



EWTG STAR

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June 24 EWTG Luncheon - Rhoda Mae Kerr "Where Does Leadership Come From"

Rhoda Mae Kerr, Austin's Fire Chief, is a fourth-generation firefighter with 26 years experience in the field. Before coming to Austin, she served as the Fire Chief for the city of Little Rock, Arkansas and Assistant Fire Chief at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Chief Kerr has earned a Master's degree in Public Administration, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education and Health, an Associate's degree in Fire Science Technology, and a certification from the Harvard University program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Prior to entering the fire service, Chief Kerr was a coach and physical education teacher at the high school level for 12 years.



Chief Kerr heads the Human Relations Committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, is Southwest Director of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers, and is actively involved as a Rotarian, along with other community and professional organizations. She was a member of the Arkansas Women Executives, Arkansas Women's Leadership Forum, and an active member of the Arkansas State Fire Chief's Association. She is an avid sports enthusiast, enjoying cycling, golf, tennis, and skiing.

For information and reservations, contact EWTG by email at ewtg@ewtg.org or by telephone at 512.248.2044.

Our Sponsors

EWTG Database Migration



Recently EWTG completed a migration of its membership information to an Access database. The new database is a significant improvement over our previous technology. Everything seems to be working smoothly, but a few issues surfaced when some incomplete data was transferred. If you believe you should have received a renewal notice by now, but have not, please email ewtg@ewtg.org and we will resolve the problem.

**June 10 EWTG Mini-Course - Tonya Hofmann
"Getting Out of Your Fear Zone"**



Tonya Hofmann, CEO and Founder of Your Local City, Inc., will talk to members about "Getting Out of Your Fear Zone." In life and business, there are things that hold us back from really reaching our potential. This is usually because of some sort of fear. Tonya's discussion will highlight some of our more common fears and provide strategies for how to remove them from our "Fear Zone"!

Tonya started Your Local City, Inc. four years ago to combine all the marketing for a business into one entity. Now businesses can get advertising, networking and public relations for one low yearly membership fee. Your Local City was a sponsor at the 2008 EWTG Annual Professional Development Conference.

Join us for this exciting presentation at noon on Wednesday, June 10, at the Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. To help you make the most of your lunchtime, EWTG will again have Mangia pizza, fresh green salad, lemonade, iced tea and dessert for \$10 per person, or you can bring your own lunch. Pizza will be served from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The program begins at noon and ends by 1:00 p.m.

For information and reservations, contact EWTG by email at ewtg@ewtg.org or by telephone at 512.248.2044. Please state whether you want to purchase pizza when you make your reservation

Second Quarter Scholarships



**President's Corner-EWTG and Social Networking!
Shannon Kelley, President**

Networking is essential to Executive Women in Texas Government and is one of the reasons the organization was founded. EWTG has entered the expanding world of social networking, thanks to Heather Hall, EWTG Communications Director, and two enterprising members. Heather created an EWTG account on Twitter.

According to Wikipedia, Twitter is "a social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and

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.org. The Scholarship Committee will accept applications for this quarter until 5:00 p.m. on June 30th.

2009 EWTG Board Meetings



read other users' updates known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length that are displayed on the user's profile page and delivered to other users who have subscribed to them (known as followers)."

You can even choose to have these tweets delivered to your phone or your personal digital assistant (PDA) device. Twitter will allow the Communications Committee to provide followers with up to the minute updates about EWTG activities. You can join Twitter and become a "follower" of EWTG at www.twitter.com.



Lara Coffey created the EWTG group on the professional networking site, LinkedIn. LinkedIn, is a growing professional networking site that connects people to business colleagues, employees, clients, community members and friends. Joelyn Weeks, who presented the LinkedIn mini-course on May when Lara fell ill, talked to a packed room about the benefits of LinkedIn, particularly the EWTG Group. Members can search the LinkedIn site and the EWTG Group to access resources and skills information, thus enhancing the networking opportunities with EWTG members. The EWTG Group on LinkedIn also supports a discussion forum for various business questions and topics. Members can enter a question on the discussion form and others can weigh in with thoughts, suggestions, and even lessons learned. You can create your LinkedIn profile and join the EWTG Group at www.linkedin.com.

Cindy Lopez created the EWTG page on Facebook. Facebook is a free-access social networking website. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Like Twitter and LinkedIn, Facebook will enable EWTG to reach our members and the members to connect with each other in new and exciting ways. For example, we can post pictures of EWTG events on Facebook, and members can contact each other to carpool to events, room together at the conference, or let members know about a new job posting at their agency or company. You can sign up for a Facebook account at www.facebook.com. After you have created your profile, type "EWTG" in the Search bar at the top right of your homepage. Click the "Join this Group" button to the right of our name.

I look forward to expanding our network together - online and in person.

Shannon Kelley
President

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

Beginning this month, a summary of the board meeting minutes will also be 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

2009 EWTG Professional Development Conference

In the coming months, we will be telling you more about the cornerstone of our EWTG activities, the Annual Professional Development Conference. Once again, it will be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 23 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines near Bastrop. The theme of the conference is 25 Years of Developing Leaders.

Twenty-five years ago, six visionary women started our organization, and 23 years ago EWTG held its first annual conference. The Conference Committee is working hard to bring you another exciting and dynamic conference. The Hyatt has extended the previous discounts to this year's participants, including 35 percent off spa services and a reduced room rate, which is about \$125 with taxes and the resort fee, a significant savings off their regular room charges.

If, like many of us, you were completely captivated by the hotel's grounds, activities, services, and amazing food, you may want to take a mini-vacation to Lost Pines prior to the conference. For the remainder of 2009, the Hyatt Lost Pines has extended a remarkable offer to EWTG members through its Corporate Partner Discount program. EWTG members will enjoy 15 percent off the "Rate of Day" on all guest room types at the Hyatt Lost Pines, seven days a week, based on availability. All you have to do is provide the code CR4661 when you make a phone reservation with the hotel by telephone at 1.800.55.HYATT.

Houston Affiliate News

The Houston Affiliate was delighted to have EWTG President/Acting Executive Director Shannon Kelley and Affiliates Director Shawana Ellison present at the May meeting. Shannon discussed the search that is underway for a new executive director and the the upcoming annual conference. Shannon also reminded us of a very valuable benefit of membership - scholarships for the annual conference or other skill enhancing educational opportunities.

Shawana stated how excited she was to be the new Affiliates Director. She emphasized that she was available to support

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."

Follow EWTG on Twitter



Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people or organizations through the exchange of quick, short messages. Go to twitter.com/ewtg to sign up and start receiving EWTG's updates.

the affiliates in any manner needed. Shawana then surprised members with various EWTG logo items.

On April 30th, 13 affiliates and guests attended a production of "Rent" at the Houston Hobby Center. It appeared to be a sold out event. Several members dined at the Artista Restaurant in the Hobby Center prior to the performance. We look forward to a future outing planned by Social Committee Chairs Charlotte Booker and Brenda McCoy.

Please bring your brown bag and join us for our next meeting on, June 11, 2009, in Conference Rm. 2E/2F at the Elias Ramirez State Office Building, 5425 Polk Street, Houston, TX. The Houston Affiliate meets 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM. Dessert and beverages are provided. For additional information, please contact Houston Affiliate Chair-Elect Carolyn Kirkwood at 713.767.2306.

**Community Service Committee -
Let's Make a Difference**

Providing support for the community and helping those less fortunate is a mission of our committee. We are offering an opportunity for members to help too by providing financial donations to Lisa's Hope Chest. Lisa's Hope Chest supplies professional clothing to women in need, boosting their confidence and self esteem. EWTG has supported Lisa's Hope Chest for the past three years and we want to continue supporting this great organization. If you are unable to make a financial donation, we are also collecting professional clothing for Dress for Success Austin. Dress for Success Austin is another fantastic organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women. Please bring your business attire clothing donation clean and on hangers. Dress for Success is also collecting purses and shoes.

Help by making a tax deductible financial donation to Lisa's Hope Chest or clothing donation to Dress for Success Austin now! We will provide receipts for your tax deductible donations. Our drive will be ending soon and we'll be gearing up for July's School Supplies/Backpack project supporting the Ann Richard's School, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Inc.. homeless children. Let's make a difference in someone's life!

Recap from the May Luncheon

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza - "Recollections, Reflections, and Reemergence"

Travis County District Clerk Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza was the May 27 speaker at the EWTG luncheon. Her central theme was the process of Reflections, Recollections and Reemergence. She highlighted her path to personal and leadership development, including the role that Leadership Texas played as a part of this journey.

Her process involves actively engaging using our experiences and the wisdom that comes from them to evaluate ourselves, our behaviors, and our beliefs, thus reshaping our future selves through our past. This process has helped her make life-changing decisions that have allowed her to chart her own career and community path..

Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza attended school in Del Rio, Texas, 90% Mexican American. Her role models were teachers, administrators, school board members, and city officials. When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, she responded "it hasn't been invented yet." In college she recalls she was the only female in her physics class. She ran for president of the Mexican American Student Organization and lost. Engaged in academics and activism, she reemerged from college to set herself on a career path as a future candidate for elected public office.

Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza attributes her success and training to the Leadership Texas program.. She believes that as a result of her involvement in Leadership Texas, she was selected by Ann Richards to serve as Chair of the Texas Commission for Women, a position where she could help direct public policy to improve the lives of women throughout Texas.

In 1990, Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza ran for District Clerk and won by a margin of 500 votes. She continues to use the process of Reflections, Recollections and Reemergence to make necessary changes in the District Clerk's Office - restructuring staffing, increasing funding, clearing backlogs, redesigning the office to be more customer-friendly, setting best practice standards for jury management, implementing electronic filing, providing electronic distribution of work products to other government agencies and attorneys, and becoming a renowned leader in the public service profession.

The Travis County District Clerk's Office recently received the 2009 Best Practices Innovator in Technology Award. The I-Jury online impaneling system has received several awards for its cutting edge innovation, popularity and success rate.

In 2008, the Travis County District Clerk's Office was selected as having one of the Top 10 Court Websites. In the

District Clerk's Office instead of saying we can't, Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza's office workers first ask the question "How can we?"

Leadership Texas is one of several programs under the umbrella of the Foundation for Women Resources.. Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza is currently a board member of the Foundation. Candace O'Keefe Mathis, the Executive Director of the Foundation, was in attendance at the May 27 EWTG luncheon and announced a new Leadership Texas program entitled "Navigate." The Navigate program is designed to help women do the same thing we've been talking about - chart success along the various phases of life, leadership and legacy. The first Navigate workshop, "Passages," is a daylong journey for experienced women who are going through or contemplating a change. The workshop is being held at the Omni Mandalay/Las Colinas in Irving on September 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Additional information about the workshop can be found at www.womenresources.org.

EWTG Stars Over Texas

Congratulations to **Krista Julian** of TWC's Training and Development Department for being named one of Training Magazine's Top 50 Young Trainers in the country. The award recognizes outstanding professionals under the age of 40 in the training industry who develop innovative training initiatives and demonstrate leadership qualities.

Thanks to the work of **Carol Willis**, manager of the Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN), Education Service Centers in Texas and associated K-12 schools now have access to a high-speed, high-capacity statewide telecommunications intranet, the Internet2 Network and the Internet. The program enables the Texas K-20 community to participate in the most advanced applications in support of teaching and learning. Carol initiated, planned and implemented the TETN "Plus" network project. For her efforts, she was recently honored with the inaugural Richard Rose Award, which recognizes individual contributions that extend the reach of advanced networking in the K-20 community. Carol is a long-time EWTG member including 1995 president and 2004 Woman of the Year.

Congratulations to EWTG board member **Jennifer Buas** and her husband Travis on the birth of their son, Parker

Lynn Buaas. Weighing in at 7lbs 7oz. and measuring 19 inches long, Parker arrived at 1:17pm on May 28th.

New and Renewing Members

New Members

Betty Bertrand-Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Nancy Botkin-Retired, Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Sarah Clawson-Comptroller's Office

Josefina Franco-Alvarado-Texas Department of Public Safety

Tina Garner-Department of Information Resources

Diane Sprague-UT Southwestern

Karen Howard-Comptroller's Office

Renewing Members

Joy Anderson-Retired, Texas Youth Commission

Kay Arnold-Retired, Texas Rehabilitation Commission

Shelly Baumgartner-Waddell & Reid

Susan Biles-General Land Office

Waleska Carlin-Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mary Anne Clement-CIBER

Barrie Cogburn-Texas Department of Transportation

Rebecca Davio-Texas Department of Transportation

Joanne Edge-Retired

Janelle H. Gbur-Retired, Texas Department of Transportation

Lillie Gilligan-Retired, Governor's Commission for Women

Renee Johnston-Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Joanne Kirkland-Retired, Texas Department of Transportation

Carol Lauder-Comptroller's Office

Tamela Saldana-Texas Department of Transportation

Wendy Sanchez-Employees Retirement System

Tammy Sturm-Texas Department of Transportation

Frances Torres-Comptroller's Office

Melanie Williams-Texas Department of State Health Services

Nancy Wilson-Retired, MHMR

Linda Young-Austin Community College

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