



EWTG STAR

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EWTG Database Migration



Recently EWTG completed a migration of its

May 27 EWTG Luncheon - Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza "Recollections, Reflections, and Reemergence"



Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza will focus on three central themes: Recollections, Reflections, and Reemergence. She will also highlight her path to personal development and most importantly discuss leadership development, including Leadership Texas.

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza was re-elected in 2006 to her fifth term as Travis County District Clerk. She was first elected District Clerk in 1990.

A native of Del Rio, Texas, Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1972 and a Master's degree from Antioch College in 1974. Her career includes service within the non-profit sector as well as government.

As District Clerk, she has been an innovator in organization and use of technology. She instituted an award-winning online jury impaneling system (I-Jury), believed to be the first in the country. Implemented in March 2002, I-Jury has achieved 90% participation rate among those serving as jurors.

She instituted a pilot project for e-filing of case documents that has evolved into a successful model for e-filing in the state and country. The program has been presented as a best practice to other jurisdictions at all levels - local, national and international.

Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza has extended her leadership outside Travis County, serving in various capacities with the County and District Clerk's Association, including Association President and Chair of the Legislative Committee. She currently serves on the Judicial Committee on Information Technology, the Task Force on Jury Assembly & Administration, and the Foreclosure and Home Equity Task Force, all appointed by the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Ms. Rodriguez-Mendoza's leadership has been recognized by various awards, including 2004 District Clerk of the Year in Texas, The Lone Star Council Girl Scout's Woman of Distinction, the Center for Digital

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.

Second Quarter Scholarships



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

Government Best Application Serving the Public, and the Woman On Her Toes award from the Ballet Austin Guild. She serves as a board trustee of the Austin Lyric Opera, the KLRU-TV Network of Hispanic Advisors and is the past president of the Austin Public Library Foundation. She is also a former board trustee of the Austin Museum of Art and Past President of Literacy Austin.

May 13 EWTG Mini-Course - Lara Coffey "EWTG is LinkedIn!"

LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site. The site can be used to make connections between a group of individuals such as EWTG. EWTG's membership includes a wide array of talent, resources and expertise. LinkedIn can be the first look at finding resources within our own group of talented members.



Lara will provide an overview of the purpose and benefits of LinkedIn while also demonstrating how the EWTG Group already established on LinkedIn can be used to find members and resources.

Currently, as the Technology Center Operations division director, Lara has full responsibility for all aspects of the statewide data center consolidation including day-to-day operations, security, technical architecture, disaster recovery, transformation, financial administration, and contract oversight. The Texas Data Center Services (DCS) project is one of the largest and most ambitious technology change initiatives in the country, consolidating 31 agency data centers into two shared data centers.

Prior to DIR, Lara worked at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in the IT Department. She has worked for the State of Texas for over 17 years.

Join us for this informative presentation at noon on Wednesday, May 13, 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, water 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.

President's Corner-EWTG 2009 Community Service Initiatives Shannon Kelley, President

EWTG's April Monthly Luncheon speaker, Liz Seale



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



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

of the OneStar Foundation, told attendees how volunteerism isn't just nice, it's necessary. She even discussed studies that show that volunteering improves your health. Her talk was the perfect introduction to the EWTG Community Service Committee's 2009 program.

The Community Service committee is chaired by Connie Williams and includes members Karin Darnell, Deanna DeHaven, Carolyn Fry, Paula Griffin, Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Sheila Shirley, and Cheryl Taylor. The committee has planned a rich and diverse year of activities for our members in keeping with our organization's goals of developing leaders and supporting women.

Some of the projects include working with the Ann Richards School of Young Women Leaders, GENaustin, the Empty Bowl Project, Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest, Dress for Success Austin, the Lanier Girls Basketball Team, Soldier's Angels, and the traditional Teddy bear drive for the holiday luncheon.

May and June community service projects will get you in the mood for spring cleaning your clothing closets. Bring your financial donations for Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest and your clothing donations for Dress for Success Austin to the following EWTG events:

- May Mini-Course - May 13th
- May monthly Luncheon - May 27th
- June Mini-Course - June 10th
- June monthly Luncheon - June 24th

You can also give your donations to the Community Service Committee members. Your donations are tax deductible, and committee members will provide receipts to you for tax records.

The following information below gives details on each organization:

Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest - www.lisashopechest.org

In May and June, we encourage EWTG members to give financial donations to Lisa's H.O.P.E. Chest (LHC). We want to assist LHC by giving cash donations to help with operating expenses. LHC relieves the embarrassment and stress of not having the proper attire for job interviews.

Dress for Success Austin - www.dressforsuccess.org

Dress for Success Austin promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Clothing items accepted are listed below.

New or Like-New:

- Skirt suits and pants suits
- Separates that can be used to form suits: pants, skirts, jackets
- Blouses and shells that can be worn under suit jackets
- Accessories: Shoes, Handbags, Jewelry, Scarves

EWTG's 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 by emailing ewtg@ewtg.org.

New and Unopened:

- Undergarments
- Hosiery
- Cosmetics
- Toiletries

Dress for Success Austin has an urgent need for like-new professional purses (black and brown), plus-size blouses (suitable under suit jackets), and shoe sizes 6 and below and 9 and up, plus wide sizes. They also request donated clothing be clean and on hangers, and that it is of appropriate style by modern standards. In keeping with their mission, they do not accept casual clothing or formal wear.

The Community Service Committee will continue to provide information about ongoing volunteer opportunities in the EWTG newsletter, at luncheon meetings and via email. If you want to help plan and organize our upcoming projects, please contact Connie Williams at cwtrains@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks to Connie and her committee for the wonderful activities they've planned for this year. I would encourage each of you to select a cause (or causes!) that interests you and join your fellow EWTG members in giving back to the community.

Shannon Kelley
President

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

Membership Social - Spring Fiesta

The Board of Directors and the Membership Committee hosted the first membership social of 2009 on the evening of April 23rd. The fiesta-themed event was held in the private room at Nuevo Leon on East 6th street. There was a great turn-out for the event and members took advantage of the chance to catch-up with old friends and make new ones. Nachos, quesadillas and other refreshments were enjoyed by all. A drawing was held and door prizes were awarded to several members. The group took a minute to enjoy cup cakes and thank Michele Schwartz for her service as Executive Director.

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."

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.



More pictures are available on the EWTG Web site. If you missed this event, we hope you will join us at our next social. More details to come!

Educational Event - Austin Museums Tour

The Educational Events Committee, chaired by Jane Haney Rivera, organized an incredible tour of some of Austin's most unique and interesting museums on Saturday, April 25. Laura Esparza, Executive Director of the Austin Parks and Recreation Cultural Affairs Division, served as the group's personal tour guide. The group started at the Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater, where they got to see a group designing the set for an upcoming production. The next stop was the Dougherty Arts Center, where Laura talked to participants about the numerous adult and student art programs the center offers.



The group stopped for lunch at the beautiful Mexican American Cultural Center. One of the guides discussed the significance of the large snake mosaic that stretches across the center's grounds. He said that it is a Mexican milk snake, which travels freely across the Texas-Mexico border. He said the snake has become something of a mascot for the center, representing the free flow of inspiration and ideas between our two countries. While enjoying the art and the lunch delivered by Jason's Deli, the group was fortunate enough to meet one of the artists whose paintings are part of the current exhibition. The talented Liliana Wilson shared some of the inspirations for her work, as well as her thoughts about art as a means of communicating.

The guide at the O. Henry Museum discussed the writer's life and work. On the way out, the group got a glimpse at the ongoing restoration of the Suzanna Dickinson House, former home to an Alamo survivor. The expansive George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, the next stop on the tour, is home to numerous community programs in addition to permanent exhibits such as the Juneteenth Gallery and a gallery honoring 10 Austin African-American families and their significant contributions to the Central Texas landscape. The group's final destination, the Elizabeth Ney Museum, was another gem. Mary Collins Blackmon, the museum's charming and enthusiastic curator, captivated the group with stories of Ney's work and life, including her commitment to live creatively. After such a delightful day seeing such an amazing variety of art and culture, the group had a renewed appreciation for Ney's vision.

The Educational Events Committee hopes you will join us for the next adventure we plan for our members. Stay tuned!

Recap from the April Luncheon Elizabeth D. Seale - "Beyond Nice: The Importance of Volunteerism in Texas"

Volunteering isn't just nice - it is necessary. Fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering is crucial to improving lives, strengthening communities, and creating social change.

A study based upon census data shows that volunteerism in America is at a 30-year high. And volunteering has many benefits. Americans who volunteer are more likely to: vote, know and trust their neighbors, be engaged in local affairs, have stronger parental engagement in schools, have lower crime rates, and have better health and even greater economic prosperity. It also has been learned that there is a significant connection between volunteering and improved physical and mental health - greater longevity, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression, and less incidence of heart disease. Research suggests that volunteering is particularly beneficial to the health of older adults, and those serving over 100 hours annually - about two hours a week.

Research shows that the role of a significant adult in a young person's life can reduce risky behaviors, keep kids in school, and improve

academic performance. Dozens of international governments are interested in creating volunteer programs as seen in America or AmeriCorp-like programs to engage youth in service to specifically address rising crime, illiteracy, gangs, etc. Youth who participate in service-learning programs through school show a reduction in behaviors that lead to poverty such as teen pregnancy, drug abuse, failure in school, arrest - and have better school attendance, are more attached to their school community, and less likely to have disciplinary problems.

Each year AmeriCorp offers 75,000 (just increased to 250,000 by The Serve America Act signed by President Obama April 21, 2009) opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Since 2004, AmeriCorps Texas has awarded over \$46 million and leveraged \$31 million in local resources investing in Texas communities. AmeriCorp members recruited 53,000 volunteers, placed 700 teachers in regions facing shortages, taught violence prevention to 25,000 students, taught or tutored over 60,000 K-12 students (improving classroom performance and behavior), supported 5,000 adults in GED, ESL or basic education, and constructed or restored over 100 miles of trails and 300 acres of habitat.

Texas state government's mission to ensure and protect the safety and well-being of all Texans would be incapacitated without the nonprofit sector. In Texas, the nonprofit sector is a major economic driver employing over 385,000 and providing almost \$13 billion in wages annually. There are currently 55 nonprofits contracting with state agencies to provide services. Given its enormous strategic, economic and human impact, it is essential that the nonprofit sector benefit from long-term investments in training, education and integrations into the leadership structure of Texas communities.

OneStar's ultimate vision is to increase the quality of life for Texans and to reduce the costs of social services. OneStar: Texas Center for Social Impact has been recognized nationally for their model. It focuses on increased results for communities, individuals and families served by the nonprofit sector through promotion of innovative partnerships, entrepreneurial nonprofit business models, sound business practices, well-managed volunteer programs, and research and rigorous evaluation.

The economic downturn requires and challenges greater volunteering: as the economy slows, nonprofit and other community organizations struggle to provide services on smaller budgets and at higher costs.

New web sites place volunteering data at your fingertips: VolunteeringinAmerica.gov, hosted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, houses the most comprehensive database of volunteering statistics in the country.

Service is just not nice - it is necessary. For additional information, please visit www.onestarfoundation.org or www.cnsc.gov.

Recap from the April Mini-Course David McGroty - "Documentation Retention vs. Document Destruction"

Your agency should determine how document retention and destruction supports or doesn't support its mission. Document retention and destruction policies should be in place to protect your agency in case of litigation. We must stop thinking of electronically stored information as data and start thinking of it as future evidence.

It is important to determine what you need to know now vs. what you will need in the future. Your best evidence will be in the form of electronically stored information. You will want to be prepared in case an investigation refocuses from one area or person(s) to another. You also want to make sure you use tamper-evident storage.

So what should you be aware of now? Most of us want to get laptops, computers, cell phones, etc. back into circulation as quickly as possible after an employee has been terminated. However, these electronic devices should be protected because of the information they may hold. You also don't want to "tip off" the subject, i.e., telling those being investigated or terminated because they may erase critical information. And you also want to do cost-effective planning since litigation can be very expensive - ask how you can reduce the costs of litigation.

To best protect yourself and your agency, capture all the data you can. Finding the data is the first step in preserving it. This may be governed by policy. But you must know what to protect so that you can produce it if necessary. Capture all the data necessary. The cost of data storage is a lot cheaper than the cost of litigation.

New and Renewing Members

New Members

Barbara Harcketts-TxDOT

Grace Nobles-CPA

Stacy Avery-TEA

Sheila Shirley-DADS, Austin State School

Joan Scott-DIR

Shalyn Bridges-TX Legislative Council

Angie Williams-Department of Family & Protective Services

Jennifer McNeil Reck-MAXIMUS

Julia Weathersbee-Schacherl-TX Legislative Council

Brigitti Perry-UT Southwestern Medical Center

Renewing Members

Debbie Munoz-TX Municipal Retirement System

Joanne Holshouser-Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Samantha Gonzales-Texas General Land Office

Jennifer Buas-TX Department of Information Resources

Cindy Bordovsky-Stone-TxDOT

Janet Spies-CPA

Elayne Barber-TCEQ
Valerie Maxwell-Midwestern State University
Barbara Wells-TX Residential Construction Commission
Marianne Woods-Wiley-TRS

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