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MAY 2008

May 28th – EWTG Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Speaker: Evelyn McKee, Municipal Court Judge



Judge Evelyn McKee, Presiding Judge for the Austin Municipal Court, will be the guest speaker at the monthly EWTG Luncheon meeting on May 28, 2008. She will talk about the roles and responsibilities of a municipal court judge and her passion for writing.

Judge McKee grew up in the beautiful piney woods of East Texas. She received an undergraduate degree from SMU and a law degree from the University of Texas Law School. She served as Chief of Contracts in the Travis County Attorney's Office, and then opened a private practice, handling primarily family law and probate. In 1989,

she was appointed as a part-time municipal judge for the City of Austin, Texas. In 1992, she was appointed as a full-time judge. In November of 1999, she was appointed Presiding Judge of that court and continues to serve in that capacity.

In 2002, the Texas Municipal Courts Association named Judge McKee Outstanding Judge of the Year.

Judge McKee has served on the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas, the Police Retirement Board, the Travis County Lawyer Referral Service, Texas Municipal Courts Association, Austin Community Radio (KAZI-FM), and the Austin Public Library Foundation. She currently serves on the board of the Writers League of Texas and is Chairman of the Travis County Bail Bond Board.

In addition to her work as Municipal Court Judge, Judge McKee is a successful author and publisher of several romance-mystery novels. She states: "I write stories that have middle-age heroes and heroines because I believe that romance is just as beautiful with a little grey at the temples."

McKee: Continued on page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 8 *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.

May 8 *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.

May 14 *Austin Mini-course*

Noon - 1:00 p.m. in the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. Speaker: Jan Lunday, Texas Workforce Commission, on *Dealing with Difficult Personalities*. For information and lunch option reservations, contact ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044.

May 14 *Executive Success Team Kick-Off Event*

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe. All current and new team members are invited. For information, contact ewtg@ewtg.org, call 512.248.2044, or contact Shannon Kelley at preselect@ewtg.org.

May 28 *Austin Monthly Luncheon*

Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Jacinto at noon. Speaker: Evelyn McKee, Municipal Court Judge. May Membership Drive - Bring a guest and receive \$5 off the cost of your lunch. Bring gently used professional spring and summer clothing for Lisa's HOPE Chest. For information and reservations, contact 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

A "No Fail" Investment Strategy

Susan Durso, President

We all want safe investments. We want to be assured that what we put in will still be there when we need it; but we also want growth—a reward for having had the foresight to prepare for future unknowns. I have a tip you can take to the bank – invest in yourself. The rewards are guaranteed.

You are the most important asset that you have. You must regularly monitor your portfolio to keep it growing, so that the resources will be there when you need them. You can regularly contribute to your own success and well-being by improving and sharpening your skills; keeping in touch with family, friends, and colleagues; getting rest to rejuvenate your spirit; and maintaining good health with good nutrition and exercises for the body and mind.

EWTG Membership is an economical investment in yourself. Two great investment deals are the mini-course and the monthly luncheons. Mini-courses are free opportunities to learn something new – unless you want the convenience of having your lunch ready when you get there and you spring for the pizza. At the monthly luncheons, for a modest fee, you can enjoy a tasty and complete hot meal in a convenient location with free and accessible parking, plus a speaker selected to offer timely, interesting, and relevant information - but wait there's more! You have a networking opportunity to meet and reconnect with women who have similar interests. I doubt you will find a better rate of return if you compare EWTG's costs to similar lunchtime learning events offered by other professional organizations.

Of course, membership has its privileges. EWTG Scholarships provide financial support for formal education and training courses that will increase your market value. Whether you decide to take a course in a new trend in your chosen field or you decide to achieve an educational milestone you've been thinking about, an EWTG scholarship can help you get there. Membership socials and Executive Success Teams offer opportunities to spend time with friends and colleagues in a supportive and learning environment.

When you get to know your peers and colleagues better, you learn new things. You learn about their jobs, their lives, and their interests and you may find you have something in common. Or, you may learn about a new job opportunity or creative outlet.

So take a moment and explore the investment opportunities available to increase your personal portfolio. Membership in EWTG would be a wonderful value at twice the price.

McKee: *Continued from page 1*

Mark your calendars for May 28th for a luncheon meeting that will feature an interesting and entertaining discussion with Judge McKee. And remember, as part of the May Membership activities, EWTG members get \$5.00 off the cost of their lunch for each guest they bring to the May luncheon. (e.g., bring three guests and get \$15.00 off the cost of your lunch. Maximum credit is \$20.00.)

Make your reservations 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.

Dealing with Difficult Personalities

May 14, 2008 – EWTG Mini-Course

Jan Lunday, Texas Workforce Commission, will present the May mini-course on *Dealing with Difficult Personalities*. Few things in life are certain. Unfortunately, conflict is one of them. At work, at home, anywhere people interact, conflict is possible. Some difficult behaviors, however, make conflict more likely to occur. Some of us tend to ignore those behaviors in hopes they will either self-correct or simply go away.

The reality is that difficult behaviors left unaddressed can alienate co-workers, family and friends while destroying relationships. In the workplace, difficult behaviors decrease productivity and morale. Learning to deal appropriately and promptly with difficult behaviors can help avoid conflict before it starts.

Jan Lunday is a Training Specialist, Curriculum Developer, and Facilitator with the Texas Workforce Commission. In addition to curriculum development, she also facilitates workshops, retreats, work groups, and negotiation sessions.

Jan has served as a training specialist at two other state agencies and taught high school English for the Austin Independent School District for more than 14 years. As a public educator, she held responsibilities in the areas of curriculum design, grade-level team chair, campus liaison to the Office of the Superintendent, and instruction and performance evaluation of the Eleventh Grade – American Literature course curriculum.

Jan received her Bachelor of Science in Education and English from The University of Texas at Austin. In addition to her Texas Teaching Certification, she is also a certified Franklin Covey instructor for their "Writing Advantage" curriculum.

The mini-course is held at the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. See map below 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. 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 May and June mini-courses and May 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. 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.)

Affiliates Director – Shelly Baumgartner

The 2008 Affiliates Director is Shelly Baumgartner, one of EWTG's private sector members. She is a Certified Financial Planner and a licensed financial advisor with Waddell & Reed, Inc. As Affiliates Director, Shelly is responsible for coordinating Affiliate development and increased membership throughout Texas. She works directly with the two current Affiliates in Dallas and in Houston by being responsive to their officer requests and maintaining frequent communications. Additionally, the Affiliates Director encourages and supports prospective Affiliates. The Affiliates Director visits each Affiliate annually and assists in developing governance, programs and services for the Affiliates.



Each Affiliate is governed by officers who are elected annually and each Affiliate abides by the bylaws of EWTG. The Houston Affiliate was chartered in 1995, and the Dallas Affiliate was chartered in 1996. Each Affiliate offers interactive monthly meetings, professional and personal development opportunities, and local service projects.

Michele Schwartz, Susan Durso and Shelly visited the Houston Affiliate on April 10th at its regularly scheduled meeting in the Elias Ramirez Building. The Houston group requested financial education and submitted specific questions prior to the event that Shelly, wearing her financial advisor hat, addressed as the luncheon presenter. The meeting was a great gathering of energetic women who have some very interesting events planned in the upcoming year. In addition to its educational monthly meetings, the Houston Affiliate has planned a museum tour and a viewing of the Broadway Across America tour of "The Color Purple".

Shelly is looking forward to the opportunity to visit the Dallas Affiliate and learn more about its programs and projects, and is also examining the possibility of establishing a San Antonio Affiliate.

Shelly has been a member of EWTG since 2006 and participated on the membership and public relations committees before becoming the Affiliates Director in 2008. Shelly has also volunteered at EWTG conferences as a presenter. Shelly 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. She 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.

EXECUTIVE SUCCESS TEAM ANNUAL KICK-OFF RECEPTION

All current and new team members are invited to the **Executive Success Team Annual Reception** on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe. Current members of teams will share ideas with new members, and everyone will have the opportunity to network. Please join us!

Be a FAN of EWTG – 2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

April – October 2008

- Every month 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 guest, three chances to win) (**April's winner was Mary Howerton!**)
- Any guest who joins EWTG, regardless of whether in Austin, Dallas, or Houston, at their first luncheon/dinner 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.)

MAY 2008 Austin Luncheon Only

- Members get \$5.00 off the cost of their lunch for each guest they bring to the May luncheon. (e.g., bring three guests and get \$15.00 off the cost of your lunch. Maximum credit is \$20.00.)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conference Committee News

Heather Hall, Vice President

Location, Location, Location!

We have very exciting news about the location of the EWTG 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference, which will be held on November 24, 2008. We are pleased to announce that we will be meeting at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa at 575 Hyatt Lost Pines Road in Lost Pines, Texas. It is located about 13 miles from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport on Hwy 71 East. Check the location out online at <http://lostpines.hyatt.com>. This beautiful, secluded location just outside of the city will truly allow us to get away for a day to focus on the professional development and networking activities that EWTG affords us.

We researched many locations in and around Austin and narrowed it down to a handful of locations that can hold such a large event. Thank you all for filling out the feedback at last year's conference as it gave us a good picture of what you were looking for in a conference location. *We heard you!* At Lost Pines, we have a location that is big enough to handle our growing annual conference. We have plenty of breakout rooms for three sessions throughout the day and the main ballroom is big enough to hold all of us with more space between the tables. We have more exhibitor space, a second ballroom for the silent auction, and a registration area that will be very convenient for registrants. Lost Pines provides plenty of free parking, a great sound system, and a luxurious location – all of which were important to our participants. We are working on some “greener” alternatives to driving so stay tuned to the newsletter in the coming months for options.

The board greatly appreciates the work of Linda Daylamani, the Conference Facilities Committee Chair, for her hard work in researching our options and working closely with Lost Pines on behalf of our organization. Linda negotiated a single and double room rate of \$99 plus taxes and a small resort fee, which will total approximately \$120. This figure is half the usual rate. For those that are coming from out of town or those who might be concerned about the traffic on the morning of the conference, we encourage you to spend the night before the conference at the Lost Pines at this unbelievable rate. In addition to the great room rate and convenience of staying at the conference location, if you stay the night, Lost Pines has offered a 35% reduction in the spa rates.

As you who have attended the conference before are aware, it is a huge volunteer effort to pull the conference together. There is lots of work yet to be done and there are big jobs and smaller jobs. Volunteer your services to help us with the conference details and ensure that this conference continues to be the premier conference that it has been for the last twenty-one years. Information on volunteering is included below.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Invest in Yourself:

EWTG's 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference

As professional women, we make decisions every day about where to devote our time and energy: to our families, our jobs, our communities. Rarely, do we devote time to ourselves. By providing opportunities to develop executive management skills, to expand leadership capabilities, as well as to network and mentor one another, the EWTG 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference will provide a forum for you to invest in yourself.

Programs will include, but are not limited to, the following categories:

Develop Executive Management Skills

- Business Planning
- Career Opportunities
- Career Planning
- Employment Law
- Executive Manager Topics
- Human Resources, Trends, Issues
- Interviewing Skills
- Managing Conflict
- Managing Supervisors
- Mid-manager to Executive
- Workplace Challenges

Expand Leadership capabilities

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

Network and Mentoring

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

Look for the following next month:

- Call for Presenters from the Program Committee
- Silent Auction Forms from the Silent Auction Committee
- Exhibitor Forms from the Exhibitor Committee

Your committees are hard at work on the conference but there are still opportunities for you to help out! If you want to volunteer, please contact one of the committee chairs below:

- EVALUATION - Swati Dokka - conference_evaluation@ewtg.org
- EXHIBITS - Shawana Ellison - conference_exhibits@ewtg.org
- FACILITIES - Linda Daylamani - conference_facilities@ewtg.org
- PROGRAM - Frances Torres - conference_program@ewtg.org
- REGISTRATION - Cindy De Roch - conference_registration@ewtg.org
- SILENT AUCTION - Robin Mitchell - conference_auction@ewtg.org

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Hall, at vicepres@ewtg.org.

Update on Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder

Max Sherman, our October 2007 luncheon speaker, let us know that his book, *Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder*, will be included in "The Best of the Best from the University Presses" program to be featured at the 2008 American Library Association's Annual conference in Anaheim California.

"The Best of the Best" program, presented by a panel of five librarians from the ALA's University Press Books Committee, will highlight 24 titles that were reviewed for the 18th edition of University Press Books Selected for Public and Secondary School Libraries. There are thousands of books published by university presses, so to be one of 24 selected is truly an honor. Congratulations Dean Sherman!

Houston Affiliate News

Triple Treat Visits April Houston Affiliate Meeting

The Houston Affiliate was delighted to welcome President Susan Durso, Executive Director Michele Schwartz, and Affiliates Director Shelly Baumgartner to our April 10th Meeting. In honor of our guests, a lunch of sandwiches, fresh vegetables, cookies and tea was provided. In their remarks, Susan, Shelly and Michele emphasized that they were available to support the Affiliates as needed. Also, we were reminded of a very valuable benefit of membership - educational scholarships.

Because the focus of the April meeting was financial planning, the meeting was advertised and actively promoted to all Polk Street Staff. Based on concerns submitted to her in advance, Shelly, a Certified Financial Planner, shared a wealth of information with our Affiliate members (15) and guests (14) in attendance. She also allocated time to answer several impromptu questions.

On April 17th, 10 Affiliate members enjoyed an immensely interesting touring exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts - Pompeii: Tales from an Eruption. The evening concluded with light repast at the Museum location of Cafe Express.

Please join the Houston Affiliate for our next meeting, May 8, 2008. The Houston Affiliate meets 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM every 2nd Thursday 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

Houston Affiliate:

Sherbert L. Mims, Chair
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Terry Boyce, Secretary
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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

2008 Affiliate Officers

Dallas Affiliate:

Heidi Negaard, Chair
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UT Southwestern Medical Center

Bhavini Patel, Communications Director
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Susan Rossiter, Membership Director
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Cary Wilkerson, Public Relations Director
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dorothy Fletcher, Development Director

Dallas Affiliate News

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 contact Bhavini Patel at 214 645 3050 or email at dallascommunicate@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.

MEMBERSHIP

First Year Members

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 Melinda Eppler
 Verna Neal
 Cindy Gray
 Trudy Tassin
 Linda Linam
 Grace Windbigler
 Gail Parrigin-Clark

Office of Court Administration
 Texas State Preservation Board
 Health & Human Services Commission
 CPA Project Management Office
 Department of Information Resources
 Texas Dept of State Health Services
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 Melynda Caudle
 Elaine Powell
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 Christine Plonsky
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