

Welcome EWI of Wichita to a New Year



Year after year, the chapter has strived to improve (or enhance) membership growth of the chapter. As part of the Chapter of Excellence, this is an objective a chapter is required to fulfil in order to be recognized by EWI Corporate. While growth is important, I believe in order to attain growth, we must first start with retention and understand our current culture. Our current representatives and executives have a perspective of what they want or would like to expect from their membership with

EWI of Wichita. I believe that by engaging you, our membership, we will be able to better grow our organization because we will know and believe in the *benefits* offered by being a member firm. When member firms and representatives are engaged, they will be willing to promote the organization outside of the current EWI circle of influence which will then promote growth naturally.

To that end, early this year we asked the chapter at-large to take a survey as a means to help identify the pulse of the organization. There were 28 total responses with the following summarized results:

- Many believe we have a strong culture, one of professionalism
- Several believe we have a tired/status quo culture
- Generally professional development programs were more important over the social aspect in a ratio of 6 to 1
- Networking & Professional Growth were the top scores in – why I joined, and why I stay in EWI

With this information, the leadership team agreed that our focus should include: Engagement, Attendance, Programs, and Fundraising.

Programs & Fundraising: Pam Fullinwider is already working on developing programs that will be of interest to the chapter. She is coordinating her efforts with Jenny Stephens who is giving guidance to her committee on fundraising initiatives. With an aggressive plan already formulating for raising funds, the chapter should be in a better position to engage community leaders to speak at programs, while still

2015-2016 Officers & Directors

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Tracy Lucas
High Touch Technologies

Vice President

Dawn Truman
J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc.

Secretary

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City of Wichita

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HealthCore Clinic

Fundraising

Jenny Stephens
Star Lumber & Supply Company, Inc.

Membership

Wendy Glick
Catholic Charities

Retention & Orientation

De Nelson
City of Wichita

Sergeant-at-Arms

Tami Barker
The Hyatt Regency, Wichita

Programs

Pam Fullinwider
Wichita State University Foundation

Communications Director

Stacy Cofer
Butler Community College

Advisor

Kim Weprin
Associated Integrated Marketing

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helping us sustain monies to support EWISP, ASIST and the Reading Rally.

Retention & Engagement: Wendy Glick will be reaching out to her committee to help get some solid footing on orientation of new members while all other board members have been offering ideas into better engagement processes for representatives, executives and new member firms alike.

I understand it is common practice for the incoming president to share a theme for their term year and I finally came up with the idea of “The Easy Button.” The board will be working on streamlining processes to make taking on leadership roles more appetizing to the membership. Finally, I believe my role in being your leader this year will be more about the board listening and collaborating with our membership and working on engagement at all levels so that we can grow, sustain, provide meaningful professional development topics, fill leadership opportunities, and still have a good time while doing so. Join me in welcoming the 2015-2016 board.

The Board of Directors for 2015 – 2016 and their service to EWI of Wichita

**Dawn Truman | Vice President**

Responsible for overseeing the strategic vision, collaborating with the president, and coordinating the conference attendees for LCAM, and Wild West.

**De Nelson | Secretary**

Responsible for keeping the chapters official records and taking the minutes for business meetings. De will also oversee the bylaws/roster and website committees.

**Davna Gould | Treasurer**

Responsible for fulfilling the financial officer position for the chapter and performing the accounting general operating fund and chapter B/C/DP documents.

**Tami Barker | Sergeant at Arms**

Responsible for tracking attendance and RSVPs to monthly chapter meetings. Tami will also oversee the hospitality, courtesy and social committee's activities.

**Stacy Cofer | Communications**

Responsible for communicating to the membership through the monthly Connect newsletter, social media, website, and public relations channels.

**Karen Smith | Director at Large**

Responsible for overseeing the philanthropic mission of EWI through EWISP, ASIST, Reading Rally, and Scholarship Investment Fund initiatives.

**Jenny Stephens | Fundraising**

Responsible for planning the activities for the purpose of supplementing the chapter's operating funds to support the B/C/DP (Business, Career, Development Programs) and scholarship initiatives.

**Wendy Glick | Membership**

Responsible for leading and directing the efforts for the chapter's recruitment, orientation, and retention of chapter members and firms to ensure a mix of diverse businesses.

**Pam Fullinwider | Programs**

Responsible for coordinating, planning and overseeing the process for professional development, firm night, executive night and regular chapter meetings.

**Kim Weprin | Advisor**

Responsible for keeping me in check with the traditions of our chapter, the policies and procedures and general council.