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in Texas government.



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JUNE 2008

June 25th – EWTG Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Navigating Long-term Care Options

Speaker: Veronda Durden, Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Services, DADS



Veronda L. Durden, Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Services with Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services is the scheduled speaker for the monthly luncheon on June 25th. Ms. Durden will discuss the array of long-term care options that exist today and the tools available to help you make the right choices for you and your family.

As the Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Services with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), Veronda L. Durden, is committed to the health

and safety of Texans receiving long term care and services.

Ms. Durden began her career in state government at the Office of the Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. With over 22 plus years of executive-level administrative management experience, she has served in roles including Director of the Provider Operations and Program Analysis Division and Director of the Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA) Licensing and Certification Program at the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS). Before

Durden: Continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 President's Corner "The Bottom Line"
- Page 3 EWTG Mini-Course; Community Service Opportunity
- Page 4 Communications Director; Secretary-Treasurer;
- Page 5 Annual Conference Information
- Page 6 Annual Conference Information
- Page 7 Scholarship Announcement; Membership Drive; Silent Auction Success Stories; Email Policy
- Page 8 Affiliate News
- Page 9 New and Renewing Members; Sponsors

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



June 10 *Austin Mini-Course*

Noon - 1 p.m. in the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. Speaker: Dorsey Barger, Co-Owner Eastside Cafe on "Eat and Drink Like You Mean It". For information and lunch option reservations, contact ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044.

June 12 *Houston Affiliate Meeting*

Noon - 1 p.m. in Room 2E/2F of the Elias Ramirez Building, 5425 Polk St. This is a brown bag affair, so please bring your own lunch. For information and room location, contact Sherbert Mims at 713.767.2369 or houstonchair@ewtg.org

June 12 *Dallas Affiliate Meeting*

A.W. Harris Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Bhavini Patel at 214.645.3050 or dallascommunicate@ewtg.org

June 25 *Austin Monthly Luncheon*

Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio at noon. Speaker: Veronda Durden, Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Services, DADS. For information and reservations, contact ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044.

June 30 *2nd Quarter Scholarship Deadline*

The deadline for the 2nd Quarter Scholarships is June 30th. (see Page 7 for details).

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President's Corner

The Bottom Line

Susan Durso, President

Everyone is talking about the rising cost of fuel, but it isn't just fuel for transportation that is going up. Fuel for our bodies costs more, too. Prices for staple products, like bread, milk, eggs and flour, have risen at double-digit rates in the past year according to the Labor Department. These soaring costs in necessities are affecting some of our very basic expenses: food and transportation. These rising costs are

also having an impact on little luxuries, like eating out and extra car trips.

One of the little luxuries I allow myself is an EWTG membership. I pay my annual dues and attend as many events as I am able. Over the years, the cost of participating in EWTG has rarely changed. The dues have stayed the same, although the cost of the monthly luncheon has risen modestly when the Austin Women's Club increased the costs to the organization. EWTG does not charge its members or guests more than the Club charges EWTG. Nonetheless, to be sure that we are offering the best value to our members, we did a little comparison of other groups that hold monthly luncheons with a speaker in the downtown area. Like EWTG, membership in these associations provides opportunities to meet other members, professional development opportunities, and seminars.

The Association for Women in Communications holds a monthly luncheon at the UT Club, which is in Daryl Royal Memorial Stadium; free parking is available; members pay \$30 and non-members pay \$35. The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) holds a monthly luncheon at Green Pastures, where there is parking and the luncheon costs \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. The Women's Chamber of Commerce holds its monthly luncheons at the Westwood Country Club on West 35th Street; parking is available; members pay \$25 and non-members pay \$35. The Public Relations Society of Austin holds its monthly luncheons at Sullivan's Steakhouse; parking is an additional fee; members pay \$25 and non-members pay \$35. AFP's luncheon is the only comparable cost for members, but it is at Green Pastures, where we hold our members' only holiday luncheon. If we met there every month, Green Pastures would no longer offer a special atmosphere for our end-of-the-year celebration. I also understand that the set up at these monthly luncheons is not for a hot plated lunch with salad and dessert, but rather a cold/hot salad buffet.

I also did a very quick comparison of the dues cost. Some organizations require that you be a member of the national organization and also pay local chapter dues. The AFP website for the national organization had minimal information but the national dues are at least \$200 per year. I couldn't locate the amount of AFP's local chapter dues. Women in Communications (WIC) also requires national membership in addition to local membership. Some categories of national WIC membership exceed \$1,500 annually, but the entrepreneur's rate for a self-employed person with no employees has an application fee of \$50 and dues are \$114. Then there is a \$35 annual fee for chapter membership in Austin.

From what we have found, I am amazed at what EWTG is able to offer its members so much for such a minimal cost. Nonetheless, it is always good to take an inventory of things. I anticipate that we will have to revisit our dues and our luncheon costs in the near future as global increases in food and fuel impact our bottom line. So, I would like feedback from the membership. Should we charge more for non-members? Should we seek a place further north or south of the central city to lower the cost of lunch, but perhaps increase transportation cost and time? Let me know what you think. Send your comments to ewtg@ewtg.org.

Durden: Continued from page 1

the HCSSA Program transferred to TDHS, Ms. Durden was with the Texas Department of Health for over five years where she held positions as the Program Director of HCSSA Licensing, Director of the Office of Minority Health, and the Program Director for the Alzheimer's, Osteoporosis, Epilepsy and Prostate Cancer Program.

Ms. Durden earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. She is a graduate of the 1996 Leadership Texas Class, a Certified Management Professional, a member of the Building the Bench Charter Class, and a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program. In 2007, she became a Certified Mediator through the University of Texas School of Law.

Ms. Durden served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Austin Alzheimer's Association for several years. In 2004 she was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the State Employee Charitable Campaign Policy Committee. She is the Vice-President for the Association for Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) and a member of the Joint Commission's Home Care Professional and Technical Advisory Committee.

Make your reservations for June 25th for a very interesting and informative presentation. Reservations can be made by emailing ewtg@ewtg.org or calling 512.248.2044. EWTG luncheons are \$20 and are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:45 to 1 p.m. at the Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio Street. In order to guarantee a seat at the monthly luncheon, your reservation must be received no later than the Monday before the luncheon.

Eat and Drink Like You Mean It

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 – EWTG Mini-Course

Did you know that making certain choices about what we drink and eat to support local businesses – farmers, producers, and restaurants – can actually lessen our country's dependence on fossil fuels and slow the rate of global warming?

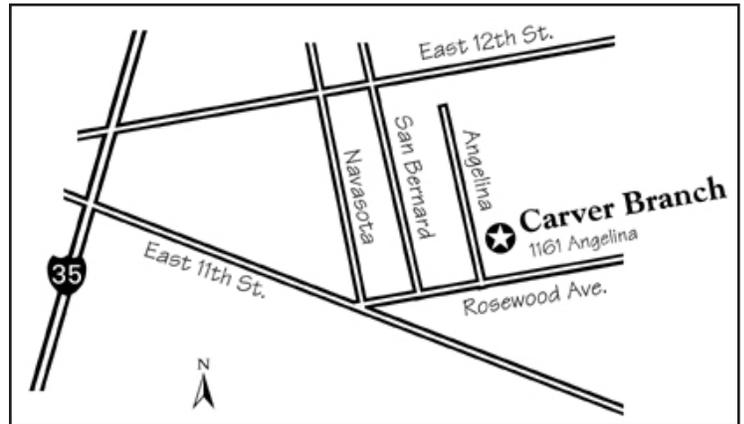
Make plans to attend the June 10, 2008 mini-course entitled *Eat and Drink Like You Mean It*. (Note the Tuesday date instead of the usual Wednesday.)

Dorsey Barger will present the June mini-course topic. Dorsey is the co-owner of Eastside Cafe, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Dorsey graduated from the University of

Virginia with a degree in Religious Studies. She got her first restaurant job in 1985 and opened Eastside Cafe in 1988, beginning the transformation of the now trendy Manor Road area. Dorsey is passionate about learning and sharing with others. Join us in June to see why the feature article of April's *Austin Woman Magazine* very accurately described Dorsey as "overflowing with unbounded energy and enthusiasm".

The mini-course will be held at the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. See map above for library location. To help you make the most of your lunch hour, EWTG will have Mangia pizza, fresh green salad, and cookies for \$6 per person or \$3 for salad only, or you can bring your own lunch. Bottled water is \$1. Pizza will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The program begins at noon and ends by 1 p.m.

For information and reservations, contact EWTG at ewtg@ewtg.org or at 512.248.2044. Please state whether you want to purchase pizza and/or salad when you make your reservation.



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Annual Spring *Clean-out Your Closet* for Lisa's HOPE Chest

At the EWTG June mini-course, members of the Community Service Committee will continue to collect 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. Tax donation receipts will be available. To find out more about this worthwhile organization, visit <http://www.lisashopechest.org/>. (Special need for PANTY HOSE, shoes, purses, accessories, travel-size toiletries, perfume, any plus size women's clothing, and men's t-shirts and jeans.)

Communications Director – Clare Dyer

The 2008 Communications Director is Clare Dyer. Clare works for the Texas Legislative Council Research Division as the Section Manager responsible for policy mapping and redistricting. She has been a member of EWTG since 2000, and this is her third year on the board, having served as Treasurer and Financial Officer the past two years. She has a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs and an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

As Communications Director, Clare is responsible for producing the monthly newsletter and managing the web site. She works with the Communications Committee and oversees newsletter article selection, story writing and editing, and design and layout. Once the draft newsletter is assembled and reviewed, she submits the copy to the layout designer and coordinates proofing the draft. When the newsletter is completed, Clare sends it to the membership and posts in on the website. The Communications Director distributes the annual newsletter deadlines and article schedule, too.

The Communications Director is also responsible for working with the web designer to identify web site areas to be updated, upgraded, and/or redesigned. This position coordinates web site maintenance with the Board of Directors and Executive Director and posts the monthly calendar announcements, the President's Column, photos from EWTG activities, and various forms and announcements.

Clare is currently working with the web designer to enhance the conference information page. Plans are to have bi-weekly updates of conference news, calls for presenters, silent auction donations, and sponsors, registration forms, announcements of speakers, and all related conference activities on an on-going basis. Clare encourages you check the website frequently for continuing news and updates.



Meet EWTG's New 2008 Secretary-Treasurer

Susan Gibson has regrettably resigned as the 2008 Secretary-Treasurer. In accordance with the by-laws, the Board voted to fill the vacancy with Sherri Conner. Welcome to the Board, Sherri.

Secretary-Treasurer – Sherri Conner

Sherri has over 36 years of information technology experience, of which 31 years are with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), formerly the Texas Department of Health (TDH). Sherri returned to employment at TDH in January 2004. In June 2005, Sherri accepted a position as the first IT Portfolio Manager and has led the development of the DSHS annual IT Applications Development work plan, which determines IT project priorities and resource allocations. Sherri received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin. finance@ewtg.org

2008 EWTG Austin Board Meetings

The 2008 EWTG Board holds its monthly meetings at the Carver Library, Austin, Texas, on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The agenda for each meeting will be posted on the EWTG website by noon on the Monday before the meeting.

The agenda for each meeting will be posted on the EWTG website by noon on the Monday before the meeting. Additionally, once we have the capability to create a members-only area on the website, copies of approved minutes will be posted following the meeting at which the minutes are approved. Until the members-only area is available on the website, you may request copies of approved board meeting minutes directly from Michele Schwartz, the Executive Director, at ewtg@ewtg.org or 512.248.2044.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**22nd Annual EWTG Professional Development Conference
November 24, 2008**

CALL FOR PRESENTERS FORM

Professional women make decisions every day about where to devote their time and energy: to family, job, or community. This conference provides a rare opportunity for continued development of management skills and leadership capabilities, as well as offering networking and mentoring opportunities. The 22nd Annual EWTG Professional Development Conference will provide attendees an opportunity to invest in themselves.

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

EWTG is seeking interested professionals for workshop presentations at the conference. The conference agenda includes approximately 36 workshops, conducted concurrently with about 12 other workshops in one of three time slots. The workshops are one-hour in duration.

Speaker Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- relevance to professional development
- alignment with proposed topic
- creative approach in presenting topic
- applicable to challenges facing professionals in Texas Government.

Priority will be given to a presenter whose proposal demonstrates new ideas or approaches, teaches specific techniques, and includes resource materials and handouts.

Proposal Instructions

Each presenter or co-presenter must complete the presenter form and submit it along with the following **by July 15, 2008**:

- presenter biography;
- list of three references and their contact information;
- a 100-word abstract of the proposed session including the title and category selected;
- a 20-word (2-3 sentence) description of your proposed session that will appear in the conference brochure.

Only complete proposals will be considered.

Proposals can be submitted by email (preferred) to conference_program@ewtg.org or by regular mail to:

**Attn: Program Committee
EWTG PMB #263
815A Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701-9996**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

22nd Annual EWTG Professional Conference November 24, 2008

Suggestions for Presentation Topics

Developing Executive Management Skills

- Business Planning
- Career Opportunities
- Career Planning
- Employment Law
- Executive Manager Topics
- Human Resources, Trends & Issues
- Interview Skills
- Managing Conflict
- Managing Supervisors
- Workplace Challenges

Expanding Leadership Capabilities

- Balancing Your Life
- Communications
- Coping with Changes
- Customer Service
- Financial Planning
- Negotiating Conflict
- Professional Growth
- Operational Management
- Project Management
- Retraining Options
- Roles and Responsibilities

Networking and Mentoring

- Coaching & Counseling
- Cultural Diversity
- Education
- Mentoring
- Growing Your Staff
- Training Trends & Issues
- Workforce Planning
- Retirement Planning & Options

Presenter and Presentation Information

Presenter Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Presentation Title: _____

Presentation Topic: _____

Select from topics listed above.

Number of Presenters: _____

Co-Presenters Names*: _____

**Separate presenter form required for co-presenters.*

Presentation Format (check one):

Lecture Workshop Panel

Session Preference (check one):

Morning Afternoon No Preference

Equipment Needs (check all that apply):

Microphone Projection Screen Flip Chart Easel with Markers

Required Attachments

- presenter biography
- list of three references and their contact information
- 100-word abstract of the proposed session
- 20-word (2-3 sentence) session description for conference brochure

E-mail submission to: conference_program@ewtg.org

Scholarship Announcement - Deadline for 2nd Quarter is June 30th

It is hard to believe that we are already at the middle of this year! Time is 'flying by'! Don't let another day go by without taking advantage of one of EWTG's greatest member benefits - scholarships!

This program awards scholarships quarterly and allows members an opportunity to apply for up to \$1000 to enhance their skills and learn new ones. Take a moment today to treat yourself to a course you have been putting off, a conference you would love to attend or perhaps a workshop that will provide you with a mini summer retreat.

The deadline of June 30th is fast approaching!

To apply, visit <http://www.ewtg.org/admin/documentsScholarshipApplicationInstructions.doc> and fill out your application today.

Best Wishes, the 2008 Scholarship Committee

Be a FAN of EWTG – 2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE continues through October 2008

- Every month from May through October in 2008 at the Austin luncheon, each member who brings a guest (or more than one) will have her name entered into a drawing for each guest she brings to the monthly luncheon. A prize will be awarded at the end of the luncheon to the lucky member whose name is drawn. (e.g., three guests, three chances to win).
- Any guest who joins EWTG, regardless of whether in Austin, Dallas, or Houston, at their first luncheon/dinner in the months of May through October 2008 gets \$10.00 off the first year's membership fee. (e.g., Annual dues are \$50.00 for state employees and \$100.00 for private members. If a guest joins at her first meeting, it is \$40.00 or \$90.00, respectively.)

Silent Auction Success Stories

Did you bid on something at the Silent Auction in the last year or two that was an unexpected treat or success? Was a hotel stay particularly nice or a spa treatment lavish? Did an item become something you now treasure or did you give something as a gift that was appreciated by someone else? Let your fellow EWTG members in on good buys or good experiences! Please send a sentence or two about your item or event to communications@ewtg.org – we want to post your story. Let us know if you want us to mention your name or whether we should post your story anonymously.

EWTG Email Policy

In 2006, the EWTG Board drafted and approved a policy regarding postings on the webpage and in the newsletter. This policy addresses all correspondence to members. Members' emails addresses are not distributed to anyone except other members via the member directory, and all members should refrain from sending bulk emails to members for anything other than EWTG business and activities. We try to respect your privacy and the professional nature of your work by limiting emails. We encourage members to visit our web page: ewtg@ewtg.org, which is continually being updated and improved, for news and upcoming events. The board also is reviewing options for using a secure link to send all emails, with an option to unsubscribe or change to a new or personal email address if desired.

Houston Affiliate News

Houston Affiliate Holds Successful “Drive to Successorize”

The Houston Affiliate collected accessories from May 1-7, 2008, for Dress for Success, an organization known for outfitting deserving women for job interviews. The drive was publicized by email, and colorful posters were placed throughout the Polk Street building. The items received included 28 colorful scarves, 13 brown and black purses, nine pairs of new pantyhose, five plus-size suits and a \$55 donation for the purchase of another suit, one petite suit, and two pairs of black shoes. Dress for Success had emphasized their need for plus-size suits, and we were especially pleased to have so many donated. During the May 8th meeting, eight affiliate members and one guest sorted and packed the items for delivery.

Also during the meeting, Rosa Broussard, Parliamentarian, gave a brief presentation on using Robert’s Rules of Order to conduct effective meetings. A chart showing various motions and their appropriate use was distributed.

Houston Affiliate to host booth at TPEA Conference June 26-27

The Houston Affiliate will be hosting an EWTG booth during the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA) conference in Houston on June 26th and 27th and is looking forward to recruiting new members.

Please join us for our next meeting, June 12, 2008. The Houston Affiliate meets 12 Noon to 1 PM at the Polk Street Office Building, 5425 Polk Street, Houston, TX. For information and room location, contact Sherbert Mims, Houston Affiliate Chair, at houstonchair@ewtg.org.

2008 Affiliate Officers

Dallas Affiliate:

Heidi Negaard, Chair

UT Southwestern Medical Center
dallaschair@ewtg.org

Kathy Bledsoe, Treasurer

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Bhavini Patel, Communications Director

UT Southwestern Medical Center
dallascommunicate@ewtg.org

Susan Rossiter, Membership Director

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Cary Wilkerson, Public Relations Director

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dorothy Fletcher, Development Director

2008 Affiliate Officers

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houstonchair@ewtg.org

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Karen Morse, Treasurer

Rosa Broussard, Parliamentarian

Kay Smith, Program Chair

Carolyn Kirkwood, Public Relations

Marline Boyd, Courtesy Chair

Charlotte Booker & Brenda McCoy, Social Comm. Co-chairs

Abigail Bailey, Special Projects Chair

Glenda Wall, Communications Chair

Dallas Affiliate News

Monthly Meeting on *The Art of Flower Arranging*

On Thursday, June 12, 2008, at our monthly meeting, Cat Nguyen will provide instruction on the Art of Flower Arranging. Participants should bring their own vase and flowers, either fresh or artificial, for an interesting and informative presentation. The June 12th meeting will be held at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 for dinner. To RSVP, contact Bhavini Patel at 214.645.3050 or dallascommunicate@ewtg.org.

The Dallas Affiliate 2008 Membership Drive offers any guest who joins at her first meeting a 20 percent discount off the membership fee for the first year. From May through October 2008, a new member can join for \$40 instead of \$50. This offer is for new members only.

MEMBERSHIP

First Year Members

Telayne Barber
Denice Bettencourt
Aiko Morales
Dopke Ogynsanya
Joanne Severn
Kerry Stennett

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Department of Transportation
Department of Information Resources
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Department of Information Resources
Department of Information Resources

Renewing Members

Ardra Alexander
Shelly Baumgartner
Dr. F. Ethelynn Beebe
Gloria Brown Oliver
Joanne Edge
Sarah Evans
Cynthia Hale
Kathleen Hamilton
Mary Hollingsworth, M.Ed.
Veronica Inchauste
Laura Johannsen
Sherry Lee
Dee McIlroy
Patricia Moore
Karen Morse
Pam Parks
Deborah Peterson
Susan Smapton-Howlett
Kathy Smartt
Kathleen Stiles
Claudia Stravato
Louise Waddill
Rosa Wilks Broussard

Texas Workforce Commission
Waddell & Reed
Retired
Merrill Lynch
City of Austin, Human Resources
Texas Facilities Commission
Retired, Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services
Retired, Texas Department of Health
Licensed Professional Counselor
University of Texas-Austin
Texas Dept of Transportation
Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologists
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Commission on Fire Protection
Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services
Auto Theft Prevention Authority
General Land Office, Coastal Resources
Texas Workforce Commission
Planned Parenthood
Retired
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