



STAR

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January 28th Monthly Luncheon

Speaker: Ellen Richards, Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders



Help EWTG kick off its new year by making plans to attend the first monthly meeting in 2009 at the Austin Woman's Club on January 28th.

Ellen Richards, Advisory Board Chair of Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, is scheduled to speak. As Chair of the school's Advisory Board, Richards guides a group of community leaders in advocating for the school and its students with the school district and in the community and in state and national forums.

Richards' professional background includes positions with city and county government and political campaigns in project management, strategic planning, fundraising, and grassroots organizing. She earned a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

For information on the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, go to: www.AnnRichardsSchool.org.

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, located at 708 San Antonio Street.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 8 Houston Affiliate Meeting

12:00 noon in Room 2E/2F of the Elias Ramirez State Office Bldg, 5425 Polk Street. Join us for our first meeting of the year. For additional information, contact Tammerriol Smith at houstonchair@ewtg.org.

January 8 Dallas Affiliate Meeting

6:30 p.m. at the Auxiliary Enterprises Meeting Room, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 6111 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas. This month's seminar features Sue Parrigin, RN and EMT-Paramedic, speaking on 'What to do until the first responders arrive'. Meal cost is \$10-15. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Jan 6th to Bhavini Patel, 214.645.3046 bhavini.patel@utsouthwestern.edu

January 14 No Mini-course in January

The Austin mini-courses will resume on the second Wednesday of February at noon.

January 28 Austin Monthly Luncheon

Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio at noon. Speaker: Ellen Richards, Advisory Board Chair of the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. For information and reservations, contact ewtg@ewtg.org or call 512.248.2044.

Are you receiving the EWTG emails? If you're having trouble receiving some email messages, please make sure you ask your IT department or professionals to WHITELIST the email address ewtg@ewtg.org

You can also alert Executive Director, Michele Schwartz, to the problem for investigation at ewtg@ewtg.org or 248-2044.

2009 OFFICERS

President: Shannon Kelley
Department of Information Resources

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Comptroller of Public Accounts

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Retired, Employees Retirement System
of Texas

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www.ewtg.org



President's Corner

Strategies for Success in 2009

Shannon Kelley, President

Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 finds you rested and ready for another exciting and productive year. After 10 straight years of promising to exercise more and failing, I've stopped making New Year's resolutions. However, Susan Steeg's

wonderful discussion on leadership, as she installed the 2009 EWTG board of directors, has me rethinking my position on resolutions.

During the December luncheon, Judge Steeg discussed the amazing story of Sir Ernest Shackleton. He led a crew of 28 men on the ship *Endurance* on a trans-Antarctic expedition that began in 1914. On January 19, 1915, the *Endurance* became stuck in an ice floe. On February 24, 1915, realizing that the ship would be trapped until the following spring, Shackleton abandoned it and spent 22 months in the Antarctic, wintering on ice floes, sailing in lifeboats, crossing 800 miles in open seas, and ultimately saving the lives of every member of his crew.

Dennis N.T. Perkins, with Margaret P. Holtman, Paul R. Kessler and Catherine McCarthy, used this story in their book "Leading at the Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition" to describe ten strategies that can be used by leaders today:

1. Never lose sight of the ultimate goal, and focus energy on the short term objective;
2. Set a personal example with visible, memorable symbols and behavior;
3. Instill optimism and self-confidence, but stay grounded in reality;
4. Take care of yourself; maintain your stamina and let go of guilt;
5. Reinforce the team message constantly;
6. Minimize status differences and insist on courtesy and mutual respect;
7. Master conflict – deal with anger in small doses, engage dissidents, and avoid needless power struggles;
8. Find something to celebrate and something to laugh about;
9. Be willing to take The Big Risk; and
10. Never give up - there is always another move.

I particularly like part of number seven – "engage dissidents". The board of directors understands that our job is to represent the entire membership in our decision-making. Despite this, there may be times that you disagree with us, or question a plan or decision we make. I encourage you to reach out to us and discuss your concerns. We welcome your input on all of our activities. I plan to post the board agendas and meeting minutes on the EWTG website to improve organizational transparency and help members better understand board decisions.

President's Corner continued on page 3

President's Corner: Continued from page 2

Similarly, you may have ideas for improving EWTG's processes or activities. Please do not hesitate to share your insights and expertise with us. EWTG is fortunate to have so many amazing, talented women among its ranks. Our organization is stronger when we can work together to achieve our common goals of mentorship and professional development.

I think the strategies developed as a result of Ernest Shackleton's heroism are extremely relevant as we set goals for our professional and personal lives. While they may not be resolutions per se, I plan to try and adopt as many of these guidelines as I can in the coming year. Who knows, maybe I'll finally get around to implementing that exercise plan, too.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with each of you for a productive and rewarding 2009.

Donation made to Carver Library, Austin

Susan Durso, EWTG 2008 President, thanked Steve Reich, the manager of the Carver Library branch, and presented him with a donation of \$1,200 from EWTG to the Carver Library in appreciation for all the support we receive from the library. Among the frequent meetings EWTG holds at the Carver Library are the monthly mini-courses and monthly board meetings, and other committee meetings are also held at the library on occasion.

Deadline for 1st Quarter Scholarships -- March 30th

EWTG scholarships are awarded on a quarterly basis to those wanting an opportunity for professional advancement or personal growth. 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@ewtg.org. The Scholarship Committee will accept applications for this quarter on a continuous basis until 5:00 p.m. on March 30th.

EWTG 2009 Member Directory

The 2009 edition of the EWTG Member Directory will be distributed to members in February as a .pdf document that can be saved or printed. If you have questions, contact us at 512.248.2044.

2008 EWTG Austin Board Meetings

The 2009 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, 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, Executive Director, at ewtg@ewtg.org or 512.248.2044.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW

Meet other members, learn new skills, and make EWTG even better!

2009 committee volunteers are needed. Please look over the Committee Descriptions on the EWTG website under Forms and Documents and consider becoming more active in the organization. A copy of the sign-up form for participating in a committee (also on the website) follows. Actively engaging or 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."

Please circle choice(s).

Sign me up! I'll volunteer for a committee.

Affiliates	Community Service	Development	Educational Events	
Legislative Issues	Member Services	Mentorship	Newsletter	
Public Relations	Retiree	Scholarship Program	Strategic Planning	Website

Sign me up! I'll volunteer for a conference committee.

Evaluation	Exhibits	Facilities	Registration
Silent Auction	Workshops		

Name _____

Agency _____

Email _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Mail to: EWTG

PMB 263, 815-A Brazos Street

Austin, Texas 78701-9996

OR Fax to: 512.276.6586

2009 Affiliate Officers

Houston Affiliate:

Tammerriol Smith, Chair

Carolyn Kirkwood, Chair-Elect

Verna Neal, Secretary

Brenda McCoy, Treasurer

Karen Morse, Parliamentarian

Houston Affiliate News

Outgoing Chair, Sherbert Mims, expressed her gratitude to the 2008 officers and committee chairs for their hard work and support during her tenure. Tammerriol Smith, incoming Chair, presented Sherbert with a crystal plaque in recognition of her leadership as 2008 Affiliate Chair.

A brief installation service was conducted for the 2009 officers. Glenda Wall read the history of the Houston Affiliate prepared by Charlotte Booker. Charlotte gave the new officers their charge by highlighting their duties and responsibilities. Tammerriol concluded by stating that she was very excited about and looking forward to leading the Affiliate in 2009.

Affiliate members and guests were asked to pair up with someone they did not know and spend a few minutes preparing to introduce each other to the group. Many commented that they had often seen their partner or others in the building and had exchanged pleasantries, but knew little about them. Much was learned during this brief mixer! Thanks to Sherbert for a great idea.

The Affiliate hoped to make the holidays brighter for a local nursing home with a gift of toiletries and warm socks. Items collected were delivered to the facility by Carolyn Kirkwood, Chair-Elect.

Other business was quickly concluded so the remainder of the meeting could be spent socializing and enjoying lunch amid the festive decorations. Thanks to Maxine Johnson and Yolanda Chavez for spearheading this event: it was a great way to start the holiday season!

Let 2009 be the year you "invest in yourself". Join us January 8th, 12:00 noon, in room 2E/2F of the Elias Ramirez State Office Bldg, 5425 Polk Street, for the first meeting of the year. For additional information, contact Tammerriol Smith at houstonchair@ewtg.org.

Dallas Affiliate News

The Dallas Affiliate will hold its first 2009 meeting on Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Auxiliary Enterprises Meeting Room, UT Southwestern Medical Center, 6111 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas. This month's seminar features Sue Parrigin, RN and EMT-Paramedic, speaking on 'What to do until the first responders arrive'. Meal cost is \$10-15.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, Jan 6th to Bhavini Patel, 214.645.3046 bhavini.patel@utsouthwestern.edu

The Dallas Affiliate Board will meet at the same location at 5:30 p.m. January 8th, immediately preceding the affiliates meeting.

2009 Dallas Affiliate Officers – to be announced

2009 Affiliate Officers

Dallas Affiliate:

To Be Announced

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Sue Atkinson
 Suzette Ford
 Lourdes Fulton
 Genoveva Minjares
 Vanessa Ross

Texas Department of Information Resources
 Your Local City
 Texas Department of Transportation
 Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company
 Texas Department of State Health Services

Renewing Members

Betsy Brown

Retired

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<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.mitchellwilliamslaw.com>

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<http://www.bcbs.com>

Reliable health insurance coverage, affordable rates, and outstanding service.



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

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



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

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