



PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

NOVEMBER 2008

EWTG Annual Holiday Luncheon and Installation of 2009 Officers

Please join us at Green Pastures on Thursday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m. for our annual members-only Holiday Luncheon. Our menu will include mixed greens salad, grilled chicken with pasta, chef's choice of vegetables, cotillion rolls with butter, the famous Green Pastures Chocolate Crumble Ball, and iced tea and coffee. Cost of the luncheon is \$20. (If you require a vegetarian meal, please request it when you make your reservation.) At this yearly celebration, EWTG members come together to acknowledge our accomplishments, bid farewell to the outgoing Board of Directors and welcome incoming Board members. Judge Susan Steeg, Travis County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, will induct the incoming board members. Don't forget to bring a teddy bear to share with children in need. The RSVP deadline is Friday, November 21st. Please email ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044 to reserve your place.

EWTG is pleased to announce the incoming 2009 Board of Directors approved by the Board of Directors on October 27, 2008

In accordance with EWTG By-laws, the President names a Nominating Committee Chair to assemble a committee every fall. The committee's charge is to develop a slate of Board candidates, all members in good standing, and contact each one to receive her agreement to serve. In assembling the prospective board, the committee is directed to achieve diversity of ethnicity, age, job title, and agency representation.

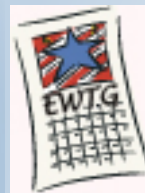
The written slate is presented to the board at their October meeting. The slate as submitted is considered elected by acclamation if no member submits her name for consideration by October 1st. The list

Incoming Board of Directors continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 President's Corner "The EWTG 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference"
- Page 3 Third Quarter Scholship Recipients
- Page 4 Annual Conference Information
- Page 5 Life at the Speed of Fast
- Page 6 Affiliate News
- Page 7 Conference Sponsors

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



November 6 Houston Affiliate Meeting

12 Noon-1 p.m. in Conference Room 4B/4C, Elias Ramirez State Office Building, 5425 Polk Street, Houston. For information, contact Sherbert Mims, 713.767.2369 or houstonchair@ewtg.org

November 13 Dallas Affiliate Meeting

6:30 p.m. at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club, South Campus, UT Southwestern Medical School, 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas. This month's program features Heidi Nichols, Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Please RSVP to Bhavini Patel, 214.645.3046 or bhavini.patel@utsouthwestern.edu.

November 21 Reservation Deadline for Annual Holiday Luncheon

EWTG's holiday luncheon is the week after the conference and Thanksgiving. The deadline to place your reservation is Friday, November 21st. RSVP required to ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248-2044.

November 24 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference

EWTG's 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration packet pickup begins at 7 a.m., with opening General Session at 8:30 a.m. To register online, review the program, and/or find out more about workshops, key note speakers, vendors, sponsors, and the silent auction, go to <http://conference.ewtg.org/> or contact EWTG at 512.248.2044.

December 4 Annual Holiday Luncheon (note Thursday date)

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak, Austin. Members-only event to celebrate the accomplishments of 2008 and install the 2009 Board of Directors, plus the Annual Teddy Bear drive for a local charity to share with children in need. RSVP required to ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248-2044 by November 21st.

2008 OFFICERS

President: Susan Durso
Texas Residential Construction Commission
512.627.3615
pres@ewtg.org

President-Elect: Shannon Kelley
Department of Information Resources
512.463.7666
preselect@ewtg.org

Vice-President: Heather Hall
Comptroller of Public Accounts
512.963-5581
vicepres@ewtg.org

Financial Officer: Ardra Alexander
Texas Workforce Commission
512.463.2284
finance@ewtg.org

Secretary-Treasurer: Sherri Conner
Department of State Health Services
512.458.7397
finance@ewtg.org

Affiliates Director: Shelly Baumgartner
Waddell and Reed
512.453.1555
affiliates@ewtg.org

Communications Director: Clare Dyer
Texas Legislative Council
512.936.1012 ext. 1308
communications@ewtg.org

Membership Director: Carol Lauder
Comptroller of Public Accounts
512.463.3619
membership@ewtg.org

Program Director: Joelyn Weeks
Department of Information Resources
512.921.9600
program@ewtg.org

Public Relations Director: Liza Chen
Texas Legislative Council
512.463-1155 ext. 1463
publicrel@ewtg.org

Executive Director: Michele Schwartz
EWTG, PMB #263, 815-A Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78701-9996
(ofc) 512.248.2044
(fax) 512.276.6586
ewtg@ewtg.org
www.ewtg.org



President's Corner

The EWTG 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference

Susan Durso, President

Are you as excited about attending this year's conference as I am? I am so impressed by what our Conference Committee, chaired by our Vice President, Heather Hall, has put together for this

year. By now you have had time to peruse the conference agenda, which includes two wonderful and diverse keynote speakers and a variety of workshops that offer something for every interest. Therefore, I want to fuel the anticipation with a little more about the Hyatt at Lost Pines experience treat that awaits you.

Two weeks ago, I went to the Lost Pines Resort with Heather and the Facilities Committee Chair, Linda Daylamani, to sample the luncheon fare options. Let me whet your appetites just a little. The Lost Pines Resort chef de cuisine, Neil Joiner, will prepare for us a delicious and hearty lunch. Joiner is a native Texan, who graduated from the French Culinary Institute in New York.

Using local produce, the chef has created a salad course of artfully arranged salad greens with tomato quarters and white balsamic vinaigrette. Six ounces of succulent sirloin nestled against a mound of soft mashed potatoes, accompanied by tender asparagus spears, tied together with a rich brown ribbon of demi-glace makes up the eye-pleasing main course. The meal is finished with a lovely dessert--which I will keep a secret--and no matter what your preferences, you won't be disappointed. (Please notify Michele at ewtg@ewtg.org if you have serious dietary needs that require a different meal option.)

The grounds at Lost Pines are soothing. From the slow winding drive from the highway to the lush foliage planted around the buildings, Lost Pines transports you far from the city bustle. Hyatt has done a superb job of making sure that the environment helps you de-stress. The walks wind your way between the buildings among beds of flowers and plants with colorful variegated leaves.

Inside, the lobby has nice seating areas adjacent to large fireplaces. The décor definitely keeps you in a Texas frame of mind. There are rocking chairs on the porches and cozy chairs interspersed in the hallways to ensure that you have a quiet place to clear your head.

I also hope you will get to take advantage of the spa resources. I booked a full body salt scrub for myself on Tuesday morning. I have never had one but always thought it sounded like a divine idea. The staff in the spa took me on a tour. Nothing is left to chance. There are comfortable chairs, a wet and a dry sauna, and a private pool where the rowdy need not apply.

In addition, the event coordinator has done everything to make us feel welcome. Sufficient restrooms will be marked for women only on our conference day to accommodate the many conference attendees who are female. We will have a nice continental breakfast buffet in

President's Corner continued on page 3

President's Corner: *Continued from page 2*

the morning and snack options in the afternoon. Last but not least, for those who can stay for a bit while the traffic settles down, staff has offered to put blankets and chairs out around the fire pit just outside Shellers Barrelhouse Lounge where we can enjoy s'mores, compliments of the house.

If all of this doesn't make you want to invest in yourself for this unique professional development opportunity, I just don't know what could. I look forward to seeing you at Lost Pines.

Incoming Board of Directors: *Continued from page 1*

of candidates is published in the November newsletter each year.

The 2008 Nominating Committee included Lynn Whitten, Committee Chair, Mary Castleberry, Barrie Cogburn, Susan Durso, President, and Shannon Kelley, President-Elect. The group considered such factors as involvement with EWTG, communication skills, leadership qualities, and employer (public/private partner members are not eligible to serve as President or President-Elect, for example). Shannon asked the committee to identify candidates who are not only able but enthusiastic about serving, and the committee is pleased to report that this was accomplished.

Attached is the slate of officers for the 2009 Board. The Nominations Committee feels that the slate represents a wide range of qualifications. Based on the candidates' life and work experience, range of skills, and past service to EWTG, they comprise a uniquely gifted group that the committee believes will serve with distinction to make 2009 another great year for EWTG.

President - Shannon Kelley, Texas Department of Information Resources

President-Elect - Carol Lauder, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Vice President - Carolyn J. Fry, Retired

Financial Officer - Sherri Conner, Retired

Secretary/Treasurer - Cindy Bordovsky-Stone, Texas Department of Transportation

Program Director - Tammy Sturm, Texas Department of Transportation

Affiliates Director - Shawana Ellison, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Communications Director - Heather Hall, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Membership Director - Laura Johannsen, Texas Department of Transportation

Public Relations Director - Jennifer Buaas, Texas Department of Information Resources

Congratulations to Third Quarter Scholarship Recipients

Laurie Najjar: Laurie attended the 6th Biennial Legislative Communication Conference in October and received a third-quarter scholarship to assist her with the registration fee.

Mercie Zapata and Penny Johnson: Mercie and Penny received third-quarter scholarships for the registration fee to EWTG's 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference.

Carol Lauder, 2008 Membership Director: Carol has been accepted to the 2009 Class of Leadership Texas. Carol applied for and received an EWTG Scholarship for the Leadership Texas application fee.

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. Additionally, copies of approved board meeting minutes may be obtained by contacting Michele Schwartz, Executive Director, at ewtg@ewtg.org or 512.248.2044.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, November 24, 2008

22nd Annual Professional Development Conference ~ Hyatt Lost Pines Resort

In keeping with tradition, the conference includes a full day of learning, networking and fun! More than 800 people have registered, and with a month to go, we may sell out at 1,000 attendees.

The 36 workshops, led by 45 presenters, will include lectures and panel discussions on a variety of topics, including training, workplace challenges, project management, coaching, communications, change management, budgeting, technology, workforce planning, cultural diversity, financial and retirement planning, career planning, life balance, and other management and leadership topics.

We will again have a drawing for a pair of airline tickets donated by our long time supporter, Southwest Airlines. Tickets are \$3 each or \$10 for four and can be purchased on the day of the conference. This is a must-be-present-to-win event, and the drawing will be held at the closing session following the afternoon keynote speaker.

We are very close to our goal of 50 exhibitors and vendors. This year, we have built in extra time to visit the booths. We are opening earlier, with registration and breakfast starting at 7 a.m. and the exhibit hall opening at 7:30 a.m., so take time throughout the day to shop and pick up useful information from the various exhibitors and agency representatives. During breakfast, a few tables will be reserved for those first time attendees who would like to stop by and meet Membership Committee members and other first time attendees.

Silent Auction donations continue to come in, and the Affiliates and the Executive Success Teams are donating gift baskets to the Silent Auction. There is still time to donate items and/or your talents and skills to the auction. Of course, we encourage you to shop for yourself or others from both the vendor booths and the Silent Auction on the day of the conference. This year's Silent Auction has some spectacular items for your bidding pleasure. Whether you are looking for a wonderful themed basket for a gift, a unique piece of handmade jewelry, or reservations at a nice restaurant or hotel, the Silent Auction is the place to see who is supporting our organization. Don't miss your chance to bid on exercise classes, tickets to different events, gift certificates, the massage you have been craving, and many other interesting and unique items. Come see what so many generous businesses and individuals have donated to fund EWTG scholarships. The bidding begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Don't let the others outbid you! It's a fun way to bring a little of the conference back home with you.

Our Development Committee and others have outdone themselves this year, with close to \$20,000 in sponsorship donations. The sponsors are listed on the conference web page and also at the end of this newsletter. Please thank them and support their businesses.

To learn more about the conference and registration, visit the conference website at <http://conference.ewtg.org>. Online registration is encouraged; online registrations will receive an immediate confirmation/invoice. You may also register by mail or by fax. Payment is required prior to the conference date.

For questions, please email the Conference Chair, Heather Hall, at vicepres@ewtg.org, or Michele Schwartz, EWTG Executive Director, at ewtg@ewtg.org.



Life at the Speed of Fast

Linda Larsen, CSP, © Copyright 2003

Let's face it. Everything has sped up. It's as if someone has wound the clock up too tight and the hands are flying around at twice their normal speed. People walk fast, talk fast, and think fast. You can now read e-mail, talk on the phone, eat lunch, and work on a report all at the same time. You can watch the morning news on television AND read the world headlines scroll across the bottom of the screen at the same time. You can go on vacation and never miss a beat as you continue to conduct your business via e-mail, voicemail, laptop, and Palm Pilot. And don't forget the Internet, Ethernet, hypertext, subtext, subplot and finally – burial plot.

I don't know about you, but I get tired just thinking about all this. And here's the scary part: I'd better find a way to deal with this, or go buy a house on Walden Pond, because it's not going away. So what's a person to do here? You know, a person who likes to eat, pay the mortgage and take a vacation once in a while. It seems that I've got two choices: either I can find a way to keep up and survive, or stick out my lower lip, dig in my heels and disappear in the dust.

OK, so let's say our choice is to keep up and, not only survive, but actually thrive. And more than thrive – downright flourish! How do we do it? Consider the following ideas.

Accept it. It's not going away. NO ONE wants to hear me complain about how "bad" it is. And if I tell you that I'm exhausted because I only got five hours sleep last night – there is a strong possibility that you only got four and are not whining and griping.

Take exquisite care of your goose. Don't expect a beat-up run down, ill-cared-for automobile to perform like the "ultimate driving machine." It can't do it. Accordingly consider the following 4 areas:

Physically. Come on. EAT RIGHT! Stop with the sugar, caffeine, alcohol, smoking, no sleep, no water, processed junk food. Eat more raw fruits and vegetables. Exercise. You know the drill. But DO IT!

Emotionally. Love, hug, smile, guffaw, cry, be moved. Shower the people you love with love. Thank people. Give bouquets of gratitude. Strengthen your relationships.

Mentally. Learn something new every single day. Force yourself to think outside your self-imposed limitations. Entertain new possibilities. Stretch. Learn (happily and willingly) by failure. Dance, sing, juggle, build a doghouse.

Spiritually. By whatever beliefs you hold to be true, honor your Spiritual nature. This might simply be through prayer, meditation or service. But whatever it is, consider it vital to your overall well-being.

Schedule in your recovery time. Yes. Actually log it in your calendar. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 7 a.m., Walk for 30 minutes! Monday through Friday, 5:30p.m to 5:45 p.m. - close the door, turn off the lights, and shut off the phone. Sit in silence and focus on your copious blessings.

Clean it up! You will work so much more efficiently when your environment is lean and clean. Throw out the old magazines, clean off your desk top, donate the items in your home that you know you are not actually going to ever use. Let's face it. I am NOT going to use that camping gear again!

Simplify. Here's the deal: The more toys I have, the more maintenance I have to do. AND the more space I have to create to house the toys. AND the more hours I have to work to buy, insure, and house the toys. Just hang around with friends who have all the toys you like. Let them do all the work.

The bell has been rung, the horses are out of the gate and the pace has been set. Your goal is to run the race with as much power, stamina and clarity as possible. By implementing the above five ideas, not only will you be able to be tremendously effective and successful in your endeavors, but you can enjoy the process as much as the outcomes.

2008 Affiliate Officers

Houston Affiliate:

Sherbert L. Mims, Chair

houstonchair@ewtg.org

Tammerriol J. Smith, Chair-Elect

houstonchairelect@ewtg.org

Terry Boyce, Secretary

houstonsecretary@ewtg.org

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-chair

Abigail Bailey, Special Projects Chair

Glenda Wall, Communications Chair

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

Houston Affiliate News

Twenty seven Affiliate members and guests were wowed by the September 25th performance of "The Color Purple". This fun filled evening really helped to lift our spirits after the ordeal of Hurricane Ike. Kudos go to Social Co-Chairs Charlotte Booker and Brenda McCoy for spearheading this event and securing such great seats. This performance was enjoyed so much that options for the next outing are already being explored!

Major agenda items for our October 9th meeting were Affiliate donations for the EWTG Conference Silent Auction, election of new officers, and plans for a November membership drive. The Affiliate is already offering a discount to those who join on their first meeting, but is looking to develop other membership enticements.

Please join us for our next meeting November 6th, 12 Noon, Rm. 4B/4C at the Elias Ramirez State Office Building, 5425 Polk Street. For additional information, contact Sherbert Mims, Affiliate Chair, at houstonchair@ewtg.org.

Dallas Affiliate News

The Dallas Affiliate's November 13th meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the A.W. Harris Faculty Club, South Campus, UT Southwestern Medical School, 5323 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas. This month's program features Heidi Nichols from the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Ms. Nichols will explain the program and how to participate. If you wish to participate, you will be given an opportunity to select an angel at this meeting. Participants will purchase their gift(s) and bring them to the December 4th meeting so that all the gifts can be delivered to the Salvation Army by December 8th. Please contact Bhavini Patel, EWTG Communications Director, if you are interested in attending and participating, at 214.645.3046 or bhavini.patel@utsouthwestern.edu.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Kathy Arellano	Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Sandra Armstrong	Texas Department of State Health Services
Louanna Barbosa	Office of the Attorney General
Nancy Behn	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Vivian Brandt	Texas Department of State Health Services
Brendia Brooks	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Diana Burns	Texas Department of State Health Services
Jo Ann Castille	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Jennifer Colehower	Texas Workforce Commission
Susanna Cutrone	Texas Workforce Commission
Robbi Driggers	Texas Department of Transportation
Gavra Flood	Texas Workforce Commission
Betty Flores	Texas Department of State Health Services
Tamara Galbi	Texas Workforce Commission
Araceli Garcia	Employees Retirement System
Rita Garza	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Gwen Grigsby	The University of Texas at Austin
Sandra Goins	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Mary Cay Gold	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Stephanie Hall-Heffner	Houston-Galveston Area Council
Nancy Haros	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Shawna Harrison	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Megan Henderson	Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Lisa Houdek	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Yvonne Howze	Texas Department of State Health Services
Nancy Klingman	City of Lakeway
Nancy Larsen	Office of Injured Employee Counsel
Luz Loza	Office of Injured Employee Counsel
Donna McCain	Commission on State Emergency Communications
Kelly McIntosh	Office of Court Administration
Sam Manning	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Irma Mendoza	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Janet Messick	Texas Department of State Health Services
Judy Mintier	Texas Department of State Health Services
Mashid Moaddeb	Texas Department of State Health Services
Carol Morgan	The University of Texas at Austin
Catherine Parsonault	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Terri Peirce	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Elizabeth Perez	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Mary Lou Ralls	Retired
Lera Robinson	Houston-Galveston Area Council
Karen Sanders	Employees Retirement System
Mary Ann Shallberg	University of Houston Clear Lake
Aimee Sharp	Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections
Janie Spears	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kim Stewart	Texas Department of State Health Services
Vangie Stice-Israel	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Sheila Swanson	Texas Department of State Health Services
Marie Virtue	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Kristi Vorce	Teacher Retirement System
Evie Walberg	Texas Department of State Health Services
Margaret Weaver	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Michelle Zadrozny	Human Capital Development
Amy Zentmeyer	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Renewing Members

Denice Bettencourt	Texas Department of Transportation
Catherine Brightwell	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lola Brown	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Yvonne Campos	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Donna Carlin	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Dianne Casey	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Nina Chamness	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Elaine Chaney	Office of Injured Employee Counsel
Abbie Hinesly Cole	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Mary Ann Cook	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Sherri Conner	Texas Department of State Health Services
Lee Ann Dann	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Ruth Ann Doss	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Anne Dvorak	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Margaret Earnest	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Hettie Fastenau	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Elizabeth Ford	Retired
Kathy Friar	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Carolyn Fry	Employees Retirement System
Jackie Hopmann	Retired
Tanya Gauthreaux	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Anna Gomez	Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Adriana Gonzalez	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Sandra Guyn	Texas Department of State Health Services
Dee Halliburton	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Joyce Hennington	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Lisa Hondek	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Kerry Howard	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Mitzy Jimenez	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Jennifer Jones	Legislative Budget Board
Christina Kaiser	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Melissa Kangera	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Annette Lara	Texas Department of State Health Services
Gayle Latham	County Information Resources Agency
Pamela Legate	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Rosa Lehman	Texas Department of State Health Services
Cynthia Lopez	Legislative Budget Board
Kelly Lowe	Texas Legislative Council
Margie McAllister	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Dede McEachern	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Candy McMullen	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Elma Medina	Texas Department of State Health Services
Charlotte Melder	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Janet Messick	Texas Department of State Health Services
Melissa Nelson	Legislative Budget Board
Toni Oldfather	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Del Randall	Texas Department of State Health Services
Lula Schuler	Texas Department of Public Safety
Joyce Spencer	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Angie Stabeno	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mary Alice Teal	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Sidne Tiemann	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Melanie Trimble	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lora Weber	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Chloe Whalom	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Sandra Young	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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