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EWTG 21st Annual Professional Development Conference

Shannon Kelley, Membership Director

The 21st Annual EWTG Professional Development Conference was a huge success! More than 740 participants attended the conference on November 19, 2007 at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin.

Commissioner Hope Andrade of the Texas Transportation Commission inspired participants with her morning keynote address. Commissioner Andrade discussed her journey from her humble beginnings as a youth in San Antonio to her current position as a community leader and successful business woman. She told the audience to dream and work hard to accomplish that dream.

Participants chose from 37 workshops on professional development topics including leadership, project management, and interpersonal communication. In between workshop sessions, attendees visited a record number of exhibitors to learn about state programs and finish up some holiday shopping.

Lunchtime speaker Linda Larsen entertained and educated the audience about ways women can improve their communications skills to be more successful. She also discussed her experience as a hostage of an escaped convict, and how it changed her outlook on life. Her escape, and the positive, practical strategies she used have great application for others facing various challenges. Linda is the founder and CEO of a communications company in Sarasota, Florida.

The Silent Auction featured 156 items that included jewelry, autographed University of Texas merchandise, spa services, dinners, and more. The auction raised \$6,500 for the EWTG Scholarship Fund.

The afternoon closing keynote speaker was Claudia Stravato, one of EWTG's founding members. Claudia shared stories about her work in state government, particularly under Bob Bullock in his tenure as both Comptroller and Lieutenant Governor. Each story illustrated ideas for communication, the quest for excellence and sense of urgency for serving Texas citizens. She challenged participants to answer Bullock's question, "What have you done for Texas today?" as they serve Texas citizens each day. Claudia serves as the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle.

The day culminated with the naming of Gaye Greever McElwain as the 2007 EWTG Woman of the Year. Thanks to all the participants and to the 2007 Conference Committee members, who worked hard to organize such an amazing day.

Please see photos on page 3

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Retiree Committee Meeting

There is no Retiree Committee Meeting Scheduled in December.

December 3 Houston Affiliate Holiday Event and Service Project

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Elias Ramirez Building, 5425 Polk St. Members are

encouraged to bring potential members as guests to the holiday mixer and lunch buffet. Please bring toiletries for donation to an area charity.

December 13 Houston Affiliate Meeting

Noon - 1:00 p.m., in a conference room of the Elias Ramirez Building, 5425 Polk St. The Affiliate provides beverages; bring your own brown bag lunch. For information and room location, contact Rosa Wilks Broussard, Houston Affiliate Chair, at 713.748.2816 or email: rmbroussard@hotmail.com.

December 13 Dallas Affiliate Meeting

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 817.468.7917 or e-mail her at bossynursemom@netscape.net.

December 31 Scholarship Application Deadline

January January Minicourse

There will be no minicourse in January.

January 23 January Luncheon

Austin Women's Club, 708 San Jacinto at noon. Speaker: Austin Chief of Police Art Acevedo. For information and reservations, contact ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044.

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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Program Director: Joelyn Weeks
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Public Relations Director:
 Vacant

Executive Director: Jennifer Royster
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President's Corner

Connie Williams, President

It's hard to believe that this year has passed by so quickly and that my term as President is almost complete. It has been an enriching and rewarding experience I started this year convinced of the importance of continuing EWTG's great legacy. The Board and I saw this year as an opportunity to continue the legacy by enhancing member benefits and active participation in the organization. We

went back to the basics and revisited EWTG's purpose. I have found such inspiration in being a part of EWTG's work. Fortunately for me, there were nine board members who created such value by ensuring that the vision of our members was accomplished. I could not have succeeded without them.

I have been really impressed with the hard work and unselfish service that our members have given of themselves to help their colleagues benefit from the multitude of opportunities that EWTG offers. Thank you for volunteering to help us enjoy a successful conference with over 740 attendees! Year after year, our members have proved through their hard work, dedication and determination that they can be ultra-successful and render unimaginable accomplishments.

It has been an awesome privilege for the 2007 Board to provide value to EWTG, building upon another year. Aligned with our mission, the Board has executed many programs and activities this year that continue to elevate us as outstanding professionals in state government and leaders in our community.

It has been a busy and productive year and there is much more to do. I am confident that my successor, Susan Durso, will lead us into a stellar and eventful year! Her ongoing support and encouragement throughout this year will reap many benefits during her term as President. This smooth transition between boards helps make EWTG an exceptional organization.

I thank the Board for their dedication, commitment and hard work in translating enthusiastic ideas into concrete accomplishments. I also thank our advisor, Lynn Whitten, for her wisdom and guidance to the Board. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our Executive Director, Jennifer Royster, for her tireless efforts on behalf of EWTG and, more personally, for the wonderful assistance she has provided me and the Board throughout this year.

As we close another chapter in EWTG's rich legacy, I want to leave you with powerful, yet simple words that will enlighten your daily lives: Courage, Ask, Gratitude. "Have the Courage to Ask with Gratitude." I feel certain that these powerful words will move you forward in every aspect of your lives. Thank you for continuing to support EWTG and for the opportunity to serve as your President!

My sincere best wishes to each of you and your families for a joyous and prosperous holiday season.

If you would like to receive the current adopted minutes from EWTG Board meetings, please contact EWTG's Executive Director, Jennifer Royster, at ewtg@ewtg.org or 512.248.2044.

Gaye Greever McElwain Named EWTG Woman of the Year

Gaye Greever McElwain, Director of Marketing and Development for the Texas Commission on the Arts, was named Woman of the Year at the 21st Annual EWTG Conference on November 19, 2007. Gaye's selection acknowledges that she, like previous winners, has distinguished herself by her significant contributions to EWTG, her profession, and her community.

Gaye was presented the crystal award celebrating her selection by Connie Williams, the 2007 President, at a festive reception accompanied by a live music duo. Gaye was received on stage by numerous past Woman of the Year award recipients including, Elaine Powell 1993, Claudia Stravato 1994, Mary Lou Ralls 1996, Lora Weber 1997, Mary Lambert Howerton 1998, Denise Pittard 2000, Penny Johnson 2001, Jan Thomas 2002, Susan Johnson 2003, and Joelyn Weeks 2005. Past honorees who could not attend included Frankie Watson 1995, Donna Rolland 1999, Carol Willis 2004, and Betsy Ford 2006.

Gaye has been very active during her eleven years with EWTG. This year Gaye chaired the Community Service Committee. She has also served on the board as 2000 President, and as the Public Relations Director. Gaye has participated as a member of the Nominations Committee, the Executive Director Search Committee, and has chaired the conference Program Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and the Community Service Committee.

Gaye joined the Texas Commission on the Arts in 1996. Over the years she has accomplished many great things for the arts in Texas. Currently, Gaye is responsible for all areas of marketing and public relations. Among her professional activities, Gaye represents the agency at a variety of tourism-related functions and is the agency liaison to the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Division.

Gaye was awarded the 2005 "Best in Texas" Opinion Article Award, and in 2004 the Austin Business Journal named her a *Profile in Power* finalist. She also received the International Association of Business Communicators Bronze Quill Award in 2002 for her work on *Destination Texas*, an initiative in which Texas artists performed in ten airports around the state on the day before Thanksgiving.

Although dedicated to her career and her community, Gaye is also a retired professional dancer. She has a Bachelor's degree in Dance from Texas Tech University and a Master's of Fine Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma. In 2004, Gaye officially retired from her dance career and, with the help of an EWTG Scholarship, became a certified Pilates trainer.

In 2002 Gaye participated in Leadership Texas with the support of an EWTG Scholarship, and she continues to be an active member of the Leadership Texas Alumnae Association.



Photos from page 1



Linda Larsen, Ginny Booton, and Lora Weber



Exhibit Hall



Joelyn Weeks and Claudia Stravato

2007 Holiday Luncheon and Board Member Installation

The 2008 EWTG Board of Directors was installed at Green Pastures Restaurant on a beautiful crisp sunny day. Connie Williams, 2007 President, presided over her last official meeting thanking many members and volunteers for their service during the year. She also recognized the 2007 Board for their work and dedication during the year. Board members recognized included Susan Durso, President-elect, Clare Dyer, Financial Officer, Ardra Alexander, Treasurer, Shannon Kelley, Membership Director, Carol Jackson, Vice President, Joelyn Weeks, Program Director, and Lisa Mayes, Communications Director.

Longtime member Joelyn Weeks provided brief remarks prior to the swearing-in ceremony at the annual holiday luncheon on December 4, 2007. Joelyn, a former President and 2005 EWTG Woman of the Year winner, talked about the significance of the day to all members and the importance of EWTG's history. Connie Williams, 2007 President, performed the installation of the officers. New President Susan Durso reminisced about her rewarding experiences in EWTG and her vision for the future of the organization. She urged everyone to invest in themselves and their careers by being involved in EWTG. Susan also presented her successor with a plaque honoring Connie's service as President and thanked her personally for her service and the example she set as president in 2007. Continuing another tradition, the members' generous contribution of stuffed animals covered a large table in the foyer. The donation of the animals to the Austin Children's Shelter completed the celebration.



Holiday Lunch swearing-in ceremony



Holiday Lunch audience

2008 Luncheon and Mini-course Schedule

The EWTG By-laws stated in Article XII, Section Two, that there shall be regular meetings held once per month in Austin with a minimum of ten meetings per year. Those meetings, most often called "EWTG Monthly Luncheon" are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each meeting includes lunch, EWTG information and announcements, and a keynote speaker.

Additionally, EWTG provides free training opportunities at least once per month. Since 1995, EWTG has been offering a noon-time training session called a "Mini-Course". The sessions are offered from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Each mini-course includes lunch while a workshop presenter delivers information on a relevant and timely topic.

Mark your 2008 Calendars with the Monthly Luncheon and Mini-course Schedule as follows:

Monthly Luncheon Schedule	Mini-Course Schedule
January 23	None
February 27	February 12*
March 26	March 12
April 23	April 9
May 28	May 14
June 25	June 11
July 23	July 9
August 27	August 13
September 24	September 10
October 22	October 8

* Note: The February mini-course is scheduled for the second Tuesday due to a scheduling conflict.

Each EWTG Monthly Newsletter includes an announcement about the topic and speaker for the following month luncheon and mini-course.

Meet the 2008 EWTG Board of Directors

President - Susan Durso

Susan Durso is the general counsel for the Texas Residential Construction Commission. Susan has been an active member of EWTG since 1998. Previously, Susan served on the board as President-Elect in 2007 and served for two years as the Affiliates Director. She has been a member of the same Executive Success Team for ten years. Susan has served on several EWTG committees, including Chair of the Silent Auction and Community Service Committees; and she has volunteered at EWTG conferences as a workshop presenter and as a moderator. Susan received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, Master's of Public Administration and Law degrees from the University of South Carolina.

President-Elect - Shannon Kelley

Shannon Kelley is a contract manager at the Department of Information Resources. She has been a member of EWTG since 1999 and has served on numerous committees. Her board service includes Membership Director in 2007, Vice President in 2005 and Public Relations Director in 2003. Shannon earned her Master of Arts in Human Services from St. Edward's University and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin.

Vice President – Heather Hall

Heather Hall is a project manager for the Comptroller of Public Accounts. She is a certified project management professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute. Heather has been a member of EWTG for several years and served as the EWTG Program Committee Chair in 2006. Heather earned a bachelors degree in Latin from Baylor University, a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Texas.

Financial Officer – Ardra Alexander

Ardra is the Manager of the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Program for the Texas Workforce Commission. She holds an MBA in Accounting and a BA in Business. Ardra has served as Treasurer for several non-profit organizations. Currently, she is teaching QuickBooks Pro at Austin Community College. She previously served EWTG as 2007 Secretary-Treasurer, Co-Chair of the 2006 Conference Exhibit Committee and 2005 Exhibit Committee member.

Secretary-Treasurer – Susan Gibson

Susan Gibson is a Health Plan Manager in the Medicaid/CHIP Division at Health and Human Services Commission. Her division manages multi-million dollar contracts with HMOs. She has served on the Membership Committee, Community Service Committee, and Scholarship Committee and participated in an Executive Success Team. Susan has an MBA in Business Management from St. Edwards University and a bachelor's degree is in Health Care Administration from Texas State University.

Affiliates Director – Shelly Baumgartner

Shelly Baumgartner, CFP®, is a licensed financial advisor with Waddell & Reed, Inc. She joined Waddell & Reed in 2003, and she specializes in assisting families and individuals in achieving their financial goals in a manner that best fits their personal lifestyle. Shelly has a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from the University of Florida and a Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Personal Finance from St. Edward's University. She has been a member of EWTG since 2006, and she was a member of the 2007 Public Relations and Membership committees. She has also volunteered at the EWTG conferences as a presenter.

Communications Director – Clare Dyer

Clare is a Program Manager for the Texas Legislative Council's Special Projects and Redistricting Section. She served as the 2007 EWTG Financial Officer, 2006 Secretary-Treasurer and previously served on the 2006 Finance Committee, Executive Director Search Committee, Development Committee and Community Service Committee; the 2004 and 2005 Educational Events Committee; and chaired the 2002 Community Services Committee. She is a member of an Executive Success Team and a graduate of the 2006 Class of Leadership Texas. Clare graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and received her master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Membership Director – Carol Lauder

Carol Lauder is a Certified Professional Facilitator with a BBA in Accounting from UT-Austin. Carol is 29 year veteran of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. She is a project manager where she oversees a grant program to enforce the laws concerning minors' access to tobacco products. She has been a member of EWTG since 2000 and has served in many capacities during this time including 2007 Silent Auction Chair, co-chair of the 2006 Conference Program Committee, member of both the Community Service and Mentoring Committees, and Executive Success Team member.

Program Director - Joelyn Weeks

Joelyn is employed with the Department of Information Resources (DIR) as a member of the Data Center Consolidation Project team. Joelyn has been an active EWTG member for many years participating on various committees and serving on the board. Her board service includes 1995 Program Director, 1998 President Elect, 1999 President, and 2007 Program Director. She was also honored as the 2001 EWTG Volunteer of the Year and the 2005 EWTG Woman of the Year. Joelyn holds a bachelor's degree from St. Edward's University and a master's degree from the University of Texas.

Public Relations Director – Carol Jackson

Carol Jackson has been an employee of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts since November 2005 and works as a Program Administrator in the Innovation and Technology Division. She is a retired Chief Warrant Officer Three veteran of the United States Army with 21 years of active duty service. Carol has served EWTG in several capacities, including 2007 Vice President, 2006 Conference Program Committee co-chair, and Community Service Committee member. Carol has a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from the University of Maryland.

Executive Director - Jennifer Royster

Jennifer joined EWTG as the Executive Director in October 2006 with over 27 years experience which includes non-profit, professional and trade association management, event planning, grants administration, and office administration. Her professional positions have included Director of Membership Services for Smith, Bucklin and Associates in Washington, D.C., Managing Director for the New Mexico Women's Foundation and Conference Coordinator for the New Mexico Municipal League. She has also served as a Board member for several non-profit organizations and holds a BA in History from the University of Florida.



EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

Developing leaders. Creating positive results.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meet other members, learn new skills, and make EWTG even better!

Please circle choice(s).

Sign me up! I'll volunteer for a committee.

Affiliates	Community Service
Development	Educational Events
Legislative Issues	Member Services
Mentorship	Newsletter
Public Relations	Retiree
Scholarship	Program
Strategic Planning	Website

Sign me up! I'll volunteer for a conference committee.

Evaluation	Exhibits
Facilities	Registration
Silent Auction	Workshops

Name _____

Agency _____

Email _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Mail to: **EWTG**
PMB 263, 815-A Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78701-9996

Fax to: 512.248.2043

Dallas Affiliate News

Chris McDaniel

Getting a head start on the holiday season, the Dallas Affiliate's November meeting featured guest speaker and artist extraordinaire, Cat Nguyen. Cat Nguyen is a Business Analyst in Information Resources Development at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Cat has an artistic background which includes painting, flower arranging, gift wrapping and bow making.

Meeting participants agreed that Cat excels in teaching as well. After demonstrating her own technique for making decorative and gift-wrapping bows of all sizes from wired ribbon, Cat patiently observed, coached, and upon request, tweaked our designs. In less than an hour our unofficial judge, EWTG member Jan Ent, declared all students ready for the holidays with grades of "A+". Cat encouraged participants to be creative with decorations, stressing only that "less is more" and that composition is the key to an attractive presentation. Thanks to Cat for the fun and practical project and to Heidi Negaard for providing all the supplies.

During the business meeting, nominations for the 2008 affiliate officers were presented. The Dallas Affiliate is pleased to announce the 2008 officers.

Chair: Heidi Negaard

Communications Director: Bhavini Patel

Membership Director: Susan Rossiter

Public Affairs Director: Cary Wilkerson

Treasurer: Kathy Bledsoe

The December meeting will be held on the 13th at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club and will include a gift exchange and a prize for the best-wrapped gift (bows encouraged, of course!).

2007 Affiliate Officers

Dallas Affiliate:

Susan Rossiter, Chair

UT Southwestern Medical Center

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Cary Wilkerson, Treasurer

UT Southwestern Medical Center

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Chris McDaniel, Communications Director

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2007 Affiliate Officers

Houston Affiliate:

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Sherbert Mims, Chair-Elect

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Rebecca Rae, Communications/Newsletter Chair

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Marline Boyd, Courtesy Chair

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Kay Smith, Programs Chair

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Carolyn Kirkwood, Public Relations Chair

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Holly Faison, Treasurer

holly.faison@txdps.state.tx.us

Houston Affiliate News

Rebecca Rae

The Houston Affiliate met November 8 for a business and planning meeting.

Those that attended the performance of *Dreamgirls* on October 11 proclaimed the evening an exciting success, and members are looking forward to the next social event.

The group confirmed plans for the December 3rd holiday event and service project. The event will take place from 11:30-1:30 p.m. at the Elias Ramirez Building, 5425 Polk St. Members are encouraged to bring potential members as guests to the holiday mixer and lunch buffet. Please bring toiletries for donation to an area charity.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 13 at noon at the Elias Ramirez Building, 5425 Polk St. Bring your lunch and join us!

First Year Members

Audrey Amos-McGehee	Comptroller of Public Accounts	jmcgehee@austin.rr.com
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Renewing Members

Karen Armstead
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 Denise Brown
 Waleska Carlin
 Dianne Casey
 Sherri Connor
 Karen Cox
 Sandra Dodd
 Carol Whitcraft Fredericks
 Tanya Gauthreaux
 Susan Gibson
 Samantha Gonzales
 Lisa Grant
 Sandra Guyn
 Lynne Haase
 Marjie Haynes
 Joyce Hennington
 Sharon Homoya
 Lisa Houdek
 Kay Howard
 Kay Jones
 Christina Kaiser
 Kelly Keel
 KaLyn Laney
 Lorie Ledesma
 Lori Magness
 Valarie Maxwell
 Gloria Maynard
 Elma Medina
 Sherbert Mims
 Andrea Nelson
 Becky O'Brien
 Roberta Rincon
 Mary Salehi
 Kristi Vorce
 Marianne Woods-Wiley

Health and Human Services Commission
 TX Department of Transportation
 TX Department of Transportation
 TX Commission on Environmental Quality
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 TX Department of State Health Services
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 Texas General Land Office
 Retired, LBJ School & TX Rehab. Comm.
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 Health and Human Services Commission
 Texas General Land Office
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 TX Department of State Health Services
 TX Commission in Environmental Quality
 Windham School District
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 Health and Human Services Commission
 Health and Human Services Commission
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 TX Commission in Environmental Quality
 State Bar of Texas
 TX Department of Transportation
 TX Department of Licensing & Regulation
 Midwestern State University
 TX General Land Office
 TX Department of State Health Services
 TX Dept. of Aging & Disability Services
 Retired, TX Department of Transportation
 TX Commission on Environmental Quality
 UT Office of Academic Affairs
 TX Commission in Environmental Quality
 Teacher Retirement System of Texas
 Teacher Retirement System of Texas

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Returning Members

Margie Horton
 Nicole Immer
 Renee Jones

Teacher Retirement System of Texas
 TX Commission on Environmental Quality
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Stars Over Texas

Joanne Edge is now the Human Resources Director for the City of Austin – Austin Convention Center. She can be reached at 512.404.4015 or joanne.edge@ci.austin.tx.us.

Coleen Miller accepted a new position with the Medicaid/CHIP Division of the Health and Human Services Commission. She can be reached at 512.491.1378 or coleen.miller@hhsc.state.tx.us.

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