



STAR

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MAY 2006

Showcase Luncheon Committee May 24 Luncheon: Billy Hamilton, Chief Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts "School Finance—Problem Solved?"

by Laure McLaughlin, Program Committee Chair



Billy Hamilton, the Chief Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts, will be the keynote speaker at the EWTG monthly luncheon on May 24th at the Austin Woman's Club. Hamilton will share his view of the state's school finance and other fiscal dilemmas addressed by the legislature after what many hope will be the just-concluded Third Called Session.

As Deputy Comptroller, Hamilton is responsible for the day-to-day management of the comptroller's office. He has served as the deputy for Comptrollers Carole Keeton Strayhorn and

John Sharp, and was associate deputy comptroller for fiscal management, chief revenue estimator and research director for Comptroller Bob Bullock.

Well known for his intellect, insight and humor, in February 2005, Texas Monthly named Hamilton one of the most powerful people in Texas, calling him "The Numbers Cruncher" because his "genius at tax policy has allowed a succession of state comptrollers to transform a once-obscure, green-eyeshades accounting office into a power center. For more than twenty years, Hamilton has done the math."

From 1991 through 2003, Hamilton was the heart and soul of the Texas Performance Reviews to improve state government. The reviews made 974 recommendations totaling \$16.6 billion in general revenue savings and revenue gain; 644 recommendations totaling \$10.3 billion were implemented by the Legislature. His success in this venture brought him to the attention of then-Vice President Al Gore, who asked him to manage the National Performance Review. Governors of Colorado and California have also asked Hamilton to direct their state's performance reviews.

Hamilton is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. In 1987, the LBJ School awarded him the school's first Distinguished Alumni Award.

We are extremely pleased and honored that Mr. Hamilton can share with us his vast knowledge of state government. 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–May Community Service Opportunity. Clean Out Your Closet For Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest. For information, visit <http://www.lisashopechest.org>.

May 5 Dallas Affiliate's 10th Anniversary Luncheon Seminar Featuring "Women Now", presented by Lynn Flint Shaw, M.C.D./C.C.C. 11:30 to 1:30 at UT Southwestern North Campus, NG3.202

\$15.00 for lunch and seminar. Please RSVP by May 2, 2006. to Vicki Moores at vicki.moores@utsouthwestern.edu or 214.648.0801; VID# 11197100.

May 10 Austin Minicourse. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, at noon. Speaker: Pam Owens, Edge of Your Seat Consulting. Topic: Part 2: Road Trip or Commute? How Do You Handle Changes in Your Work Environment? For information and reservations, contact ewtg@onr.com or 512.894.4370.

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

May 24 Austin Showcase Luncheon. Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio, at noon. Speaker: Billy Hamilton, Chief Deputy Comptroller of Public Accounts. Topic: School Finance - Problem Solved? For information and reservations, 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.

May 31 2nd Quarter Scholarship Deadline. Request a scholarship application at ewtg@onr.com. Return the form by email, fax to 512-894-4371 or mail to EWTG, PMB #263, 815-A Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701-9996.

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A Note from the President

by Beverly Bavousett

Update on Board Activities

Your Board of Directors has been working diligently to bring EWTG the best year ever. I want to use this newsletter article to let you know what they are up to. First, we sadly announce that our Executive Director, **Penny Johnson**, will be retiring from EWTG at the end of this year. We hate to see her go but we focus on enjoying her while we still have her! Our Executive Director truly holds EWTG together.

President elect **Connie Williams** has the Executive Success Team promotion in full swing! Be sure to sign up if you are not already on a Team. Her strategic planning committee is on the move, finalizing the EWTG strategic plan. Also, Connie is on the Search Committee and working closely with the Chair to help select just the right person as our new Executive Director.

Vice President **Mary Castleberry** is planning this year's "Taking the Lead – Developing Leaders" 20th annual conference. She has assembled a group of women who are planning and implementing a conference that will be a hit! Plans include marvelous exhibits, fascinating speakers, a terrific variety of silent auction items, a smooth registration, accommodating facilities and an evaluation committee ready with forms and CEU and CPE possibilities.

Affiliates Director **Lori Field** is preparing to help the Dallas chapter celebrate its 10th year. She will be attending the May meeting and will bring a secret guest and door prizes. Currently, she is actively participating in the new e-share group with the Houston Affiliate and plans a second visit to Houston this summer.

Membership Director **Julie Atchison** is keeping busy along with the chairs of the Membership Services, Community Service and Retiree Committees. These committees hosted the New Member Orientation and the Community Service's Animal Shelter landscape efforts. The Retiree Membership Committee is surging ahead, having defined its purpose, focus and plans. Such wonderful efforts in this first quarter!

Program Director **Laure McLaughlin** and her terrific committee are doing a bang-up job finding sensational minicourses and luncheon speakers for EWTG members. Their goal is to bring a "Who's Who" of academic, government, business and community leaders to the EWTG membership and to hear members say "wow!" every time they leave an EWTG program event!

Treasurer **Clare Dyer** is busy with "behind the scenes" work, keeping our revenues and expenditures in order and always watching the budget-to-actual activity. She recently facilitated a reciprocal agreement with the Texas Public Employees Association. We will exhibit at each other's conferences this year without charge.

Finance Officer **Betsy Ford** and her Finance Committee worked hard to get the 2006 budget realistic, attainable and relevant to the needs of the membership. The Development Committee is gearing up to seek new sponsorships for the conference. They expect to surpass all past annual funding secured for EWTG.

Public Relations Director **Carla James** has drafted a power point presentation on EWTG. It will soon be available in final form for anyone who wants to present it at her agency. Within two months it will be available on our website. Additionally, Carla has 2,500 color EWTG posters for posting at your agencies. For supplies contact Carla at cjames@ssb.state.tx.us.

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Communications Director **Cindy Hale** has been quite productive with the newsletter and website committees. Hasn't the newsletter looked wonderful lately? Exciting plans for the website include a Picture Gallery, Bookstore, EWTG forms, and online registration for the mini-courses, luncheons and conference.

Finally, as your President, I've been working with three ad hoc committees. The Search Committee will attempt to find someone who can fill Penny's shoes. A By-Laws Committee will revise the by-laws and submit them to the membership for a vote. The Documentation Transition Committee is working to make things easier for those of you who will be assuming roles of leadership in EWTG in the coming years.

It's so moving to see board members working so hard to attain their goals. I want to give a huge thank you to our creative and competent board members for all the time and effort they put into making EWTG the success it is. You are invited to take a look at the pictures, now located on the website, of your Board of Directors.

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.

Program Committee

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

by Laure McLaughlin, Program Chair

The core mission of the Department of Information Resources, said DIR executive director and Chief Technology Officer Larry Olson at the April 26th EWTG showcase luncheon, is to support other agencies' core mission. With that, Olson described his common-sensical vision of the future of information technology (IT) in Texas government, one that values collaboration, alliances and focus on the enterprise, not the technology.



Olson stressed that technology is not about buying computers here and a network there anymore. It is now a utility, something that we all count on daily, just like we flip on a light switch and expect light.

Olson explained the pyramid of state objectives, strategies and goals. At the bottom of the pyramid are five objectives: reducing cost and improving performance of data center services; security; networking; sharing applications, and procurement. In the center are collaboration objectives: ensuring maximum results from state projects, encouraging business and technology architectures to drive improved planning and coordination; enhancing the value of state technology and process reviews, and increasing the value of electronic data and information. The tenth, and top strategy is the core mission: deploying innovative, value-added technology solution to meet agency core missions.

In describing each of these objectives, Olson had many interesting tales to tell. In one, after Hurricane Katrina struck, the robustness of the state's "211" call center network allowed the state's Amarillo call center to receive calls from people stranded on roofs in New Orleans because the Houston call center was overwhelmed. In another example, Olson told of DIR's successful renegotiation on PeopleSoft that combined nine agencies' services contracts into one, saving up to 85 percent.

Olson also addressed the most recent development at DIR, which is the March issuance of a 1,300-page Request for Offer (RFO) to consolidate the data center functions of 27 state agencies. At \$145 million in annual maintenance costs now, Olson said, DIR ought to be able to reduce those costs significantly.

DIR, he said, is also beginning to build a virtual mall for electronic procurement that will cost less than one percent of each expected transaction, which Olson expects to total \$750 million when the system is complete.

Program Committee

May 10 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 (Postponed from April 2006)



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. Ms. Owens returns on Wednesday, May 10th, to complete the series.

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 mini-course 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, May 10th, participants will convene again as Owens conducts the second session of the mini-course. In this course, participants will practice behaviors and learn key phrases to help create a positive environment for change. (Those of you who have a toy car from the first half of the course, please remember to bring it with you!)

Come join us for the second of Owens' 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 and/or salad when you make your reservation.



Success

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.

Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all.

Anna Quindlen

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.

Bob Dylan

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.

Dr. David M. Burns

Guided Tour of City Hall with City Manager Toby Futrell

by Dee McIlroy, Educational Events Chair

On April 4th, more than twenty EWTG members enjoyed a tour of Austin's new city hall by City Manager Toby Futrell. This was the second tour hosted by the EWTG Education Committee. It was so popular last summer, members insisted on another opportunity to enjoy this remarkable Austin treasure.



Ms Futrell noted that the building was designed by architect Antoine Predock and is truly a work of art. The natural elements found at Austin's Bull Creek inspired Predock's design. You can't miss the use of Texas native material such as limestone, pecan and copper. There's enough copper in the building to make 12 million pennies!

Futrell showed members through the public venues, including the Council Chambers, meeting rooms, press rooms, and the many indoor and outdoor gathering areas. Outside, the public areas include three levels of terraces, an amphitheater, fountains, gardens full of native plants, and one very special tree – a sapling from Austin's Treaty Oak. The wood salvaged from the mighty Treaty Oak, which was used for the border of the dais in the council chambers, makes this area of the building Futrell's favorite. Private areas were also explored in the tour, including the mayor's office, the city manager's personal office, council member offices, and private meeting rooms.

City Hall, by some descriptions, could be an art museum. Over 200 pieces of art by local artists are on display, according to Manager Futrell. The art project was started by the mayor's former wife and has been tremendously successful. Each year, the city puts a new art collection on display throughout the building, making every turn an adventure. Visitors and staff vote on their favorite piece of art and the winner is purchased by the city for its permanent collection. Futrell pointed out last year's purchase—a very large mesquite wood ball, full of intriguing shapes. The art is something to see—diverse, interactive, and even noisy!

Manager Futrell emphasized that glass doors or walls are used throughout the building to foster the concept of open government, something that is very important to her. City Council proceedings are displayed on a variety of screens in the chamber, in the lobby, and outside in the plaza. City Hall has state of the art electronics, and free public wireless access is available throughout the building. One room, the press conference room, is available to the public for use, as is the outdoor amphitheater. On Fridays, the public can enjoy free concerts during lunch in the amphitheater. Futrell also mentioned that the architect, Antoine Predock, will soon be enhancing the building with a permanent cover for the stage. Later this year, the city will be opening a restaurant and gift shop in City Hall.

To learn more about our city hall, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityhall/default.htm>

EWTG wishes to thank City Manager Toby Futrell for her excellent tour, and her staff for their flawless assistance. We enjoyed it!

Important Words for Leaders to Know and Use

by Julie Barker

There are lots of things a leader needs to know to succeed: how to visualize, how to energize, how to direct, and how to pull a team together. The following are a few of the most important words a leader needs to know and to use:

"I admit I made a mistake."

"What is your opinion?"

"Thank You"

"You did a good job."

"If you please"

"We"

What is the least important word a leader can say?

"I"

April 12 Minicourse

“Leadership Always Begins with Self-Governance—Know Thyself”

by Laure McLaughlin, Program Director

Giving someone something you don't have is ultimately self-defeating, according to April 12th minicourse speaker Sherri Humphrey Benn, who went on to say, “but knowing yourself, finding out what makes you passionate, whether in a positive or negative way, is a sure path to being a happier, more authentic you and, ultimately, a quality person and leader.”

Being caregivers and people-pleasers, most women have a particularly difficult time taking care of themselves. “It's like trying to please 10 bosses, then using whatever resources are left to take care of ourselves,” Ms. Benn said about giving to the “others” in our lives. When we give from a place of abundance, we have much to give. When we have neglected ourselves, we are trying to give from a place that is empty.

Benn enthralled EWTG members as she spoke about a time in her life when she was very conscious of her self-image, one which she created and had to work at to sustain because it wasn't her “authentic self.” Then she met Rachel, a woman in her church, who spoke from her heart without concern for what others thought about her, and this really irritated Benn. “Iron sharpens iron, she said, and when two people have a conflict their iron edges get more and more threatening.”

But then Benn fell ill and was bedridden for some time, Rachel, unbidden, came over to her house and washed her clothes, vacuumed her floors, cleaned her bathroom, and prepared her meals. From that time on, the two have been the best of friends. Later, Benn realized that the very quality that had irritated her about Rachel—her honesty—was the quality she herself lacked.

Benn encouraged the EWTG members in attendance to take a look at those things that are causing us pain or conflict—emotional, physical, intellectual or spiritual—and realize that our lives are trying to tell us something that we may be trying to avoid. “The teacher won't leave until the lesson is learned,” Benn counseled. And lastly, she reminded us that it is important to realize that those problems can't be blamed on, and won't be fixed by, other people or other circumstances.

Conference Evaluation Committee

The 2006 Conference Evaluation Committee is looking for members to lend their talents to us! The Conference Evaluation Committee designs the conference evaluation form, establishes procedures for collection of the forms at the conference, analyzes the data obtained, shares data with speakers and workshop presenters and provides a written report to the Board. If you are interested in joining the evaluation committee please contact the Conference Evaluation Committee Chair, Sandra Tate at Sandra.Tate@tea.state.tx.us.

Mentorship Committee

by Connie Williams, President-Elect

Expand your professional network! Join an Executive Success Team that fits your professional and personal needs. These groups of up to 7 women come from diverse backgrounds and occupations and meet regularly for the purpose of professional development. Members of your Team can inspire you and help with resolving challenges quickly and knowledgeably. Your Executive Success Team can be an important element of designing your career plan and goals. It can serve as a career-sustaining force.

The new year for the Teams starts in June. Sign up and applications start in February. For more information, contact Connie Williams at cwtrains@sbcglobal.net.

Have you got a great idea on how to tell people about EWTG?
To share your ideas, please contact Carla James at cjames@ssb.state.tx.us

Retiree Committee Update

by Jan Marie Ozias, PhD, RN

Retiree Committee mission: Enhance the retirement experience by providing relevant education, information, and valued opportunities to members to plan and execute their retirement goals and dreams.

Committee members: Primarily retired EWTG members, but membership is open to any member.

Priority activities: Direct activities to support and engage retired EWTG members, i.e., help EWTG provide learning, networking and leadership opportunities of value to retirees—which, in turn, can help retain membership and involvement in EWTG.

Secondary priorities: Offer EWTG members interested in retirement or the “sandwich” experience (responsibilities for children and aging parents) information as ‘mentors’ or via EWTG-sponsored means. Additionally, stay informed about legislation and other issues that affect retirees.

Upcoming activities: The committee will propose a panel presentation addressing Financial Issues that Affect Retired Women for the November EWTG conference in Austin. The retiree committee will recommend a Women’s Health topic for a lunch presentation and offer to recruit an appropriate speaker. Rationale: health influences one’s capacity to lead well; health is a topic of interest to retirees. Health needs to be a priority for women who work in stressful, sedentary positions. Medical care costs and benefits for state employees/retirees is a political priority.

Discussion planned: In May, the group will discuss holding social meetings with discussion topics, e.g., beliefs and emotions that influence political decisions.

Meetings: Second Thursdays of each month from 5:15-7:00 pm, EXCEPT May which will be the 3rd Thursday (May 18). The current meeting site is Bennigan’s at 7604 north IH 35 which is located just south of Hwy 183 (on the west side of IH 35). Electronic communications supplement the meetings.

Anyone who is interested in joining, attending a meeting or being added to the email contact list, please contact Jan Ozias at jwozias@earthlink.net or by phone at 512.633.8602 (cell).

Scholarship Committee

EWTG Scholarships Awarded

by Sarah Bauer

Three members submitted applications for the First Quarter Scholarship Cycle. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Lynn Whitten, Tammy Stone, Janis Guerrero, Carolyn Bible, Bev Bavousett and Sarah Bauer, Chair, poured over the applications and recommended that all three applicants receive a scholarship. The Board of Directors reviewed the committee recommendation and voted to approve the following awards:

- Susan Johnson received a scholarship for formal education to assist her in her pursuit of a PhD in Urban Higher Education through an Executive PhD program at Jackson State University.
- Janet Christine “Chris” McDaniel received a scholarship for formal education at Angelo State University where she is studying to complete her BSN degree.
- Reni Johnson received a general scholarship to assist her in her efforts to network and develop skills to enable her to obtain new employment opportunities.

Please join us in congratulating these women on their awards and wishing them the best in their pursuit of enhanced career opportunities!

The Scholarship Program is just one of EWTG’s great member benefits. The purpose of the program is to increase member professional and personal development, while encouraging and rewarding EWTG member participation and leadership. Financial need is not a factor. For 2006, EWTG is offering General Scholarships to members on a quarterly basis. Don’t pass up this opportunity for professional advancement or personal growth. Just request a scholarship application at ewtg@onr.com and receive an application by return email. Complete the form and email it, fax it to 512-894-4371 or mail it to EWTG, PMB #263, 815-A Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701-9996. The Scholarship Committee will accept applications on a continuous basis, but the **submission deadline for the Second Quarter Award is May 31st at 5:00 pm.**

Community Service Opportunities

Clean Out Your Closet for Lisa's HOPE Chest

(There is a special need for shoes, purses, and accessories!)

At the EWTG 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.

The HOPE 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. A check made out to Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest to purchase items like new hose and undergarments is always welcome also. Tax donation receipts will be available. To find out more about this worthwhile organization, visit <http://www.lisashopechest.org/>.

Mother's Day is May 14

Would you like to honor your mother and/or other extraordinary women in your life, while helping to change and save lives? With a \$10 (or more) tax-deductible gift to the Texas Commission on Family Violence's "Honoring Women in Our Lives Tribute Campaign," she will receive an elegant card letting her know someone appreciates her love and support! For more information or to register for the Campaign's luncheon on Thursday, May 4, 2006, at the Hilton Austin Hotel, please visit www.honoringwomen.org.

Origins of Mother's Day

Where did Mother's Day come from, anyway? The suggestion that one day should be set aside every year to honor all mothers came from Miss Anne Jarvis of Philadelphia. In May 1907, on the anniversary of her own mother's death, she arranged for a special service in her church. The idea spread like wildfire. Soon, all across America. Other countries - Canada, Mexico, South America, Africa, China, and Japan - soon followed. People began celebrating Mother's Day all over the world.

In 1914, the idea had become so popular that the Congress of the United States named Mother's Day as an annual national observance. President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the flying of flags on that day, As a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country! The first Mother's Day stamp ever issued was produced in 1934. It was a miniature reproduction of the famous "Whistler's Mother" painting.

Leadership Attributes

BE, KNOW, DO

BE a professional. Examples: Be loyal to the organization, perform selfless service, take personal responsibility.

BE a professional who possess good character traits. Examples: Honesty, competence, candor, commitment, integrity, courage, straightforwardness, imagination.

KNOW the four factors of leadership - follower, leader, communication, situation.

KNOW yourself. Examples: strengths and weakness of your character, knowledge, and skills.

KNOW human nature. Examples: Human needs, emotions, and how people respond to stress.

KNOW your job. Examples: be proficient and be able to train others in their tasks.

KNOW your organization. Examples: where to go for help, its climate and culture, who the unofficial leaders are.

DO provide direction. Examples: goal setting, problem solving, decision making, planning.

DO implement. Examples: communicating, coordinating, supervising, evaluating.

DO motivate. Examples: develop moral and esprit in the organization, train, coach, counsel.

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Dallas Affiliate News

by Chris McDaniel

Our guest speaker for the April 2006 Dallas Affiliate meeting was Jeffrey M. Kenkel, M.D., F.A.C.S., who has a lengthy curriculum vitae, including Vice Chairman and Medical Director of the Plastic Surgery Department of UT Southwestern Medical Center and team physician for the Dallas Stars Hockey Team. Dr. Kenkel was accompanied by aestheticians Wendy Turner and Jacque Helser, who are part of his plastic surgery team.

The team stressed the importance of maintaining a skin care regimen – one is never too young or too old to start. The regimen can be simple or complex – depending on the patient. Whatever the regimen, it should include a sun block to prevent damage to the skin. Dr. Kenkel described two types of wrinkles, especially associated with crow's feet: static wrinkles, which are caused by sun damage, and dynamic wrinkles, which are formed from underneath, or the muscle. Botox injections work on the dynamic wrinkles, take effect in 2-4 days, and last 3-4 months. Botox can also be used to reshape areas of the face. Because it is more effective on the upper third of the face, Botox is used on the upper third and fillers are used on the lower part. Some products last 6 months, some last a year.

Dr. Kenkel said when considering plastic surgery, one needs to identify his or her concerns and how much "down time" he or she is willing to accept.

After Dr. Kenkel left to attend the Stars game, Wendy and Jackie stayed to answer questions. They said that skin care was important to prevent cancer, maintain healthy skin, and maintain a youthful appearance. It is important to preserve the collagen and elastin. The products to do this can be bought in the physician's office and cost about the same as you would find in department stores, such as Macy's and Nordstroms.

In addition to providing consultation on skin care, aestheticians also do permanent makeup, laser hair removal, and some laser procedures such as IPL (intense pulse light), which evens out skin tone, helps the texture of the skin and helps minimize pore size. Those in attendance were given samples and a 20% discount toward the purchase of skin care products.

Following the presentation, Membership Director Eileen Sandy welcomed three new members to EWTG: Heidi Negaard (not present), Regina Currimbhoy, and Dunja Morgareidge (who sponsored Dr. Kenkel as our speaker). Regina Currimbhoy won the door prize drawing.

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.



Executive Women in Texas Government

Invite You to a Luncheon Seminar
Celebrating their 10th Anniversary
Featuring "WOMEN NOW"
Lynn Flint Shaw, M.C. D. /C.C.C.



May 5, 2006
11:30 AM - To 1:00 PM
UT Southwestern North Campus NG3.202

\$15.00 for Lunch and Seminar

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 2, 2006 TO VICKI MOORES
AT VICKI.MOORES@UTSOUTHWESTERN.EDU; 214.648.0801; VID# 11197100

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We are also looking forward to having Affiliates Director Lori Field and her “surprise” executive guest visit and attend our regular meeting at the Faculty Club on May 11th.

In August, the Dallas Affiliate will be hosting a clothing drive for business attire to benefit underprivileged women preparing for interviews and getting started in the business world.

Marie Otokiti announced that as part of our community service project in March 2006, the Dallas Affiliate assembled and donated 37 baskets to Community Partners, which were then distributed to clients of Child Protective Services. In all, 1200 baskets were delivered in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

General meeting information: Dallas Affiliate meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2006 at the UT Southwestern North Campus NG3.202. Please see special invitation above. Generally, monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month 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

by Rebecca Rae

The Houston Affiliates kicked off their “E-Share” with a discussion on Peggy Morrow’s article on “How to Deal with Grippers and Complainers.” Ms. Morrow states in her article that one of the most common reasons that people dread going to work is being exposed to grippers and complainers.

During our “E-Share” on the article, we discovered that we agreed that dealing with people who routinely complain and gripe is a challenge. Utilizing “active listening” techniques like eye contact, nodding and using neutral phrases like, “Uh, hum,” and “Is that so?” lets the person know that you are listening. We also agreed that asking the person for suggestions on how to improve the “problem” can lead to a possible solution or even quiet them.

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Want to eat healthy and give Texas a boost while you’re at it?

Now is the time that delicious fresh produce begins to appear, along with a wide variety of other local products, as our local farmers’ markets are gearing up for the summer. For a list and maps of markets in your area, visit the Texas Department of Agriculture’s website at www.picktexas.com.

What you always do before you make a decision is consult. The best public policy is made when you are listening to people who are going to be impacted. Then, once policy is determined, you call on them to help you sell it. - Elizabeth Dole

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

by Tom Harvey and Ashley Mathews, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Sharon Fahlberg and her twin sister have always loved the outdoors. “My parents took us camping when we were 6 months old,” she said. “I think we have old pictures of diapers spread across clothes lines.” But when she moved to Texas several years ago, she “didn’t know where to go or what to do.” Then Fahlberg heard about Becoming an Outdoors-Woman, a workshop put on several times a year by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to introduce women to hunting, fishing, horseback riding and other outdoor activities. She went with her sister and was hooked on what the Lone Star State has to offer.



Fahlberg is one of more than 3,000 women who have participated in one of the workshops since they began in Texas in October 1993. Through a series of four workshops presented across Texas in the spring and fall of 2006, the TPWD’s goal is to provide an atmosphere where women feel comfortable learning new skills associated with hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities, in a supportive and non-threatening environment. Program topics range from plant and animal ecology, map and compass skills, and outdoor cooking to mountain biking and fly-fishing. Workshops span a weekend, usually beginning on Friday around noon and lasting through Sunday noon. The weekend is divided into four sessions, and you pick the classes in which you’d like to participate. Typically, 6-8 classes per session are offered.

Upcoming workshops this year include the Texas Baptist Encampment in Palacios (May 21-23) and Camp For All, near Brenham (Oct. 27-29).

Ashley Mathews, TPWD’s BOW coordinator, said she sees a diversity of women attend each conference, from 18 years of age to 80. Participants can choose four classes to take out of the 15-20 offered at the workshop. Mathews said it’s rewarding to see something like a woman catching her first fish at age 52.



“A lot of people come to overcome fears: fear of firearms, fear of horses, fear of water,” Mathews said. “Most of them are amazed this is as easy as it is. We see a huge surge in women’s self confidence.”

The workshops have become so popular in Texas that several women were coming back again and again because they couldn’t find people at home to join them in the outdoors. And the Texas Outdoors Woman Network was born to give BOW graduates the chance to continue hiking and camping with other women in their cities.

“We’re hoping to teach them skills, build their confidence, then gently push them out of the nest,” Mathews said. As for Fahlberg, she enjoyed the Texas outdoors so much she founded the Dallas TOWN chapter a few years ago.



“It just took a little time to find out, ‘wow, there really are things to do,’” she said. Now her chapter has kayaking and camping trips, outdoor survival classes and more each year. “We go just about everywhere.”

Looking for an opportunity closer to home? Consider joining the affiliate program, the Texas Outdoor Woman Network (TOWN). There are several groups in various metropolitan areas of Texas.

For more information about the program or a specific conference, call Ashley Mathews at (512) 970-9247, email BAOW@tpwd.state.tx.us or visit the BAOW website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/bow/index.phtml>. Registration forms and more information are available on the website.

HAPPY TRAILS!

The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.



During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.



In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

Information obtained at www.historychannel.com

Did You Know?

- The number of U.S. armed forces personnel who served in World War II between Dec. 1, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946 was 16.1 million.
- The average length of active-duty by U.S. military personnel during WWII was 33 months.
- The proportion of U.S. military personnel who served abroad during WWII was 73 percent.
- The average time U.S. personnel served overseas during WWII was 16 months.
- A total of 292,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were killed in battle in WWII.
- The number of other deaths sustained by U.S. forces during WWII was 114,000.
- 671,000 U.S. troops were wounded during WWII.
- 5.7 million World War II veterans were counted in the 2000 Census. The census identified the period of service for World War II veterans as September 1940 to July 1947.
- The estimated number of WWII veterans living in California in 2002 was 475,000, the most in any state. Other states with high numbers of WWII vets included Florida (439,000), New York (284,000), Pennsylvania (280,000), Texas (267,000) and Ohio (208,000).
- The estimated number of women in 2002 who were WWII veterans was 210,000. These women comprised 4.4 percent of WWII vets.
- The proportion of all veterans in April 2000, who were WWII veterans, was 22 percent.
- The median age of WWII veterans when the last census was conducted was 76.7 years old.
- The proportion of WWII veterans who were still employed in 2000 was 11.6 percent.
- The number of WWII veterans in 2002 who received compensation for service-connected disabilities was 440,000, about half the number in 1990 (876,000) and nearly two-thirds less than the nearly 1.2 million disabled WWII vets in 1980.
- The projected national expenditure for veteran's benefits in 2004 was \$62 billion.

Data courtesy of the [U.S. Census Bureau](http://www.census.gov).

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Jennifer Conway	C & T Consulting Services	candt@io.com
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Returning Members

Mary Cowherd	Office of Court Administration	mary.cowherd@courts.state.tx.us
Sharon Johnson	Baylor Health Care Systems	sharonj@baylorhealth.edu

Stars Over Texas



Araminta Everton has moved to the TX Legislative Council as Executive Assistant for Executive Director Milton Rister, araminta.everton@tlc.state.tx.us.

Shannon Franklin, TX Building and Procurement Commission, now manages the Vehicle Fleet Management Program in addition to her previous duties.

Coleen McCarthy will move to the TX Department of State Health Services as Program Specialist III in the Center for Program Coordination, coleen.mccarthy@dshs.state.tx.us as of May 1, 2006.

Sandra Smith has moved to the TX Workforce Commission as an Auditor, sandra.smith@twc.state.tx.us.