th at the Austin Woman's Club. Olson will discuss new initiatives and activities at DIR, and

demystify some issues surrounding the state's data center consolidation efforts.

Since joining DIR in May 2004, Olson has reengineered the agency to place a stronger focus on planning, information and communications technology, security and service delivery. Olson led efforts to create a shared technology vision among Texas state agencies to promote common interests, champion business and technological innovation and support core missions. He was the architect for the 2005 DIR strategic plan, Shared Success, Building a Better Texas through Shared Responsibilities.

Prior to his service to the State of Texas, Olson was a principal at aligne, Inc., where he provided executive advisory service with ACNielsen, Motorola, Raytheon and Aetna. He also was the first Chief Information Officer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he helped to transform the state's IT operations into a streamlined, public enterprise. Additionally, he served as chief management officer for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and Pennsylvania's Deputy State Treasurer.

Olson has negotiated partnerships with the national governments of Canada and Singapore, marking the first international agreement ever executed electronically using digital signatures. He is also a registered architect in his home state of Texas.

We are extremely pleased and honored that Mr. Olson can share with us his unique and critically important view on the state's information technology and communications. Make your reservations now by emailing ewtg@onr.com or calling 512.894.4370. EWTG luncheons are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio Street.



April 4 Educational Event. A Tour of Austin's City Hall, with City Manager Toby Futrell at 5:30 p.m. Reservation quota has been reached. Penny Johnson is taking names for a waiting list. To add your name to the list, please contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

April 7 Open Enrollment Ends. Executive Success Teams. For information or to obtain a Team Member Profile form, please contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

April 12 Austin Minicourse: Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina at noon. Speaker Pam Owens of Edge of Your Seat Consulting. Topic: Part 2: "Road Trip or Commute? How Do You Handle Changes in Your Work Environment?" For reservations or information, please contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

April 13 Dallas Affiliate meeting. A.W. Harris Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas at 7:00 p.m. For more reservations or information, please contact Chris McDaniel at 817.729.7259 or chris.mcdaniel@dads.state.tx.us.

April 22 Community Service Opportunity. Annual SafePlace Walk For Safe Families & Safe Streets. For information visit www.austin-safeplace.org or call 512.481.WALK.

April 26 Austin Showcase Luncheon. Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio, at noon. Speaker: Larry Olson, Department of Information Resources. Topic: "Shared Success: Building a Better Texas Through Shared Responsibilities." For information and reservations, contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

April – May Community Service Opportunity. Clean Out Your Closet For Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest. For information visit <http://www.lisashopechest.org>.

May 17 Executive Success Team Annual Celebration. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina at 5:30 p.m. For information and reservations, please contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

May 31 Application Deadline. EWTG 2006 Conference Call for Presenters. For information please contact Pam Baggett-Wallis at pam@persuasion-communication.com.

Executive Women in Texas Government is a non-partisan organization that promotes leadership in service to Texas by offering professional development opportunities.

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A Note from the President

by Beverly Bavousett

On Mentoring and Being Mentored

Mentor/mentee relationships have been around for thousands of years. A mentor is defined as a counselor or advisor. Many of us have had at least one of these types of relationships during our lifetimes. We become wise in one of two ways: we can learn from our own experiences or, for a quicker and often less painful way, we can learn from the experiences of others.

It used to be (in the "olden days") that people consulted with members of their families for advice. Today we are a much more mobile society, and few of us even live near our families. Besides, these days, family members may not be the best resources for advice on our professional careers. Couple this with the dramatic ways that business and the professional world are changing and it seems that more than ever we have more of a tremendous need for mentors. Traditionally, mentors have been older than those they mentored, but that is not necessarily true today. Age no longer matters.

What does a mentor want to see in a potential mentee? She wants to see someone who is willing to learn, eager, and enthusiastic. She wants to see someone who is interested and who is interesting. The potential mentee should display competency and should be appreciative of efforts made on her behalf.

What does a mentee look for in a potential mentor? She should look for someone she respects and can trust, someone who is positive and whom she feels she can follow. The mentor doesn't need to be someone who has done everything right. We can gain incredible wisdom from those who didn't do it right and lived to tell about it.

How do you find a willing mentor? Ask yourself what you want and have an objective. Do you want to become a better trainer? Do you want to learn more about entering the next level of leadership? Start slow, and talk with the person you wish to mentor you. Watch to see if you think the person might be open to spending the time and energy to help you progress. Above all, be appreciative for what you are given. Write a note of thanks to her. Being a mentor takes time and energy that could be spent elsewhere.

Remember that as a mentee, it is primarily up to you to keep the relationship going. A mentee gets out of the relationship what she puts into it. The mentee's energy, enthusiasm, and actions can invigorate a mentor and fuel a long and continued relationship.

Being mentored isn't for everyone. But if you've never had this kind of relationship and the idea interests you, I'd encourage you to give it a try. It can be a wonderful experience. Even when the mentoring phase of the relationship ends, people are often left with lifelong friends. Also, after being mentored, be willing to give back by being a mentor to someone else.

"Leadership is a serving relationship that has the effect of facilitating human development."

— Ted Ward

If you would like to receive the current minutes from this month's EWTG Board meeting, please contact Penny Johnson at ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

April 12 Minicourse: Pam Owens of Edge of Your Seat Consulting

Part 2: Road Trip or Commute? How do you handle changes in your work environment?

by Joelyn Weeks, 2006 Program Committee

What's the difference between going on a road trip and commuting to work? Plenty, right? On March 8th, Pam Owens, CEO of Edge of Your Seat Consulting, presented the first half of a two-part minicourse that will help EWTG members see how changing personal attitudes about our work—getting away from a routine, boring commute and thinking instead of an adventurous, exciting trip—can directly and positively affect our work environment. Pam returns on Wednesday, April 12th, to complete the series.



Joelyn Weeks, EWTG and Pam Owens, Edge of Your Seat Consulting.

In any dynamic and functional organization, change is supposed to be happening. Unfortunately, one of every three people in the workplace responds negatively to it. The goal of this two-part minicourse is to identify strategies for responding positively. Owens' analogy of a road trip versus a commute is an effective way to begin personal analysis on reactions to change.

Owens' direct and candid approach to the subject in the first half of the series challenged course participants to think about how they each handle change. Do they see change as something exciting like a road trip, fun and challenging, with opportunities; or do they see change as a commute with drudgery and irritation? To make her point, Pam gave each participant a toy car as a reminder of how much fun a road trip can be.

On Wednesday, April 12th, participants will re-convene as Owens conducts the second session of the minicourse. In this half of the course, participants will practice behaviors and learn key phrases to help create a positive environment for change.

Come join us for the second of Pam's sessions, even if you missed the first. Mangia Pizza and salad will be available for \$6 per person (salad only is \$3) for the first 25 people who RSVP. Networking (and eating!) begins at 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at noon. For information and reservations, contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370. Please state whether you want to purchase pizza or salad when you make your reservation.



A Little Fun Trivia

Just Where Did The Easter Bunny Come From?

by Julie Barker, 2006 Newsletter Committee Chair

Most of us grew up with good ole Peter Cottontail hoppin' down the bunny trail and with Easter just around the corner on April 16th, we wondered where this little gift giving bunny came from. The Easter Bunny originated in Germany in pre-Christian fertility lore. With the hare and the rabbit being well known for their ability to multiply, they became the symbols for new life during the Spring season. It was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s where it was known as the "Oschter Haws." German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s introduced it in American folklore.

Children believed that if they were very good, the "Oschter Haws" would lay a nest of colored eggs just for them. The children would build their nest in a secluded place in the home, the barn or the garden. Some children would use twigs and grass to build their nests and in some families, the boys would use their caps and girls their bonnets to make their nests.

Program Committee

March 22 Showcase Luncheon: Fred Burton of Stratfor, Inc. “Security Challenges for Texas and the Nation”

by Laure McLaughlin, 2006 Program Chair

Fred Burton, an expert in counterterrorism for Stratfor, an Austin-based private intelligence agency, led EWTC members and guests on a fascinating and timely overview of Al Qaeda, from its evolution as the largely U.S.- trained mujahadeen that fought the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s, to its current-day leaders, techniques, strategies and goals.

Mr. Burton asserted that Osama bin Laden is most likely dead. Bin Laden hasn't been seen since before the U.S. November 2004 elections, when he released a videotape. The audiotape released in January 2006, allegedly from bin Laden, was spliced together, disjointed and of poor quality - something bin Laden would never have allowed.

Al Qaeda is fixated on air strikes, destroying the U.S. economy and reestablishing a Caliphate, or Muslim-controlled world, Burton said. Because most of the nation's "hard" targets—the White House, Capitol, military and other government buildings—are now well-protected, Al Qaeda operatives are concentrating on "soft" targets—hotels, synagogues, shopping malls, stadiums and perhaps even schools. More importantly, with its fixation on air strikes, Al Qaeda's use of general aviation aircraft in an attack is becoming more and more likely, due to the ease by which Al Qaeda operatives could obtain and fly them.

Since September 11, 2001, 12 to 16 major attacks on U.S. targets were neutralized before they could be carried out, Burton said. In one chilling instance, at the Citigroup Building in New York City, a young Pakistani man wearing a shirt with the logo of an elevator company and carrying a backpack walked in and told the security guard he needed to go up to the roof. When the guard questioned him, the young man walked out. Further checks indicated that the man was not an elevator company employee. But the question remained, why would he want to get to the roof? Burton theorized the young man wanted to place a beacon on the roof, possibly to guide in an aircraft attack, test security, or both.

Counterterrorism has come a long way, said Burton, since his days as one of just three counterintelligence agents in the entire U.S. government in the 1980s. Today, contractors perform most covert counterterrorism operations, although the federal government has beefed up its intelligence capabilities significantly since 9/11. "Al Qaeda will be shaping U.S. policy for a very long time," Burton said.

EWTC would like to thank Fred Burton for his generous donation of time and information, and also Don Kuykendall and Jason Deal of Stratfor, Inc. for their generous assistance.

“Control is not leadership; management is not leadership; leadership is leadership. If you seek to lead, invest at least 50% of your time in leading yourself—your own purpose, ethics, principles, motivation, conduct. Invest at least 20% leading those with authority over you and 15% leading your peers.”

***— Dee Hock
Founder and CEO Emeritus, Visa***

Leadership Self Test

1. **TRUE or FALSE:** It's nice to know about people's long-term goals, but not necessary to get the job done.
2. **TRUE or FALSE:** The best way to build a team is to set a group goal that is highly challenging, maybe even "crazy."
3. **TRUE or FALSE:** I spend more of my time and attention on my weaker performers than I do on my top performers, who basically take care of themselves.
4. **TRUE or FALSE:** I like to surround myself with people who are better at what they do than I am.
5. **TRUE or FALSE:** I pay close attention to how and where I spend my time, because the priorities I put into action are the ones that other people will observe and follow.

The answers can be found on page 8

GO RED FOR WOMEN!

Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's nationwide movement that celebrates the energy, passion and power we have as women to band together and wipe out heart disease. Thanks to the participation of millions of people across the country, the color red and the red dress have become linked with the ability all women have to improve their heart health and live stronger, longer lives.

Taking care of your heart is more important than you might know. Too few people realize that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women — and of men. But the good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. Go Red For Women empowers women with knowledge and tools so they can take positive action to reduce their risks of heart disease and stroke and protect their health.

5 Simple Ways To Love Your Heart

It's not hard to reduce your risk for heart disease. Start today with small, simple actions like these:

- ◆ **Celebrate with a checkup.** Let each birthday remind you that it's time for your yearly checkup and a talk with your doctor about how you can reduce your risk for heart disease.
- ◆ **Get off the couch.** Step, march or jog in place for at least 30 minutes most days of the week — you can even do it while watching TV.
- ◆ **Quit smoking in four steps.** Can't go "cold turkey"? Cut the number of cigarettes you smoke each day in half; then cut that number in half; cut it in half again; finally, cut down to zero!
- ◆ **Drop a pound or two.** Cutting out just 200 to 300 calories a day — about one candy bar's worth — can help you lose up to two pounds per week and gradually bring you closer to a heart-healthy weight.
- ◆ **Become a salt detective.** Check out the Nutrition Facts panel on packaged foods to see how much sodium (salt) they contain. Aim for a total intake of no more than 2,300 milligrams (about a teaspoon of salt) per day.

For more information on preventing heart disease, please visit the American Heart Association's website at: www.americanheart.org or www.goredforwomen.org/. For local Go Red For Women information, please contact Pat Byrum at pat.byrum@heart.org.

Taking the Lead - Developing Leaders

EWTG 20th Annual Leadership Development Conference

by Pamela Baggett-Wallis

Twenty years ago, EWTG leaders took the lead on an ambitious plan for an annual conference as an educational opportunity for women who had the passion to excel and to share their wealth of knowledge. "Taking the Lead - Developing Leaders," the 2006 theme, honors that heritage of leadership development through the EWTG annual professional development conference. We will concentrate on "nuts and bolts" education with the goal that attendees leave each session with information that will enhance their skills and make them an even more valuable attribute to their agencies.

The program committee and the committee chairs along with our Board of Directors are already hard at work identifying dynamic workshop presenters for this conference. Mark your calendars now for Monday, November 20, 2006 to participate in this speaker opportunity at the Austin Renaissance Hotel at the Arboretum.

How YOU Can Help: We are making a special effort to pre-screen presenters, looking for individuals for whom you, or someone you trust, can vouch. We encourage you to make speaker recommendations and ask that you make them with the same consideration that you give in recommending someone for hire in your own agency or business. If you have anyone to suggest please let us know. Pam's email is pam@persuasion-communication.com.

The "Call for Presenters" is online at www.ewtg.org and is included in this newsletter. Please use this form for yourself or forward it to the best speakers, presenters, and trainers you know.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

2006 EWTG Professional Development Conference

Celebrating 20 years of Developing Leaders
Monday, November 20, 2006

Taking the Lead - Developing Leaders with Four Facets of Leadership

EWTG is setting the PACE at the 20th annual professional development conference by focusing on four facets of leadership as follows:

- ◆ Approach our leadership roles with **Passion**
- ◆ Take **Action**, get off the bench and step up to the plate
- ◆ Employ sound **Communication**, ensuring others hear your message and you hear theirs
- ◆ Always, in every way, strive for **Excellence**

When women come together with the wealth of experience, skills and knowledge that we all share, an amazing synergy occurs. You are invited to join us as a conference workshop presenter to celebrate the support we have shared with one another for more than two decades.

EWTG is soliciting proposals for workshop presenters as follows:

Selection Criteria Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- ◆ relevance to the conference theme
- ◆ creativity
- ◆ adaptability of ideas to other situations

Priority will be given to those proposals which achieve one or more of the following:

- ◆ demonstrate new ideas and/or methods
- ◆ teach specific techniques and skills
- ◆ include resource materials/handouts

If you had to define your presentation by one of Four Facets of Leadership, i.e., Passion, Action, Communication or Excellence, please tell us, in your proposal, how your presentation fits under one of those headings. We particularly encourage members of EWTG to submit proposals. EWTG members share a wealth of knowledge and can assist their colleagues serving in state government by setting the PACE.

EWTG 2006 Professional Development Conference

Taking the Lead - Developing Leaders

Monday, November 20, 2006
Renaissance Hotel (Arboretum) Austin

Proposal Instructions

Please submit your proposal as follows.

- Use a separate form for each co-presenter.
- Attach a biographical sketch of each presenter with contact information.
- Provide three references regarding presentation abilities.
- Enclose a 100-word abstract of the proposed session including the title.
- Send materials postmarked no later than May 31, 2006, to:

EWTG
c/o Pamela Baggett-Wallis
3506 Denbar Court
Austin, TX 78739
pam@persuasion-communication.com

EWTG is an organization of dedicated individuals devoted to developing and encouraging women in Texas government and higher education by providing members with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel.

Presentation Title/Topic: _____

Session Preference*:

____ Monday, Nov. 20, morning
____ Monday, Nov. 20, mid-morning
____ Monday, Nov. 20, afternoon

Number of Presenters: _____

*While every effort will be made to accommodate your time preference, we cannot guarantee availability

Presentation Format:
Lecture __ Workshop__ Panel __

Presenter Name: _____

Under which PACE attribute does your presentation fall?
Rank the attributes below to indicate which of the four better represents your topic.

Title: _____

Organization: _____

____ Passion
____ Action
____ Communication
____ Excellence

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Equipment You Will Provide: _____

Equipment You Need: _____

Notes:
Presenters should provide their own equipment such as laptop computers and LCD projectors. Flipcharts, flipchart stands, projection screens, power cords, and microphones will be provided.

No honoraria or traveling expenses will be provided, but you may register for any part of the conference at no charge.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! EXECUTIVE SUCCESS TEAM ANNUAL CELEBRATION



All current and new Team members are invited to the Executive Success Team Annual Celebration reception on Wednesday, May 17th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. Come for the networking, come for ideas, come for the food, and come for the fun!

Interested EWTG members, there is still time to sign up to join a Team. Send an email to Penny Johnson, EWTG Executive Director, at ewtg@onr.com to obtain a Team Member Profile form. Open enrollment ends April 7, 2006. Make a decision to JOIN TODAY!

Your Mentoring Committee,
Susan Heck
Carol Jackson
Jebron McCue

Joelyn Weeks
Connie Williams

The Legal Status of Women in Texas, 1909

Texas suffragists were interested in equal rights for women beyond the voting booth. As Mrs. W.B. Wynne wrote in a pamphlet published in 1909, marriage brought great legal disabilities to a woman. A single woman (feme sole) could enter into contracts, sue or be sued in court, choose her own home, own and control her own property, and, if widowed, have custody of her children. A married woman (feme covert) had more limited rights. A married woman could not take a job without her husband's permission, and she had to allow her husband to manage her property, although she was allowed to own property, unlike women in many other states.

Many of these laws made sense for frontier families in which husband and wife shared virtually identical economic interests. But by 1910, thousands of married women were working in a variety of businesses, and their inability to make legal contacts and control their own property was a huge handicap.

Change came slowly for the women of Texas. In 1911, the Texas Legislature passed a law that let married women apply for the status of a "feme sole" for the purposes of doing business. A 1913 law gave women control of the income from her own real estate, stocks and bonds, and bank accounts. But it was not until 1967 that the Marital Property Act gave married women the same control of their property and contractual powers as men. (Found on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission website.)

Leadership Self Test Answer Key

1. **TRUE or FALSE: It's nice to know about people's long-term goals, but not necessary to get the job done.** Someone once said that managers get "work done through people," but leaders get "people done through work." Since leaders need to know what makes individual people tick, they want to know long-term goals and aspirations, so they can craft ways to combine personal goals with the work at hand, or even the organization's goals. For a given project, it may be less important to know people's long-term goals, but for organizational success and growth, it is necessary. "True" is more of a manager's answer, and "False" is more of a leader's answer.
2. **TRUE or FALSE: The best way to build a team is to set a group goal that is highly challenging, maybe even "crazy."** Manager's tend to think more in terms of what has been done before and try to make more incremental improvements, while leaders like to challenge people to bring out their best in ways they themselves may not have imagined possible. The best way to build team coherence is to take people through a shared, difficult challenge – something any military platoon leader can tell you. "True" is more of a leader's response, and "False" is more of a manager's response.
3. **TRUE or FALSE: I spend more of my time and attention on my weaker performers than I do on my top performers, who basically take care of themselves.** Leaders use their time as a reward, and seek to invest their attention where it can have the most upside impact. Generally speaking, people have the most opportunity to grow and become truly great where they already demonstrate strong performance, and so leaders tend to avoid remedial projects or the constant oversight of weaker performers. Instead, they spend more of their attention on the people who are the best at what they do, since those are the people who will bring invent the greatest process and performance improvements in the future. Managers tend to focus more on problems to solve than they do on opportunities to boost people toward previously unachieved levels of excellence. "True" is more of a manager's response, and "False" is more of a leader's response.
4. **TRUE or FALSE: I like to surround myself with people who are better at what they do than I am.** This is a classic leadership statement, since leaders are all about finding and cultivating talent, and are not threatened by it. Managers may tend to want to feel more in control of their surroundings – not least of all because highly talented people can be very independent and difficult to "manage!" Since leaders tend to have stronger social skills than managers do, and so are better prepared to deal with other strong egos, "True" is more of a leader's response, and "False" is more of a manager's response.
5. **TRUE or FALSE: I pay close attention to how and where I spend my time, because the priorities I put into action are the ones that other people will observe and follow.** Leaders realize that the little things they do ripple out in wider and wider ways, and that their actual priorities will be mimicked throughout an organization. As a result, they make their choices wisely, knowing that people, and other managers or supervisors, do imitate the "boss," who sets the ultimate tone. "True" is more of a leader's response, and "false" is more of a manager's response.

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Dallas Affiliate News

by Chris McDaniel

Funeral services were held on March 9th at the Dallas Affiliate EWTG meeting for well-known personal critic and naysayer, "I Can't". Professional speaker, author and coach Sherry Grimes officiated.

In her humorous, casual style, Sherry taught us to differentiate between "can't" and "won't" and to consciously classify our decisions as the latter, which frees us to analyze more options. Once we decide we won't do something that we feel unable to do, we can work on our immediate fears and roadblocks. And those we can take control of and do something about.

EWTG member Amy Williams gamely volunteered to demonstrate the power that negativity has on outcomes in an exercise Sherry learned from Jack Canfield of the "Chicken Soup" wisdom. With her arm extended in front of her, Amy resisted Sherry's downward pressure as long as she spoke truths and positive thoughts about herself, but Amy was surprisingly unable to maintain that position if she spoke negatively!

Sherry earned a Bachelor's Degree from Baylor University and her Masters and PhD degrees from the School of Hard Knocks. After 10 years corporate experience, she now works for her 4-year-old son. Sherry helps people believe in themselves and be who they are, and she believes that who we are is good enough, if we would only be it openly. Sherry is a Distinguished Toastmaster and has been published in the Collin County section of the *Dallas Morning News*. We all enjoyed Sherry's presentation, which included a symbolic funeral for the lists we made of things we "can't" do.

In other news, the Dallas Affiliate is making and donating baskets to the Community Partners of Dallas for their Easter Basket Drive 2006, which hopes to serve over 1,000 abused and neglected children this year in the care of Dallas County Child Protective Services.

EWTG Chair Susan Rossiter introduced us to Attitudes and Attire, a non-profit agency dedicated to promoting personal growth for women seeking self-sufficiency. We hope to

have a representative during our April meeting to learn more about this organization. Public Affairs Director Rosalyn Beyince identified this non-profit agency as a charity through which EWTG could "give something back."

Finally, we look forward to having Affiliates Director Lori Field visit us for our May meeting, during which time we will celebrate our 10th anniversary as an affiliate. We are also planning a membership drive and luncheon to be held in May.

General meeting information: Dallas Affiliate meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2006 at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas (214.688.2653). The regular meetings begin with an informal social at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and a business meeting at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. If you would like to receive the Dallas Affiliate monthly e-mail program announcement, or to RSVP regarding your attendance, please call Chris McDaniel at 817.792.7259 or send an e-mail to chris.mcdaniel@dads.state.tx.us.

Houston Affiliate News

What do Oprah & Houston EWTG have in common?

by Rebecca Rae

Oprah has "Oprah's Bookshelf", a list that contains all of her favorite books. Houston EWTG will soon start its own list of favorites. The Houston EWTG Bookshelf will contain titles and a short description of books recommended by our members on management, self-improvement, and other professional related topics. There will also be a list of other books that were great reads or had a profound effect upon the reader when the topic doesn't fit into the professional category. Members will choose one or two books from the list to read and discuss at our next gathering.

The Houston EWTG kicked off their "E-Share" on March 14th. An article by Peggy Morrow titled, "How to Deal with Grippers and Complainers" blasted its way to Houston members and other interested parties. The "E-Share Discussion" will follow in approximately ten days.

2006 Affiliate Officers Houston Affiliate:

Rebecca Rae, Chair

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rebecca.rae@txdps.state.tx.us

Holly Faison, Secretary-Treasurer

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281.517.1316
holly.faison@txdps.state.tx.us

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

April and May - Clean Out Your Closet for Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest

As Texas government professionals, members of EWTG know how important it is to dress appropriately for the office. The Community Service Committee recognizes that there are many less fortunate women in Austin who would love to have the clothes that no longer fit our frame or style, so we are holding a spring clothing drive to provide professional outfits for some of the working women in our community.

Clothing will be donated to Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest (Helping Others Progress Economically), an Austin-based, non-profit organization that provides gently-used professional clothing free of charge to financially disadvantaged individuals who are entering the workforce or going to job interviews. The H.O.P.E. Chest provides women and men with a fresh start on "dressing for success" by establishing that vital first impression. Client referrals come from numerous state, regional, and local agencies, including the Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Workforce Commission, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and all women safe shelters.

At the EWTG April and May minicourse and luncheon, members of the Community Service Committee will be collecting cleaned, gently-worn spring and summer career clothing and gently used accessories, purses, and shoes. As you go through your spring and summer clothes this month, please remember that the H.O.P.E. Chest accepts professional clothing and accessories for women and anything wearable for men, including suits, shoes, and work clothes such as blue jeans and t-shirts. If you prefer, a check made out to Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest is always welcome for items like new hose and undergarments. Tax donation receipts will be available.

To find out more about this worthwhile organization and other ways to help, visit <http://www.lisashopechest.org/>.

Envision A Future Without Violence

Join SafePlace and Walk on Saturday, April 22nd

Austin's SafePlace is sponsoring a walk on April 22nd to raise money and awareness for domestic and sexual violence. The Walk honors the memories of those lost to violence and gives survivors the opportunity to celebrate living violence-free lives.

SafePlace provides services to individuals and families such as counseling, shelter, and advocacy for individuals who have suffered from domestic or sexual violence as well as educating the community.

If you would like to join SafePlace in promoting a violence-free future, you may obtain more information on their website at www.austin-safeplace.org or by calling 512.481.WALK.

EWTG Community Service Project a Success

Ten EWTG members (plus a husband!) spent a lovely March Saturday morning refurbishing the landscape at the entrance to the Town Lake Animal Center. Originally planted by EWTG's Community Service Committee in 2003, the planting was in need of a little sprucing up! Generous EWTG members donated \$127 which was spent on colorful blooming perennials. Volunteers pulled weeds, collected trash and leaves, sited a new bird bath, planted the new plants and topped everything off with a fresh layer of mulch. The results are beautiful – thanks to all who pitched in and made this project a success!

Great Job Ladies (and Gentleman)!!!



The Hard Working Crew!!!!



Beginning at Front right Shannon Franklin, Clare Dyer, Laure McLaughlin and Teresa Stankiewicz.



Debbie Agbottah (left) and Carolyn Fry (right)

Why Get Involved?

There are as many reasons to serve as there are people who serve. Volunteering is not just an altruistic act. It's an opportunity to advance in all areas of your life. Here are a few of the things you can gain when you give your time and yourself:

- Connect with your community.
- Conserve funds for charities, nonprofits and faith-based and other community organizations by contributing your time.
- Share your skills and gain new ones.
- Develop self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Meet new people from all walks of life.
- Enhance your resume and make important networking contacts.
- Promote a worthwhile activity
- Feel needed and valued.
- Experience something new.
- Serve your country.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

San Jacinto Day - A Fight for Texas' Freedom

On April 21, 1836, General Sam Houston led Texan troops in a surprise attack that sealed the future state's independence from Mexico. The location? The mouth of the San Jacinto River, near the present-day city of Houston. At least 600 of Mexico's general Santa Anna's men were killed and more than 700 were taken prisoner in the 18-minute Battle of San Jacinto. Among Houston's 800 men, only nine lost their lives.

Texas pride abounds every April 21 as the state celebrates its independence from Mexico. The battle site is now adorned with a monument that, in true Texas style, was once the tallest stone monument in the world.

READ IMMEDIATELY AND PASS ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!

by Cindy Hale, 2006 Communications Director

Your friends Bill Gates and Walt Disney, Jr. are beta testing a new email-tracking program which tracks and logs all the recipients of its mail. If it reaches 13,000 people, you could receive \$5,000 cash or a free trip to Disney World!

Several major brands of lipstick contain dangerous levels of lead.

Someone is sending out a very cute screensaver of the Budweiser Frogs. If you download it, you will lose everything! Your hard drive will crash and someone from the Internet will get your screen name and password!

We've all seen them... the million and one emails you're supposed to send to all of your family and friends - within the next five minutes or you'll have bad luck for the rest of your life! They range from trivial to life threatening to bogus reports of lost children. What to do? Do you laugh and ignore them? Or do you send them, just in case they might be right?

Not if I'm on your d-list, I beg of you! Instead, check out one of my favorite websites, www.snopes.com. Those great people at Snopes spend all their time researching the validity of these emails, rating them as False, True, or Possibly True. They not only rate urban legends, they explain where they came from, how they researched them, and why they are or are not legitimate.

So... the next time you're asked to send a warning to your Mom or your best friend about the Agent Orange that's lurking in her scrubber sponge, visit the friendly folks at Snopes first and make sure you're not making a mountain out of a molehill - or a Chihuahua out of a rat.

? **Mysteries of Success** ?

16th Annual MAPcon
The inspirational Money And Power Conference especially
designed for achieving women

Presented by the
Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas
where women in business come first

Wednesday, April 12 Austin, Texas
5:30pm - 7:30pm
VIP Networking Reception
AMOA - Laguna Gloria
3809 West 35th Street

Thursday, April 13
8:00am - 4:30pm
Conference
Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake
208 Barton Springs Road

What are the Mysteries of Success?

Is it having tenacity, a sense of humor or a driving passion?
Is it sticking to our values even when the going gets tough?
Is it taking business seriously but being able to laugh and grow
from our mistakes? Or is it sharing those mistakes so others can
learn from them?

The keys to greatness are within us— come discover the clues that
inspire you to unlock the mystery to your success.

Please visit www.womenschambertexas.com to register or for more information.

First Year Members

Regina Currimbhoy	UT Southwestern Medical Center	regina.currimbhoy@utsouthwestern.edu
Gayle Latham	County Information Resources Agency	gayle.latham@cira.state.tx.us
Mary B. Lewis	JP Morgan Chase	mary.b.lewis@jpmchase.com
Heidi Negaard	UT Southwestern Medical Center	heidi.negaard@utsouthwestern.edu
Anca Pinchas	State Auditors Office	apinchas@sao.state.tx.us
Vikki Vasquez	TX Municipal Retirement System	vvasquez@tmrs.com

Renewing Members

Kay Arnold	Retired, TX Rehabilitation Comm	kaygarnold@aol.com
Linda Battles	TX Higher Ed Coordinating Board	linda.battles@thecb.state.tx.us
Sarah Bauer	Waddell & Reed	sbauer@grandecom.net
Sandra Crow	TX Dept of State Health Services	sandra.crow@dshs.state.tx.us
Ruth Ann Doss	Comptroller of Public Accounts	ruth.doss@cpa.state.tx.us
Holly Faison	TX Department of Public Safety	holly.faison@txdps.state.tx.us
Shannon Franklin	TX Building & Procurement Comm	shannon.franklin@tbpc.state.tx.us
Lillie Gilligan	Retired, Governor's Comm for Women	lgilligan1@aol.com
Susan Heck	Grainger, Inc	susan.heck@grainger.com
Debra Lyon		debra-lyon@austin.rr.com
Diana Maldonado	Comptroller of Public Accounts	diana.maldonado@cpa.state.tx.us
Madeleine Manigold	Retired, TX Education Agency	madeleine.@spicewoodvineyards.com
Jebbron McCue	TX Dept of Aging & Disability Svcs	jebbron.mccue@dads.state.tx.us
Deborah Mitchell	Employees Retirement System	debbie.mitchell@ers.state.tx.us
Debbie Munoz	TX Municipal Retirement System	dmunoz@tmrs.com
Cerretha Rose	Keller Williams Realty	cerretha@cerretharose.com
Lydia Saldana	TX Parks and Wildlife Department	lydia.saldana@tpwd.state.tx.us
Lee Stone	Wilbur Smith Associates	lstone@wilbursmith.com
Kathleen West	Employees Retirement System	kathleen.west@ers.state.tx.us
Nancy Wilson	Retired, Mental Health/Mental Retardation	nanwil@aol.com
Linda Young	Austin Community College	lyoung@austincc.edu
Shirley Zwinggi	UT Southwestern Medical Center	shirley.zwinggi@utsouthwe

Returning Members

Melissa Hield	TX Department of Insurance	melissa.hield@tdi.state.tx.us
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Stars Over Texas



EWTG member **Diana Maldonado** is running for re-election to the Round Rock Independent School Board, Place 2. For more information, please visit her website at www.diana4rrisd.com.

Lori Moya, former EWTG Program Director, presently serves on the AISD Community Bond Oversight Committee. She is an unopposed candidate for Place 6 on the AISD School Board.

Susan Steeg, former EWTG Treasurer and Financial Officer, is the Democratic candidate for Travis County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3.

Angelita Mendoza-Waterhouse, former EWTG Public Relations Director, currently serves as an Associate District Judge in the 3rd Administrative Judicial Region. She is a candidate for District Court 419.