

ewi CONNECT

CORPORATE EDITION

ewiconnect.com

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FEBRUARY 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dianne Luckett
2015-2016 Corporate President
Irby Electrical Distributor

I realize that the CONNECT has been delivered later in the month than we have in years past. One reason is that the 2015-2016 Board had to move our Conference Calls to later in the month to accommodate everyone's schedules. I like to be able to report any new discussion items to you after those meetings, so for this year anyway, we'll be sending the CONNECTs out a bit later.

SPRING CONFERENCE & BOARD FORUMS

The Board made the decision to forego a formal Spring Conference this year for a number of reasons. We seem to have a split among our members on the pros and cons of the event. Some felt it might be more cost effective for them to go to a local Spring Conference than LCAM. And while that is quite justified, attendance at LCAM is vital to our organization from the standpoint that we conduct our Annual Meeting at that time and want and need as much participation as possible. It's there that we are really able to hear and heed the collective voice of our Chapters. This decision was made for this year only and will be considered each year accordingly. In lieu of the Spring Conference, we encourage each of you to attend one of the Regional Board Forums offered across our footprint. It's a great way to stay engaged and involved in surrounding chapters and share best practices and network!

WHAT IS A BOARD FORUM?

The first EWI Board Forum, Texoma, was established over 30 years ago by Texas Chapters as the "Texas Board Forum". When Oklahoma chapters were invited to join, the name changed to "Texoma Board Forum". In 2010, a new regional Forum was launched when the Tennessee chapters held their first meeting. In 2011, the Southwest Pacific region and the Midwest region convened their first Board Forums.

The purpose of a regional Chapter Board Forum is to bring together Board members from Chapters within a local region for the benefits of networking, sharing best practices, discussing challenges and brainstorming new ideas. The Forum provides a setting for neighboring Chapter Board members and Committee Chairs to connect and bond, and an opportunity for growth through the exchange of success stories and lessons learned.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

The current, incoming and future Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs are invited to attend the Forum. The Corporate Board is also invited to attend. The goal is that all Chapters in the region are represented at the Forum, with as many board members from different Board positions in attendance as possible. The attendees list can also include incoming Past Presidents, Committee Chairs and other members who are interested in serving their chapter in the future.

VIEW & DOWNLOAD LCAM PHOTOS

[View the gallery](#)

Gallery ID: EWITulsa2015

Professional Development Webinar

Identifying Your Target Market & Your Ideal Client - How Hard Can it Be?

March 1, 3:00 pm ET

ewiconnect.com/webinars

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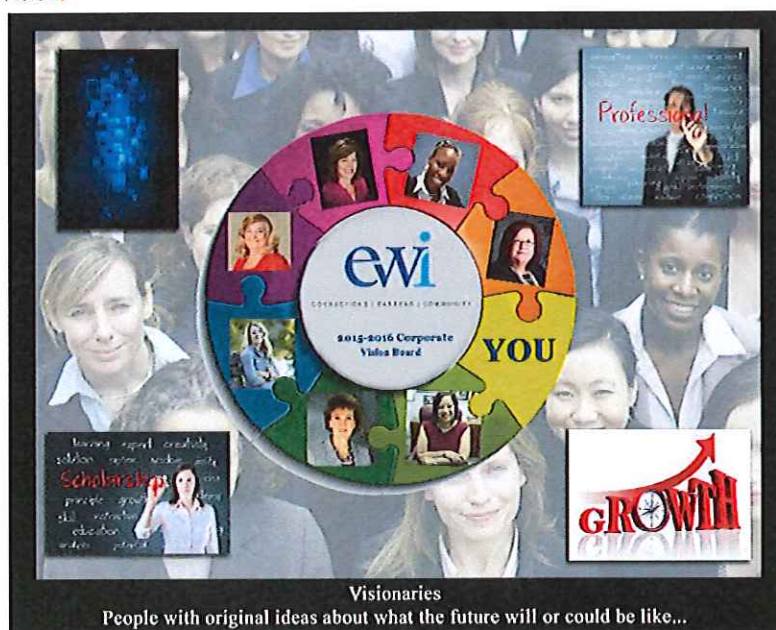
Chattanooga will be hosting a Regional Forum and is inviting any Chapter that would love to travel to Chattanooga for their event on April 29-30. They have already lined up some pretty amazing speakers for us. [See the Registration Packet here](#). All of the information will also be on our Website under Board Forums.

San Diego will be hosting a combined Board Forum with the Southwest Pacific and Northwest Chapters on June 18, 2016. What a great idea! [See the Save the Date here](#) and contact Darlene Banogon for additional information. This information will also be posted on our Website in the Board Forum section. If there are other chapters planning to host a forum in your area, please let us include that information in the Connect and on the website.

CHAPTERS CLOSING

I am sad to inform you that we have had two Chapters turn in their Charters recently. Cincinnati and Lethbridge. I want to address something that was brought up during LCAM. Why the Board doesn't let neighboring Chapters know when there are concerns with a chapter that may consider closing. First, we realize that a decision like this is never entered into without a great deal of thought and discussion. Second, we must respect the privacy of any chapter that is considering this decision. Assistance of any and every kind is always offered. Often, by the time the Board has been notified of their intent, they have already made up their minds and we have to respect that.

Even with the discouragement of these chapters closing, let's not lose sight of our Vision.



I was reminded of this by your President Elect, Benita Collins. We had a wonderful, positive momentum building in Tulsa last September at LCAM. I felt that many of the Chapters that attended embraced the vision and are striving toward that goal. I've heard from many of you since, echo the same desire to see our organization "turn around" and believe with us that it can happen this year. As much as we would love to just "make it happen", your Board can't do it alone. One Chapter can't do it alone. The Membership Advisors can't do it by themselves..... But working together, we can and I believe we will! Open communication is the key. If you or anyone in your chapter has a question or concern, we are here to listen and hopefully put those concerns to rest.

LCAM 2016 READING RALLY IN SPOKANE

To promote a love of reading and combat the "summer slide," the LCAM Reading Rally will encourage students at Stevens Elementary School to read this summer. Children who read over the summer return in the fall ready to learn. Your Chapter can contribute to this effort by hosting your own reading rally to promote reading. We also invite your Chapter to contribute to the LCAM Reading Rally in Spokane. Funds will be used to purchase books for students at Stevens Elementary.

Coming to LCAM? The Friday luncheon will feature students who participated in the LCAM Reading Rally. Keep your luggage light! We've arranged for a Scholastic Book

Darlene Banogon
North Island Credit Union
EWI of San Diego



JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



Corporate Office Serving EWI Membership

The Corporate Office deepens its commitment and level of service to EWI. We commit to a 24-hour turn-around in email responses and answering voice messages, unless the office is closed or the person you need to reach is out for the day.

Kristine Pepin
Office Manager

Kristen Harmston
Office Administrator

Bonny Steele
Webmaster

Office Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm MT
Email: ewi@ewiconnect.com
Phone: 801.355.2800
Address: 3860 S 2300 E, Ste 211
Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Fair at LCAM so you can purchase books to benefit Stevens Elementary School. This year's LCAM Reading Rally Committee recommends the following titles:

- **One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate - Ivan was a gorilla raised in a Washington shopping mall, until a young girl started a petition to free Ivan. (grades 3-7)
- **The Day the Crayons Quit** by Drew Daywalt - Each of the colors in the box of crayons writes a letter to their child explaining why they quit, resulting in a very colorful ending. (grades 3-5)
- **Pete the Cat** - An I CAN READ series featuring the adventures of a skinny cat perfect for beginning readers. (grades preK-2)

Keep your eyes open for more information on Reading Rally information coming soon to Chapter Presidents and B/C/DP Directors.

CORPORATE OFFICE UPDATE

The Corporate Office space is still being shown for a possible sublease of all or part of the offices. The ideal situation would be if we can find someone to sublease half of the space as that is really all we need at this time.

Chapters - do you want your renewal reimbursement money faster? Kristine Pepin wanted to remind you of the opportunity to have your monthly reimbursements sent directly to your Chapter's checking account instead of waiting for a check. The process is simple. All you need to do is supply the corporate office with your routing number and checking account number. By having direct deposit, you are guaranteed to receive your payment at least a week earlier. Contact the corporate office at 801.355.2800 to sign up today!

Did you know that EWI is participating in **AmazonSmile**? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find everything on the regular site, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price back to EWI. If your Chapter is interested in participating, go to org.amazon.com to learn more. Call the corporate office at 801.355.2800 to answer any questions.

B/C/DP

SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPATION FORM

Director Darlis Vauble and her committee are doing a wonderful job on our monthly webinars and both ASIST and EWISP Scholarship processes. In order to document our accomplishments and spread the good news of EWI, I want to remind our Chapter Presidents to fill out the B/C/DP scholarship participation form for 2014-2015 fiscal year. [*We have attached a link here for your convenience.*](#) It's exciting to be able to report the total scholarship dollars that we provide internationally each year.

CHAPTER GRANT APPLICATIONS

Don't forget the deadline for the Chapter Grant Applications. They are due March 15, 2016. Please fill it out completely and return to Kristine@ewiconnect.com. [*We've attached the application again here for your convenience.*](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

You don't want to miss our March Webinar facilitated by our own, Cortney Ihde with ActionCoach. I can't wait to "Identify our Target Market"!

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 - 3:00 PM ET

[**REGISTER HERE**](#)



I will close by saying I will be the first to admit that we have had more than our share of challenges over the first few months of our new fiscal year. I appreciate the patience and commitment of our Chapters as we work through those challenges. And we ARE working through them. Our new database platform is much more suited for our needs than the one previously in place. Your Board and Corporate Office Staff are committed to provide the best "customer service" possible as we move forward. Their dedication to EWI is obvious as they strive to keep EWI's future growth and success at the forefront of all they do. We continue to look for ways to better serve you and be as financially responsible as we possibly can.

Stay tuned for more exciting news regarding growing membership in many of our chapters. And please remember that the Corporate Staff, the EWI Board of Directors as well as the Membership Advisors are all here to help your chapter and EWI succeed in any way we can.