



# STAR

PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

JULY 2007

## Monthly Luncheon — July 25, 2007

### A Day in the Life of a Justice of the Peace

Joelyn Weeks, Program Director



Judge Susan Steeg, Travis County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, is scheduled as the guest speaker for the July 25 EWTG Luncheon. Judge Steeg, a long-time and active EWTG member, will describe her new role as Justice of the Peace.

Judge Steeg assumed her duties of Justice of the Peace on January 1, 2007. She enforces the school attendance laws as well as other Class C misdemeanors. Her duties include presiding over Justice Court and Small Claims Court.

Judge Steeg retired from state government as the General Counsel of the Texas Department of Health in 2004. For 20 years, she was involved in the development of public health policy and the regulation of health care facilities, health professionals, and other consumer and environmental health matters. Judge Steeg began her legal career as a legal aid lawyer and has been in private law practice.

Judge Steeg has been active in the governance of nonprofit organizations during her career. Her leadership included service as the Chair of the Texas AIDS Network (1991), Financial Officer and Treasurer of Executive Women in Texas Government (2002-2003), Secretary of the Public Health Law Association (2003), and Interim Executive Director of the Public Health Law Association (2004). She will be installed as a Board member of the Oak Hill Rotary Club in July 2007. She earned her J.D. in 1977 from the University of Texas at Austin where she also earned her B.A. with Honors in 1975. Judge Steeg is admitted to the bar of the State of Texas.

Make plans to join other EWTG members at the July 25<sup>th</sup> luncheon for an interesting presentation about Judge Steeg's new and different public service responsibilities.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**July 11 July Minicourse**  
Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, at Noon. Topic: 2007 Legislative Summary. Presented by: Stephanie Muth – Health and Human Services Commission and Chris Bailey – State Auditor's Office. For information and lunch option reservations, contact [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) or call 512.248.2044.

**July 12 Dallas Affiliate Meeting**  
The Dallas EWTG Affiliate meets on the second Thursday of each 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 pm, followed by dinner and a business meeting at 6:30 pm. The program begins at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per person. If you would like to receive the Dallas Affiliate monthly email program announcement, or to RSVP your attendance, please contact Chris McDaniel at 817.792.7259 or email: [bossynursemom@netscape.net](mailto:bossynursemom@netscape.net).

**July 12 Retiree Committee Meeting**  
Mandola's Market, 4700 West Guadalupe (In The Triangle at Lamar and Guadalupe), at 5:15 pm. This monthly meeting is open to any EWTG member who is retired or who is interested in retirement issues.

**July 25 July Luncheon**  
Austin Women's Club, 708 San Antonio, at Noon. Speaker: Susan Steeg, Justice of the Peace, 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Topic: A Day in the Life of a Justice of the Peace. For information and reservations, contact [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) or call 512.248.2044.

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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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## President's Corner First Class Leadership

Connie Williams, President

When you hear or see the words, "First-Class", what resonates in your mind? First-Class generally indicates a high level of service or importance. First-Class is the highest quality travel level available and this investment comes with more amenities and benefits.

What is "First-Class Leadership"? First-Class Leadership is strengthening your influence at every level in your organization. We all need to get things done through others. Without influence, you have limited results. First-Class Leadership is also an investment in your growth and development and keeps you fresh, motivated and poised for advancement. This is the message I shared at the Dallas Affiliates' monthly meeting last month. Affiliates Director, Mary Castleberry and I spent time supporting, inspiring, and helping our EWTG Dallas colleagues with a "call to action" plan. Dallas Affiliate Chair Susan Rossiter and Dallas members welcomed us to their "First-Class" environment.

How can EWTG help you create an environment that promotes influence and advancement? By helping you manage your own learning. Managing our learning is a critical skill for First-Class Leaders. It is so important for you to take advantage of the monthly EWTG events.

Besides the numerous EWTG learning opportunities that are presented on a monthly basis, have you considered spending time getting to know your colleagues? Our members have personal stories of success and can share how they've overcome challenges. Their stories will encourage you as well as give you astute and wise advice. You can build your influence with other members by finding out what they value and being genuinely interested in their endeavors. This is continued education and a walk in your leadership journey. We are on a life long path of learning and growth and we have the responsibility to strengthen our influence to help achieve favorable results.

Our members are in a beneficial position to make valuable contributions to society and to sustain the future growth of EWTG through personal, career, and community involvement. I enjoy hearing and reading about the stellar accomplishments of our members and how they make a difference in the lives of others. This is what First-Class Leadership is all about.

EWTG continues to invest in initiatives that benefit our members. We have an environment that encourages growth and development for learning, advancement, and giving to the community. This unity of purpose lets us know that we are not alone and we're together supporting one another.

If we can continue to encourage our individualistic and collective interests and blend them with influence and community contribution, then we and society will benefit. Your involvement in the numerous committees and activities will help EWTG nurture the leaders of tomorrow to continue building on our legacy of leadership. This will bring strong governance to our board, committees, and our professions. First-Class leadership gives World-Class results!

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](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) or 512.248.2044.

## Program Committee: July 11 Minicourse

### 2007 Legislative Summary

**Presenters: Chris Bailey, Classification Office, SAO and Stephanie Muth, External Relations, HHSC**

Joelyn Weeks, Program Director

The July 11<sup>th</sup> Mini-Course session features two speakers who will provide an overview of legislation resulting from the recent 80<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Texas Legislature.

Chris Bailey, State Auditor's Office, and Stephanie Muth, External Relations, Health and Human Services Commission, will co-present the July mini-course workshop. Chris Bailey will open the workshop by providing an overview of new legislation and changes affecting state employees. Stephanie Muth will discuss changes within the health and human services arena including changes in services, and roles and responsibilities of the health and human services agencies. A question and answer period will also be part of workshop agenda.

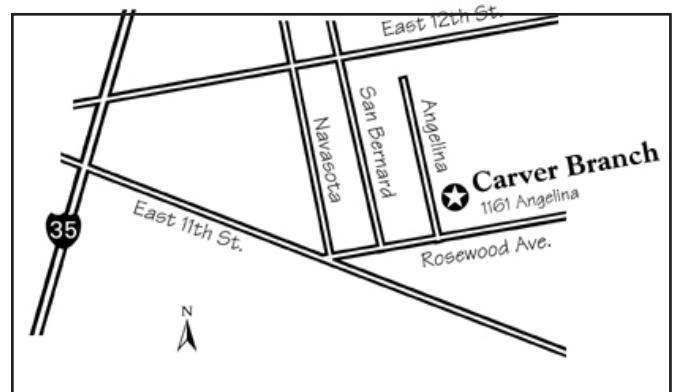
Chris Bailey currently works with a unique team housed in the State Auditor's Office that that is responsible for maintaining the State's Compensation and Classification System and providing information on employee compensation issues to the Legislature. In addition to compensation management, Chris has the opportunity to provide advice and guidance to state agencies and conduct research and analysis of statewide workforce and human resource issues and prepares reports on those topics for the Texas Legislature.

Chris is a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP) and a trained mediator. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from the University of Texas at Austin and completed graduate work in Organizational Communication. Chris has served on the board of directors for the Central Texas Compensation and Benefits Association, and currently serves on an Advisory Board for WorldatWork.

Stephanie Muth has served as the Director of External Relations for the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) since 2004. During her ten years of state government, she has worked in Government Relations at the Department of Family and Protective Services and the Department of Human Services. She also worked for three years at the Texas House of Representatives as a legislative director and a committee director. Stephanie earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas.

Please make plans to join the presenters for an informative update on recent legislation. The mini-course will be held on July 11, 2007 at the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, (just off East 11<sup>th</sup> Street).

To help you make the most of your lunchtime, EWTG will have Mangia pizza, loads of fresh green salad and cookies for \$6 per person or \$3 for salad only, or you can bring your own lunch. Bottled water is also provided for an additional \$1. Pizza serving begins at 11:30 a.m. The program begins at noon and it ends by 1 p.m.



For information and reservations, contact EWTG by email at [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) or by telephone at 512.248.2044. Please state whether you want to purchase pizza and/or salad when you make your reservation. Also, because EWTG provides the pizza at cost based on reservations, please be mindful that EWTG may have to invoice those who order pizza but are unable to attend.

## Coming in August - Membership Month!

**Member Social and New Member Meet and Greet** – Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the TGI Friday's on Town Lake. Join us for camaraderie, networking and bat-watching!

**COMING SOON!** Watch your e-mail for the EWTG Membership Survey. The survey will provide members with an opportunity to voice your opinions about EWTG programs and services. Be sure to add [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) to your e-mail address book and check your SPAM folder to be sure you receive the survey. All participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the Bob Bullock Story of Texas Museum!

**Bring a Friend To Lunch** – Make plans to bring a potential new member to the EWTG Monthly Luncheon on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and be eligible for a drawing for dinner for two at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House. Watch for details in the August *Star*.

## EWTG Launches Support for GENaustin!

Gayle Greever McElwain

GENaustin is an official EWTG supported community service organization for 2007. If you were at the June 27<sup>th</sup> luncheon, you heard from GENaustin's executive director, Julia Cuba, about this great organization. Now here is your chance to support GENaustin's efforts to help young women learn to judge themselves by their accomplishments, strength, personality and compassion for others.

GENaustin is moving its headquarters to the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders and they need a variety of supplies for their Girl's Circle program and to support their office. EWTG is organizing a series of donation drives to help GENaustin meet this need. Below is their "wish list" to help guide EWTG members who wish to donate to the cause. Donations will be collected at the July 11<sup>th</sup> Minicourse, July 25<sup>th</sup> luncheon, August 8<sup>th</sup> Minicourse, and at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon.

Some of these items may be found hiding in your closets and cabinets, so now is a good time to clean those spaces out. Others may need to be purchased new. Either way, all EWTG members are encouraged to do what they can to support the cause.

### GENaustin Wish List



Magazines  
Newspaper  
Hangers  
Sponges  
Ziploc bags  
Napkins  
Kleenex  
Paper Towels

Lunch sized paper bags  
Cardboard Boxes  
Disposable clear plastic cups  
Glue Sticks/ Glue  
Journals  
Construction paper  
Poster Board  
Crayons

Printer paper  
Legal size hanging folders  
Different sized envelopes  
Stamps  
Pens  
Pencils  
Markers/Felt Pens  
Binders

Manila file folders  
Notebook paper  
Tape/Masking Tape  
Scissors  
Rubber bands  
Push pins  
Costco Gift Cards  
Office Max Gift Cards

GENaustin's mission is to foster healthy self-esteem in girls by engaging them to explore and define their personal values and to build skills that empower them with confidence and courage to make wise choices. Visit the GENaustin website at [www.genaustin.org](http://www.genaustin.org) for information on their numerous programs.

## Julia Cuba, Executive Director, GENaustin, Impressed June 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Attendees

Joelyn Weeks, Program Director

Julia Cuba, Executive Director of GENaustin, described her work to a very attentive audience at the June EWTG Luncheon. Julia's passion and enthusiasm for GENaustin's mission definitely rubbed off on the luncheon attendees and many participants rushed to talk with her at the conclusion of the meeting.

Julia began her presentation with some staggering statistics that illustrate the many issues that GENaustin faces. For example, the percentage of teenage girls participating in risky behavior has increased dramatically in the last few years. Girls are no longer very interested in high school, and there has been an increase in the number of girls that are sexually harassed or bullied at school. In addition, there are a staggering number of teens (61 percent) in the Austin Independent School District who are living at or below poverty level. Julia shared success stories about girls who have faced some terrible obstacles, but are becoming successful, contributing members to the community through their work at GENaustin.

Through the research-based curriculum offered by GENaustin, girls learn critical thinking skills so they don't judge themselves by what others say, but through their accomplishments and the development of their strength, personality and compassion for others. One GENaustin program, **clubGen**, matches middle-school girls with high school girls acting as mentors, in a peer-assisted learning format.

Other programs include **oriGENal voice**, which directs girls to develop a topic that they are passionate about and helps them present it to others. **Girl Talk** is a speaker series that provides up-to-date, relevant information about developmental, parenting, and cultural issues affecting adolescent girls by bringing together professionals and role models to talk to youth and families on such diverse subjects as self esteem, sexuality, parent-daughter communication, dating, careers and education. GENaustin also has a program called "Super Moms" at Travis High School that is in collaboration with Communities in Schools and the Pregnancy, Education, and Parenting Program (PEP). This unique program serves pregnant and parenting students with the objective of improving critical thinking skills, increasing self-efficacy and enhancing awareness of relationships with themselves and others.

Julia's interest in GENaustin began with her work at the Girl Scout Lone Star Council where she administered a program for at-risk girls, including girls living in public housing, pregnant teens and children of incarcerated parents. The opportunity at GENaustin was a perfect fit for Julia.

Julia credits GENaustin's strong Board of Directors' support and decision-making abilities in helping to obtain resources and finding ways to accomplish the organization's mission. She also described ways in which the community supports the organization's activities. The organization is also looking at opportunities for expanding to smaller communities or assisting other areas of the state with such programs.

During the question and answer session, Julia talked about GENaustin's move to the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, which opens in the fall. Julia described how thrilled GENaustin is to be a part of the first all-girls public school in Austin, and how the collaboration will provide opportunities for even greater accomplishments.

Upon conclusion of Julia's talk, Gaye McElwain, chair of EWTG's Community Services Committee announced EWTG's support of GENaustin as one of the organization's community service projects. She encouraged all EWTG members to become involved through in-kind and monetary donations, participation in the speaker series and other avenues of support. Visit [www.genaustin.org](http://www.genaustin.org) to learn more about this ground breaking program.

## Highlights from the June Luncheon



Julia Cuba accepts a gift and honorary EWTG membership from President Connie Williams



Members of the Community Service Committee with Julia Cuba (left to right) Kathy Smartt, Gaye McElwain, Julia Cuba, Paula Griffin and Bev Bavousett

## 2007 Woman of the Year

### Has Someone In EWTG Made A Difference In Your Life?

Say thank you by nominating them for EWTG's Woman of the Year Award!

In an organization with so many outstanding women, we all know someone in EWTG who is deserving of this honor. As an EWTG member you have the privilege of nominating a fellow EWTG colleague for this prestigious award and being part of EWTG history!

Each year at EWTG's Annual Conference, the organization recognizes an outstanding member as the EWTG Woman of the Year! **The Woman of the Year Award honors an individual who is a leader in her profession, her community, and within this organization.** Our Woman of the Year represents the best of who we are as women and leaders.

With so many outstanding women in this organization how do you choose whom to nominate? We all have a special EWTG colleague who comes to mind when we think of "Woman of the Year." Maybe this person is a role model to you or maybe they have been a mentor to you in a challenging situation. Whatever your experience may be, simply nominating them for this award is a huge honor that will never be forgotten. Just imagine how excited they will be if they are selected!

Nomination forms are available online at [www.ewtg.org](http://www.ewtg.org) and the submission deadline is September 1, 2007. Please take some time to make history and nominate that special EWTG woman who has made a difference in your life or in the lives of others!

## Personal Technology - What Does it All Mean?

### June 13<sup>th</sup> Mini-course Presentation

Joelyn Weeks, Program Director

Gabe Almarez, Stand by Me Computer Coaching and Consulting, was the guest speaker for the June 13, 2007 Mini-course. Gabe described several technologies that are confronting most of us on a daily basis. Gabe also fielded several questions from mini-course participants.

Understanding and ultimately making buying decisions about new computers, cell phone capabilities, USB flash drives, Bluetooth devices, PDAs, and new operating systems can be overwhelming. Gabe attempted to demystify some of the technologies. A few examples from his presentation are included below:

#### Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a method of connecting devices by streamlining the process. A Bluetooth connection is wireless and automatic, and it has a number of interesting features that can simplify our daily lives such as allowing a computer mouse to talk to a PC without the use of wires; allowing a headset to communicate with a cell phone without wires; and reducing wires and cables, to name just a few.

#### Flash Drives

There are many names that are used commonly for flash drives including Thumb Drives, USB Sticks, Memory Sticks, Pen Drives, Jump Drives, and Key Chain Drives. USB flash drives are compact and easy-to-use flash memory data storage devices that connect to a computer with a USB plug. USB flash drives are more robust and portable than CDs and DVDs (or the older media such as diskettes). Flash drives are coming in smaller packages and are not susceptible to surface scratches, which can damage the stored content. Flash drives are available in sizes today from 128Mb to 16 GB. The average flash drive purchased today is 2 GB, which will hold up to 500 songs or thousands of pictures.

#### New Laptop Computers

When buying laptop computers, one wants to consider the following: weight, battery life, size of the screen and the intended use of the new computer. One also wants to remember that miniaturization of a computer is expensive. Additionally, the new computer comes with an operating system, but the Microsoft Office that includes the software for word processing, spreadsheets, etc. must be purchased separately.

#### New Televisions

Television technology is evolving. Gabe provided a description of three particular types of televisions including Plasma, LCD and Rear-Projection. Gabe listed the pros and cons of each type of television. For example, Plasma televisions have a flat panel, use no bulbs and have an excellent viewing angle, yet they can get very hot and are very heavy items. LCD televisions, however, are lighter in weight and have a longer life expectancy than plasma TVs. LCD televisions are more expensive than the Plasma televisions and the viewing angle is limited. Rear-projection televisions are the best for the money are lightweight; however, they are easily damaged and have a poor viewing angle.

Gabe's presentation also included an explanation of Microsoft's new Vista operating software compared to Microsoft XP; comparison of cell phones combined with PDA capabilities; and the difference between a personal computer and a Mac.

While technology changes are often confusing, Gabe's presentation was a great translation of very technical terms to something more understandable. Gabe is available for questions and assistance at the following email address: [gabe@standbymeatx.com](mailto:gabe@standbymeatx.com).

## EWTG Member Social on June 12th



Members enjoying the appetizer buffet at El Mercado.



EWTG Vice President Carol Jackson greets EWTG founding member Nelda Wells Spears.

# Save the Date!

## Monday, November 19, 2007

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference**  
**Renaissance Austin Hotel**

**Preliminary Program and Registration information**  
**available in late summer.**

Visit [www.ewtg.org](http://www.ewtg.org) for details.



### Silent Auction Committee News

Always wanted to stay at the historic Driskill Hotel? Ever wish for a family membership to the Wildflower Center? Or, how about four days and three nights in an ocean view room of the world renowned Marriott Resort in San Juan, Puerto Rico? Exciting donations, big and small are coming in.

If YOU know of a business that has great products or terrific services, that might be willing to donate to EWTG's auction, please contact Carol Lauder at 731-8799 with their name and contact information and the Silent Auction Committee will take it from there.

Make plans to help raise funds by participating in this year's silent auction at the EWTG 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Professional Development Conference on November 19. Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the EWTG Scholarship program and therefore you as an EWTG member. "The more you give, the more you get!"

## Dallas Affiliate News

Chris McDaniel

As part of the EWTG effort to support Affiliates, EWTG President Connie Williams and Affiliates Director Mary Castleberry traveled to Dallas to attend our June monthly meeting. Connie and Mary enjoyed the camaraderie and fine food and led the group through several capacity-building exercises. Connie talked to us about practicing First Class Leadership, which includes strengthening our influence; building an environment that is supportive of growth; and using conflict as an opportunity to explore the common ground in different perspectives to achieve win-win solutions.

Mary facilitated a thoughtful discussion about what we would like to see of the Dallas Affiliate ten years from now, and provided us with tools to analyze our resources and develop a market strategy to achieve our goals. It was evident that Connie and Mary had given considerable thought to the "personality" of the Dallas affiliate as they provided valuable insight into its potential to grow members as individuals as well as a group. We were able to experience First Class Leadership in action, and I'd wager that Connie and Mary practice it every day.

Members of the Dallas Affiliate also met in June to celebrate the beginning of summer at a social event at Lonestar Park in Grand Prairie. The Silks Dining room offered a great view and an expansive buffet, which the members thoroughly enjoyed.

General meeting information: Dallas Affiliate meetings are held on the second Thursday of each 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 817-468-7917 or e-mail her at [bossynursemom@netscape.net](mailto:bossynursemom@netscape.net).



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**Holly Faison, Treasurer**

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## Houston Affiliate News

Rebecca Rae

During the June meeting, accessories were collected to donate to Houston's "Dress for Success" project. Houston EWTG members and their guests donated a bounty of scarves, purses and hosiery. "Dress for Success" is a non-profit organization that provides interview suits, confidence building and career development for low-income women.

A large group of Houston members and their guests attended "Sweet Charity" on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hobby Center. The evening started with dinner at Birraporreti's and then the group enjoyed the rest of the evening at the theater. A special thanks to Charlotte Booker for organizing the first social event of 2007.

The Houston affiliate is taking the remainder of the summer off. The next meeting will be in September. Watch for information about the September meeting in future articles.



## First Year Members

Lara Coffey  
Sugie Day  
Brenda Hull  
Patricia Murphy  
Melissa Pinales  
Mary Ellen Teller

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## Renewing Members

Sandy Barling  
Dinah Barrilleaux  
Ethelynn Beebe  
Jacqueline Chatham-Riggins  
Mary Cheryl Dorwart  
Mollie Clakley  
Ann Fuelberg  
Chris Guerrero  
Kathleen Hamilton  
Maria Hanke-Boley  
Leslie Howes  
Carol Jackson  
Jean Keith  
Leslie Kjellstrand  
Sherry Lee  
Gloria Brown Oliver  
Brenda McCoy  
Amy Morgan  
Jan Ozias  
Pamela Parks  
Lori Person  
Elaine Powell  
Stacey Riley  
Susan Sampson-Howlett  
Brenda Staehr  
Betsy Tylka  
Lynn Whitten

Retired, TX Department of Transportation  
UT Southwestern Medical Center  
Retired, Mental Health & Retardation  
Texas Lottery Commission  
Comptroller of Public Accounts  
Texas Commission on Fire Protection  
Employees Retirement System of Texas  
Texas Dept. of State Health Services  
Retired, Texas Department of Health  
Weston Solutions  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Comptroller of Public Accounts  
Texas State Board of Public Accountancy  
Retired, Employees Retirement System  
State Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
Merrill Lynch  
Texas Dept. of Aging & Disability Services  
Teacher Retirement System of Texas  
Retired, TX Dept. of State Health Services  
Texas Commission on Fire Protection  
Office of the Attorney General  
TX Department of State Health Services  
ACS, Inc.  
Texas Department of Transportation  
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## Stars Over Texas



**Wanda M. Thompson, Ph.D.**, has accepted a position as Vice President of Administration for the State University of New York at Syracuse. We wish our departing Public Relations Director the greatest success in her new endeavor.

EWTG Membership Director **Shannon Franklin** married Paul Kelley in May. Her new name is **Shannon Kelley** and new email address is shannon.kelley@yahoo.com.