



Developing leaders to  
create positive results  
in Texas government.



PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

OCTOBER 2008

## October 22th Monthly Luncheon

### A Conversation with Sally Brown



Please join EWTG at the last monthly luncheon of 2008. On October 22, we will be honored to have as our guest Sally Brown. Sally Brown is a mother of four, wife of UT-Longhorns Head Football Coach Mack Brown, and veteran real estate investor with degrees in both nursing and architecture. Sally began her real estate investing career as a single mom in North Carolina. She divided her land/horse farm and began building

houses she had designed on part of the land. She then built her architecture/land development business, Marin Development, before meeting Mack Brown and supporting him in his football coaching career that lead them to Austin to coach the University of Texas-Longhorns Football Team.

Coach Brown stresses 'family' in his program and Sally enhances it as the chief architect of the UT family atmosphere. She cares about the players and coaches. Players say they confide in Sally about everything – their families, their girlfriends, their successes and failures. Recruits call and tell her about their big games and prom dates. She often has insight on a recruit or on a player's problems that changes their lives. She is as close to the UT football players as a staff member could be.

On September 24, Mack and Sally Brown were presented with the 17th Harvey Penick Humanitarian Award by Caritas of Austin. The press release announcing the honor stated "Sally and Mack Brown have improved the lives of so many with their inspiring leadership roles and positive actions and follow Caritas's path of trying to make a difference one person at a time".

While many know her as the coach's wife or Mrs. Mack Brown, Sally Brown's contributions and influence with the players, other coaches and their wives, as well as this community are admirable and inspiring. While she is a private person, EWTG is very fortunate to have Sally's agreement to visit us on October 22 for an interesting conversation with her.

Make your reservations for October 22 for a very interesting and informative presentation. Reservations can be made by emailing [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto: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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### October 15 Last Day for Conference Early Registration

Deadline for early conference registration is October 15. After this date, rates for members and non-members increase to \$199 and \$249, respectively.

### October 22 Austin Monthly Luncheon

Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio at noon. Luncheon speaker features "A Conversation with Sally Brown," mother of 4 and wife of U.T. Coach Mack Brown. For information and reservations, contact [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org) or call 512.248.2044.

### November 24 EWTG 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference

EWTG's 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pick up registration packets beginning at 7:00 a.m., with opening General Session at 8:30 a.m. To register on-line, see the program, and 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.

## Inside This Issue

- Page 2 President's Corner "Board Service"
- Page 3 President; Mini-Course
- Page 4 Affiliates; Members
- Page 5 Annual Conference Information
- Page 6 Conference Sponsors

EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT IS A NON-PARTISAN ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES LEADERSHIP IN SERVICE TO TEXAS BY OFFERING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

## 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

### **Board Service: Responsibilities and Reward**

Susan Durso, President

During the last few weeks, I have been working with Lynn Whitten, the Nominations Chair, and the members of her committee, Mary Castleberry, Barrie Cogburn and Shannon Kelley, to identify a slate of officers for the 2009 EWTG Board of

Directors. The Nominations Committee has an important job and must consider many things when seeking good board candidates. It is important that potential board members understand their positions and the time commitment of that position before volunteering to serve. Here are some other things to think about if you are interested in board membership.

EWTG is a non-profit corporation and as such it is governed by its bylaws and state and federal laws relating to the operation of non-profit corporations. Board members are volunteers who serve without recompense, which means that board service is its own reward. The Board is responsible for managing and guiding the affairs of the organization. Board service requires a time commitment. Each board position has assigned duties and oversees one or more committees that are a part of the organization's volunteer structure for achieving its mission.

In carrying out board responsibilities, the law imposes three duties on board members: the duties of due care, loyalty to the corporation and obedience to the law.

Due care requires board members to discharge their duties in the same manner as a reasonably prudent person in a like position under similar circumstances. To exercise such prudence, it is expected that an officer will actively participate in the management of the organization, including attending board meetings, evaluating reports, reading minutes, and reviewing the performance of the executive director. Officers also are expected to request and receive sufficient information so that they may make reasonable inquiries into issues or pose questions about a report that on its face does not make sense as, well as make fact-based decisions for the good of the organization.

The duty of loyalty requires that decisions regarding the organization's funds and activities must promote the organization's mission rather than private interest. Transactions should be scrutinized for potential conflicts. Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the organization. Proper stewardship requires that the organization's assets are applied to its mission. In general, a charitable corporation may not lend money to an officer or director. So, EWTG is operated on a reimbursement basis with the exception of board-established operating expenses incurred by the Executive Director. One of the board's responsibilities is to oversee the organization's financial affairs, to ensure that there are adequate internal accounting systems and controls, and to approve the annual budget.

*President's Corner continued on page 3*

**President's Corner: Continued from page 2**

Lastly, board members have a duty of obedience, which means a duty to follow the organization's governing documents (Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws), to carry out the organization's mission, and to ensure that funds are used for lawful purposes. Furthermore, the board must ensure that EWTG complies with state and federal laws that relate to the way in which the organization conducts its business. Charitable corporations are required to keep minutes of its board meetings and a record of all actions taken by committees of the board of directors.

The commitment of EWTG board members to carry out their duties has fostered many of our successes over the last 24 years. Many out-going board members report a sense of pride and honor as well as increased knowledge and skills because of their service on the EWTG board.

John Ruskin, a social theorist, noted that the highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it. I suspect that Mr. Ruskin served on a non-profit board.

## President – Susan Durso

The President serves as the leader of the Board of Directors and the membership, including the Affiliates. The President's prior participation in EWTG activities provides a network from which the President draws for appointees to committees under her direction, including the community service committee, the educational event committee, the bylaws committee, the nominations committee and any ad hoc committees the President appoints during her year-long tenure. The President organizes board orientation in January, and conducts the board meetings throughout the year. In addition, the President supervises the Executive Director. The President and Executive Director work in concert with the Vice President (conference chair) to identify the keynote speakers for the annual conference. During the year, the President works closely with the President-Elect to mentor her on the duties of President. The President is a member of the Finance Committee and is an ex officio member of all committees. Each month the President writes the President's Corner of the newsletter and reviews the newsletter draft before it is issued. The President is also mentor to other board members, especially first-time board members.

Although the President's job is high-profile, it is only a part of the volunteer efforts of the board members in Austin, Dallas and Houston, and the many committee chairs and committee volunteers.

This year, Susan Durso holds the position of President. Susan is the General Counsel of the Texas Residential Construction Commission and a long time member of EWTG. In the past Susan has served on the Silent Auction Committee and chaired the Silent Auction and Community Service Committees. She has held the position of Affiliates Chair on the board twice and served as the President-elect before her current position. Susan is also a member of a long-standing Executive Success Team, which calls itself the "Ments."

## On-line Social Networking – What is it? What are the Benefits?

Speaker: Jon Lebkowsky

October 8, 2008 – EWTG Mini-Course

Do you get invitations to join various social networks such as LinkedIn and others? Many of us do, but we may not be sure what it means. Our last mini-course of the year featured Jon Lebkowsky, an authority on social media, online community, technoculture, web strategy, and Internet trends, who talked about social networking and what it is, the benefits, tools, etc. Jon is an author and blogger who has also worked as a consultant, CEO, technology director, project manager, systems analyst, and online community developer. Austin mini-courses resume in February.

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

## 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**

## Houston Affiliate News

The Houston Affiliate's normal meeting site, The Elias Ramirez State Office Building, was officially closed at 12:00 Noon on September 11, 2008, due to the pending arrival of Hurricane Ike. The Affiliate had been looking forward to an informative presentation by an investment counselor that day, before the meeting was cancelled. To the best of our knowledge, our members have weathered the storm fairly well; however, several members are still without electricity.

Performances of "The Color Purple" were cancelled immediately after the hurricane, but have resumed. The Houston Affiliate attended "The Color Purple" on September 25th and dined at the theater prior to the performance.

Please join us for our next regularly scheduled meeting on October 9th, 12:00 noon, in conference room 2E/2F at the Elias Ramirez State Office Building, 5425 Polk Street. For additional information, contact Sherbert Mims, Houston Affiliate Chair, at houstonchair@ewtg.org.

Through October, the Houston Affiliate 2008 Membership Drive offers any guest who joins at her first meeting a \$10 discount off the membership fee for the first year. A new member can join for \$40 instead of \$50.

## 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**

## Dallas Affiliate News

The Dallas Affiliate's October 9th luncheon seminar features Nancy Barry, Speaker and Author of Gen Y Expert. Nancy Barry, a 25-year corporate veteran, walked away from what she describes as "the best job in the world" to share her extensive business experience with others. She firmly believes "soft skills" are the key to success in business. Join the Dallas affiliates on October 9th at 11:30 p.m. at UT Southwestern North Campus, NB2.100A, 2201 Inwood Road, Dallas. To RSVP for lunch and seminar contact Vicki Moores at 214.648.0801 or Vicki.Moores@UTSouthwestern.edu by October 7th.

Through October, the Dallas Affiliate 2008 Membership Drive offers any guest who joins at her first meeting a \$10 discount off the membership fee for the first year. A new member can join for \$40 instead of \$50.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

Annita Herrera	Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
Debbie Fecteau	Office of Attorney General
Deborah Arellano	Texas Residential Construction Commission
Karen Campbell	Comptroller of Public Accounts
Leticia Kappel	Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists
Misty Boif	State Securities Board
Pamela Wood	State Office of Administrative Hearings

### Renewing Members

Chris Guerrero	Texas Department of State Health Services
Clare Dyer	Texas Legislative Council
Suzanne Carter	Texas Department of State Health Services

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, November 24, 2008

## 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference ~ Hyatt Lost Pines Resort

Registration for EWTG's 22nd Annual Professional Development Conference began September 1st. Registration for members and non-members is \$169 and \$199, respectively, with rates increasing after October 15th to \$199 and \$249, respectively.

The conference committees have worked hard all year and are very excited about the entire program, including the keynote speakers, Dr. Tina Dupree, who will present nine powerful, proven, and practical strategies for a more successful, healthier, and happier life; and Major General K.C. McClain, Commander of the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base.

More than 45 presenters have been confirmed to lead 36 workshops, lectures and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics, including budgeting, coaching, project management, technology, workforce planning, communications, change management, cultural diversity, training, workplace challenges, financial and retirement planning, career planning, life balance, and other management and leadership topics.

Silent Auction donations continue to come in, and vendors and exhibitors are being added weekly. The Executive Success Teams have been asked to consider donating a gift basket to the Silent Auction, in support of the EWTG Scholarship Program. You are also invited to donate items and/or your talents and skills to the auction, and of course, on the day of the conference, we encourage you to shop for yourself or for others from both the vendor booths and the Silent Auction.

We have a number of sponsors this year, thanks to the efforts of Mary Anne Clement and her Development Committee. The sponsors are listed on the conference web page and also at the end of this newsletter. Please thank them and support their businesses. This year, 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 at the EWTG mini-course and luncheon and on the day of the conference. This is a must-be-present-to-win event, and the drawing will be held following the afternoon keynote speaker presentation.

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. Register by October 15th for the lower rate.

For questions, please email the Conference Chair, Heather Hall, at [vicepres@ewtg.org](mailto:vicepres@ewtg.org), or Michele Schwartz, EWTG Executive Director, at [ewtg@ewtg.org](mailto:ewtg@ewtg.org).

### 2008 Conference Sponsors

#### Silver Sponsors



<http://www.deloitte.com/>

Audit - Tax - Consulting - Financial Advisory



<http://www.maximus.com/corporate/pages/>

Helping Government Serve the People



<http://www.southwest.com/>

LUV is Freedom from Fees

## 2008 Conference Sponsors

### Bronze Sponsors



<http://www.arc-texas.com/web/>

Your IT Solutions Partner:  
Hardware, Services, Staff Augmentation



**Decide with Confidence**

<http://www.dnb.com/gov/index.html>

Government Solutions – helping agencies transform disparate sources of business data into actionable information, intelligence and insight



<http://www.dcsdq.com/>

Providing Qualified IT Professionals –The DCS Difference is the Partnerships We Create



<http://phoenix.edu/>

Thinking Ahead.  
Earn your college degree without putting your life on hold.



<http://www.texasgovlink.com/>

Management consulting and technology outsourcing  
- delivering the right team for the right project



<http://www.rhyan.com/>

Completing IT projects efficiently and cost-effectively with skilled IT professionals and turnkey services