



## EWTG STAR

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### Fourth Quarter Scholarships



EWTG scholarships are awarded on a quarterly basis to those wanting an opportunity for professional advancement or personal growth.

### President's Corner - A Time for Thanks and a Look Back on the Year Shannon Kelley, President

It's hard for me to believe the year is almost over. The 2009 Board of Directors made some significant changes to the organization that I believe will continue to benefit EWTG for many years to come. Hiring CMP Management, a full-time management company, to replace our part-time executive director has already begun to reap significant benefits. The CMP staff worked hard to support the conference committee as part of our 23rd Annual Professional Development Conference. They also helped facilitate a new online conference registration process and secured a \$3,000 sponsor for the conference reception. CMP provided the electronic platform to enable online registration for luncheons and mini-courses. Members can also join and renew their membership online. I would like to extend my thanks to the Executive Director Search Committee, Joelyn Weeks, Jan Thomas, Penny Johnson, Barrie Cogburn and Carol Lauder for their efforts in leading us toward this paradigm shift. I hope this change can be the legacy of the 2009 board.



The board was supported by some other remarkable committee chairs. Connie Williams chaired the Community Service Committee, which helped EWTG members give back through a number of meaningful activities, including a backpack and school supply drive for the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders and Mobile Loaves and Fishes. The committee also collected Christmas cards for soldiers and veterans for Soldiers' Angels at the EWTG Conference, as well as organized several other worthwhile projects. Shelly Baumgartner led the Scholarship Committee in redesigning the scholarship forms to help make them more user-friendly and to provide more information to the guide the board in making scholarship decisions. Denise Pittard chaired the Legislative Affairs Committee and

All interested members are encouraged to apply; financial need is not a factor. Take a moment to treat yourself to a course you have been putting off or a conference you would love to attend.

Guidelines for qualifying for a scholarship and applications are available on the EWTG website in the Forms and Documents section at [ewtg.org](http://ewtg.org). The Scholarship Committee will accept applications for this quarter until 5:00 p.m. on December 31st.

#### 2009 EWTG Board Meetings



The 2009 EWTG Board holds its monthly meetings at the Carver Library in Austin on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The agenda for each meeting

provided an in-depth look at legislative changes to the membership at a monthly mini-course. Jane Haney Rivera chaired the Educational Events Committee and provided members with two amazing events - a tour of Austin museums led by Austin Parks and Recreation staff, and a boat cruise of Town Lake to see our very own bat colony. Gerda Sessions and the Development Committee had a record year of fundraising, despite the challenging economic climate, and raised \$13,500 in sponsorships. Not content to rest of her laurels, Gerda spent a good portion of this year's conference obtaining sponsor commitments for 2010. Susan Durso continued her support of EWTG by chairing the Nominations Committee, which put together a remarkable slate of women to lead EWTG in 2010. I am so thankful to these women who volunteered their time and talents to help us accomplish our organization's mission of providing professional development opportunities for our members.

I would also like to thank Susan Durso, Lynn Whitten, and Joelyn Weeks, who served as my advisors when I had questions or needed support. Their guidance always helped me to see things more clearly.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the 2009 Board of Directors. Each board member took her role and the responsibility of the organization seriously and worked diligently to represent the membership. Board service is incredibly rewarding but also time-consuming, and the board members never wavered in their commitment to EWTG. The organization is stronger for their service.

And, I want to thank each of you, the membership. Your participation at luncheons, mini-courses, annual conference, Executive Success Teams, and educational events continues to add to the richness of this organization of amazing women and leaders. The enthusiasm of the membership makes it a joy to serve on the board.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the 2009 EWTG President. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you. I am confident the 2010 Board of Directors will continue to carry on the legacy of excellence established by previous boards. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Shannon Kelley  
President

#### **EWTG Annual Holiday Luncheon and Installation of 2010 Officers**

Please join us at Green Pastures on Tuesday, December 15th at 11:30 a.m. for our members-only Holiday Luncheon. At this annual celebration, EWTG members come together to

will be posted on EWTG's website by noon on the Monday before the meeting.

A summary of the board meeting minutes is also posted on the website. You can view them by clicking on "Forms and Documents."

#### Committee Volunteers Needed



Please look over the Committee Descriptions on the EWTG website under Forms and Documents and consider becoming more active in the organization.

Participating on a committee is a great way to support EWTG, learn new skills and to meet other interesting executive women. As with so many things, "the more you give, the more you get."

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acknowledge our accomplishments, bid farewell to the outgoing Board of Directors and welcome incoming Board members. Our menu will include a house salad, lemon rosemary chicken, which includes a grilled rosemary chicken breast, sun-dried tomatoes and fresh mozzarella with lemon-caper butter, 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 \$25. If you require a vegetarian option, you will be able to select one through online registration.

Don't forget to bring a new teddy bear to share with children at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas. Ronald McDonald House has requested that bears be small to medium, or "holding" size.

### EWTG's 23rd Annual Professional Development Conference, 25 Years of Developing Leaders, a Success!

More than 900 participated in EWTG's 23rd Annual Professional Development conference on November 23, 2009. Two inspirational keynote speakers and more than 16 conference sponsors, 45 exhibitors, and 39 workshop presenters contributed to the conference success.



In a packed ballroom at the morning general session, former Texas colleague and EWTG board member, Dr. Wanda Thompson, Associate Senior Vice President of Operations, State University of New York, began the conference with a thought-provoking discussion about the qualities of great leaders.

The morning general session was also the setting for the announcement of the 2009 EWTG Woman of the Year. Barrie Cogburn. Barrie, a long-time EWTG member and former



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board member, was honored for her many contributions to EWTG as well as her professional and personal accomplishments.

A surprise guest, Senator John Cornyn, closed the morning session by remarking on the importance of public service. Senator Cornyn also honored EWTG's 25th anniversary with a special certificate.

Participants enjoyed three workshops each, choosing from a selection of 39 different workshops. Participants also enjoyed networking opportunities and visits with Exhibitors between general sessions and workshops. A center point of the conference includes the Silent Auction that raises funds for scholarships enjoyed by different EWTG members during the year to achieve certain professional development goals. More than 100 donated items brought in more than \$5,000 for the EWTG Scholarship Fund. Over 45 Exhibitors supported this year's conference, including sponsors and state agencies. EWTG members are encouraged to support these exhibitors at their business locations during the year.

The luncheon general session featured Sara Lashever, author, who challenged participants to improve their negotiation skills as a way to advance themselves professionally and personally. She also shared examples of the financial implications improved negotiation skills, as well as strategies women can use to ask for what they really want - at work and at home. Ms. Lashever is the author of *Women Don't Ask: The High Cost of Avoiding Negotiation--and Positive Strategies for Change* and *Ask For It: How Women Can Use the Power of Negotiation to Get What They Really Want*.

The conference success is due to the many volunteers who made the conference possible. The Conference Committee Chairs and their committees, workshop presenters, and session moderators donated countless hours of planning, development, and work guaranteeing the conference's success.

Please watch for an email notification about the conference evaluations. The Evaluation Committee will send out electronic conference evaluations in early December. Your feedback is important to measure success and learn improvement opportunities for next year's conference. If you include your name and email address with your evaluation, you will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$50 gift cards - just in time for the holidays.

The 2010 Conference Committee is already gearing up for EWTG's 24th Annual Professional Development Conference, scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2010. Save the date for the next spectacular EWTG conference experience.

## EWTG 2009 Woman of the Year - Barrie Cogburn



Barrie Cogburn, a long-time EWTG member and former board member, was named the 2009 EWTG Woman of the Year at EWTG's 23rd Annual Professional Development Conference on November 23, 2009. The award acknowledges Barrie's significant contributions to EWTG, her profession, and her community.

In a packed ballroom of over 900 participants, the announcement came as a video tribute to Barrie's many accomplishments in her work, community, and EWTG. Barrie was presented with an engraved crystal award celebrating her selection. She was received on stage by past EWTG Woman of the Year award recipients and joined by her mother, father and some close friends.

Barrie has served on the EWTG board as Vice-President, Membership Director, and Public Relations Director; she has also been active on many committees throughout the years. She has been an instrumental member on the Nominations Committee, Community Service Committee, Scholarship Committee, and most recently the Executive Director Search Committee assisting the board with a transition to an association management company. She has been an active member of an EWTG Executive Success Team since 2003 and served as her team's facilitator for two years.

Currently employed by the Texas Department of Transportation, Barrie is the Director of the Landscape and Enhancement Section of the Design Division. Barrie graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture. She is a 2008 graduate of the Leadership Texas program.

In addition to her EWTG participation, Barrie devotes countless hours to the Austin community. She currently serves as committee secretary for Northwest Hills United Methodist Church and is in her third year of a three-year term as a Trustee of the Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. In 2006, she completed 50 hours of training to become a Stephen Minister in her church congregation. She also served in a mentor/big sister relationship to young girls at the Settlement Home in Austin from 1987-1992.

Barrie epitomizes the EWTG values that represent the best of who we are as women and as leaders. In everything she does, she maintains a positive outlook and great sense of humor.

**Recap from the October Mini-course**  
**Amy Praskac, Owner, On the Record -**  
**"Where will your family's vital records be when you**  
**need them?"**

**Preparation.** Can you locate your family's vital records in case of an emergency? If not, you need to seriously consider a strategy for recording and storing vital family records. You should keep a list of all of your important numbers and contacts. Essential documents include birth certificates, social security cards, medical cards, passports, drivers' licenses, military records, credit cards, current wills, advanced directives, durable and medical powers of attorney, insurance policies (life, health, disability, long term care), beneficiary information, bank accounts, employment records, investments, inventory of valuables, retirement accounts, and burial plot deeds.

**Organization.** Organizing your family records is very important and well worth the time putting your family's critical information in place and keeping it up to date. List names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who would be helpful in an emergency; list real estate and personal property; and identify a central spot where records and papers are kept. This central spot can be a secured computer folder or a hard bound notebook. Consider securing a second set in a safe deposit box.

**Preplanning.** How expensive should your overall burial arrangements be? Do you want to donate your organs or tissues? Do you want your body cremated? What is your preferred resting place? What about your obituary? For burial information, a recommended resource is the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society, a funeral consumer's alliance ([www.fcaambis.org](http://www.fcaambis.org)).

**Communication.** Discuss your wishes with loved ones/trusted friends then write everything down. It's important to document everything, because loved ones are often overwhelmed in a crisis and unlikely to remember or all agree in their recollection of what was said.

Call Amy Praskac at 512-371-3624 or see [www.ontherecordorganizing.com](http://www.ontherecordorganizing.com) for more information.

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