

A Message From Your President



Tami Barker
Hyatt Regency Wichita

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope you and your families were able to spend time together making new memories as well as reminisce about the past and those gone before us. Each New Year brings the opportunity to start fresh. We all make resolutions in one way or another right. I used to write mine down and then about mid-March take them off of my bulletin board (that I look at all day every day) and throw them in the trash because well.....let's be honest I had already forgotten about them. Now that I'm older I make resolutions in my mind...that way I don't have to go through the guilt of having to throw something away when I've already failed.

The 5 most popular New Year's resolutions yearly according to Google are:

1. 37% of Americans say they will resolve to Stay Fit and Healthy
2. 32% of Americans say they will lose weight
3. 38% of Americans say they will enjoy life to the fullest
4. 25% of Americans say they will spend less and save more
5. 19% of Americans say they will spend more time with friends and family

These all sound very familiar – and very close to the resolutions I have had year after year. Whether you write your resolutions down or make them and keep them secure in your mind, I ask you to add a resolution this year to your list. Stay engaged or become more engaged with EWI of Wichita. Your board is working very hard this year to give different opportunities to attend events at times that may suit your schedule better than an evening event. In January we will have a lunch meeting with another scheduled for July in hopes that those representatives that find it tough to make an evening meeting some months, may find a lunch meeting works better for them. In November we started a Happy Hour at 4:30pm to give our representatives the opportunity to join us for a cocktail and conversation – this activity was very well received!



2017-2018 Officers & Directors

President

Tami Barker
Hyatt Regency Wichita

Vice President

Jessica Emrick
Wichita Marriott

Secretary

Gina Hess
Kansas Health Foundation

Treasurer

Tracy Lucas
High Touch Technologies

Fundraising

Davna Gould
HealthCore Clinic

Membership

Dana Taylor

Director-at-Large

Karen Smith
Westar Energy

Sergeant-at-Arms

Malena Anderson
United Way of the Plains

Programs

Jan Baggett
Wichita Metro Chamber
of Commerce

Communications Director

Pam Dinwiddie
Textron Aviation

Advisor

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

Committee Updates

Message from your President (cont'd)

So – your wondering – Tami what are your resolutions that you are keeping “in your mind” for 2018. Well my #1 resolution was to make resolutions that I feel like I can actually accomplish. Here they are:

1. God – Family – Work – in that order
2. Remember – I can't do it all and I can say no.....(this is a tough one for me)
3. Lead with commitment, care and passion at work and during my year as President of EWI

Let's make 2018 a great year for EWI Wichita with growth, engagement and continued love of each other and our community.

All the best,
Tami



Tracy Lucas | Treasurer

The financial position of EWI of Wichita is below:

Chapter Operating Account:

12/31/17 Ending Balance \$15,323.14

Chapter BCDP Account:

12/31/17 Ending Balance \$6,954.84



Jessica Emrick | Vice President

Contest! Contest! Contest!

We will be announcing the winners of the contest at the January meeting! So if you haven't submitted your speech, do so now...

How do you “Sell” EWI to your fellow contacts? I am looking for a 30 second Elevator Speech to use! This would be helpful to use when speaking about joining EWI to potential members and new members. It would also help to reiterate benefits to current members. As a board, we want to focus on growing our membership this year, and showing values to the new EWI members! We have found that the newer members want some speaking points to be able to talk to people about EWI. We will zone in on what they are looking to get from their membership. For some of the members who have been in for a while, it's more personal. I too need to sharpen my skills and think about how to sell EWI and all the benefits of belonging. I love this networking group and I use the connections on a weekly basis!

The end result is to have a couple elevator speeches which will allow the individual member to adopt the one that resonates with them! Let's get Creative!

Please send your creations directly to Jessica Emrick at Jessica.emrick@wichitamarriott.com

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to the matter!



Professional Development

Submitted by Tami Barker, 2017/2018 President, representing member firm Hyatt Regency Wichita

10 Simple Ways to Constantly Keep Learning without Making a Big Effort

By Stacey Gawronski

I genuinely enjoy learning, and years ago when I first moved to NYC and intensely believed that there was a serious gap in my education-I'd never taken an art history class!-I signed up for a continuing education course at NYU. Truthfully, though, I can tell you little about what I retained, much as I enjoyed the class at the time. I'm now on the school's mailing list, but typically emails go unread.

This isn't because I don't still have a thirst for learning new things though; rather, it's that I don't have the energy (or money) to invest in this particular type of learning, which in the end wasn't so much about upping my intelligence as it was about memorizing artists, periods, and important works.

The learning I desire to do now is less specific. I've always been drawn to smart people and notice when people use big words when they're not trying to be ostentatious (see what I did there?). Seriously though, one of the things I love about my husband is his awesome vocabulary, which, full disclosure, is a bit better than mine.

Many companies offer professional development courses and understand our desire to stay on our toes and grow outside of the area we're super specialized in. and while I commend those initiatives, some of those classes still require a significant amount of time, effort, and energy. There may be a period where I'm ready to invest in that, but that time is not now. If you're like me and have a thirst for getting smarter but either don't have company-funded courses at your disposal or the drive to devote to them, you can still score IQ points.

For all of us who endeavor to keep on learning, there are literally dozens of things you can do-many of them from the comfort of your very own couch. Here are 10 of my personal favorites.

Do Crossword Puzzles

I'm still a long way from *The New York Times* Sunday crossword puzzle, but that's OK because each day the paper has a short puzzle that you can fill out online as you're timed.

Read Outside Your Interests

Easier said than done, I realize. One of the sheer joys of reading is pursuing that which we find intriguing based on personal choice. Required reading is so high school. But the thing about exploring subjects outside your comfort zone is that it can help you discover new interests, and once you start going down that new rabbit hole, who knows what other things will open up.

Look Up Words You Don't Know

If I'm reading a book or an article and come across a word I don't know the meaning of, I'll typically look up its definition-this is obviously super easy when I'm reading something on a screen and have Internet access. But, have you ever been in conversation with someone and heard a word you didn't know and couldn't figure out through context? Don't just make a mental note to check it later; follow through and look it up. Bonus points if you find a way to use it in a sentence the following week.

Professional Development

Make a Point to Talk to Smart People

This one is so obvious, and yet how many of us go out of our way to do it? Seeking out intelligent people and chatting them up can be eye-opening. I'm always drawn to people who are really good at what they do, and if I meet someone involved in something I know nothing about, I'm intrigued and inclined to ask a lot of questions, without fearing that my inquiries are too basic or stupid. Which leads me to my next tip...

Ask All the Questions

I'm sure I'm far from the first person to tell you that there are no stupid questions, but seriously, how many times have you nodded along and pretended to understand something because you didn't want to seem unknowledgeable or out of the loop? This is sill. Anyone who makes you feel badly for asking a question for clarity or to gain more insight isn't someone you want to be talking to for long, anyway.

Get Outside Your Comfort Zone

Watch a documentary if all you watch are indie films. Try a comedy on Netflix if you only ever watch historical dramas. Go see the latest Marvel comic movie and let your viewing partner explain the history of Marvel and DC Comics to you. Read a book of contemporary short stories if John Grisham novels are your go-to. It doesn't matter what you do to branch out—it's the branching out and stretching your mind that matters here.

Alter Your Routine

Having a dedicated daily plan can be great, but it can also get tedious, and a bored mind isn't one that's gaining intelligence, I can tell you that much. Life hacker writer Eric Ravenscraft supports this idea, explaining that switching things up coaxes "your brain into thinking more creatively about your workflow." Try a new food, listen to that new artist, and abandon your Sunday errands. You can stick to your preferences, but venturing out and mixing up the order in which you do things and how you do them may have a powerful impact on your brain and, consequently, the way in which you contribute to the conversation.

Create Something

Breakfast for dinner. A hand-written card. A personal website. A bookshelf (even if it's just via Ikea instructions). Try something you wouldn't normally do that falls under the creative spectrum (so many things do, you'd be surprised), and feel accomplished.

Listen to a Podcast

From nuanced political discussions (Pantsuit Politics), to foodie-focused options (Bon Appetit), to relationship advice platforms (Dear Sugar), there's a podcast for you no matter what you're into. Listen on your commute to work, while you're walking your dog, or washing the dishes and find yourself learning without even trying.

Subscribe to Newsletters

Want to know the great thing about getting those newsletters delivered straight to your inbox? It takes the work out of finding awesome stuff to read online, of which there is certainly no shortage. Choose sites you're extremely excited about and ones you're mildly interested in and then read at *your* leisure or don't, depending on what gets your attention.

You don't need to go big or go home when it comes to learning. It's an ongoing process. Education can show up in a conversation, a TV review, a novel. The key to it, I think, is not to put pressure on yourself. If you wake up and vow to learn three new things today, you might be disappointed in yourself if it doesn't happen the way you planned.

Professional Development

If I start reading a *New Yorker* article about the Dutch landscape architect who's reinventing green spaces or parks with the intention of really gaining new knowledge, I'm probably going to dislike the article or feel as though I'm being forced to read it *and* get something out of it. But if I approach it simply with an open mind-hmm, this isn't a topic that usually grabs my attention-I'm likely to finish it, feeling like I learned something I didn't know before.

Be open to seemingly small educational opportunities, and watch how much smarter you'll feel.

About the Author

Stacey Gawronski is the Senior Editor/Writer of The Muse. She started writing short stories in the second grade and is immensely grateful to have the opportunity to write and edit professionally. Her work has appeared in YouBeauty, Refinery29, A Practical Wedding, Runner's World online, and The Billfold among other publications. She enjoys running and eating in equal measure and lives with her husband and dog in Brooklyn. All three of them are avid New York Mets fans.



Chapter Events



NEW CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE!



Member Firm since: 2014

Member Representative: Heather Egan hegan@visitwichita.com
Convention Sales Manager



Please welcome Heather Egan as one of our newest representative for EWI Wichita. Heather will be an additional rep to Lynne Smith for our Member Firm, Visit Wichita.

Heather's primary responsibilities include promoting Wichita as a meetings destination. She helps connect meeting planners with hotels, facilities and attractions to ensure the planning stage runs smoothly and that booked Wichita meetings are a success.

Egan received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Wichita State University. Prior to Visit Wichita, she served as director of leisure sales at the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau in Grapevine, Texas. She also managed their Visitor Information Center and galleries, as well as led efforts related to the organization's three sister city programs (Parras de la Fuente, Mexico; Krems, Austria and West Lothian, Scotland). Within the last few years, Heather has relocated back home to Wichita and has worked as the dual director of sales for the Hilton Garden Inn and Hampton Inn & Suites Northeast and went on to serve as a media consultant for Group Tour Media.

"Born and raised in Wichita, this is home. I'm looking forward to promoting my hometown and seeing visitors having a great time experiencing my destination," said Egan. "I've made my career within the hospitality industry, so I'm delighted to bring some of my experiences back to Wichita and continue to build on the successes of Visit Wichita and create some new memories for visitors and meeting planners."

Chapter Events



NEW CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE!



Member Firm since 1970

Member Representative:

Melissa Mantz – *Manager, Quality Assurance*

Melissa.Williams-Mantz@westarenergy.com

Welcome Melissa Mantz! Melissa is the newest EWI representative for Westar Energy. She joins Karen Smith and Sherii Farmer who also represent our long-time member firm, Westar Energy.

Melissa started with Westar Energy as a CSR in February 2011, and was promoted to Customer Relations Supervisor in July 2011. In her current role as Manager of Quality Assurance, she oversees the auditing of calls to provide feedback that fosters the process improvement and training needs. Melissa has been with Westar Energy for seven years now. Prior to working at Westar Energy, she worked for Xerox for 13 years. She held different roles with their BPO Client Services Team for customer care department and worked with clients such as Office Depot, Chrysler, General Motors, United Technologies and Georgia-Pacific's off-shore call centers (Jamaica, India, Philippines) to ensure successful migration of client processes.

Melissa was born in Oklahoma City and graduated from Friends University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management. She currently resides in Derby, with her husband Toby and has two college age daughters. Most of their time is spent at sporting events or at the lake during the summer. Melissa is a member of Woodlawn United Methodist Church, serves on the ADA Board for the City of Derby and the Business Advisory Board for Wichita Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation.

Chapter Events

EWI Wichita Chapter

JANUARY 17
11:30 – 1:00

Distillery 244 Old Town
244 N. Mosley

Guest Speaker

Officer Lisa Berg
with the
Homeless Outreach Team
H.O.T.

HOMELESS
OUTREACH TEAM
H.O.T



(316) 854-3013

Wichita Police Department

Mission

The Wichita Police Department's Mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve the problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
"HELPING CITIZENS IN NEED"**

Chapter Events

EWI Volunteer Opportunity for 1st Quarter

To benefit Non-Profit Member: Catholic Charities

Valentine's Day Party on Saturday, February 10th for

Residents of Harbor House 437 N. Topeka Street 67202

and St. Anthony's Family Shelter 256 N. Ohio Avenue, 67214

From 2:30pm-4:30pm we will service 15-20 Residents at each facility. (Children of all Ages and Women)

EWI Wichita will provide all food/drink and crafts or games. They do have a full-service kitchen area with a walk-in cooler. We would want to bring our food already prepared.

Do your children need volunteer hours? They invite children ages 7-17 to volunteer, if, a parent or guardian has completed a Parental Consent form and is present to volunteer with them. All volunteers on the 10th, will be asked to sign-in on a Group Volunteer Sign-In sheet and parents can complete a Parental Consent form at that time for any underage volunteers.

Ideas for the Party include:

Red and/or White Snacks

Fresh Strawberries with a Yogurt Dip

Chocolate Covered Strawberries, Krispy Kreme Valentine's Day Donuts, Cucumbers cut into hearts with Ranch Dip, Cheese Slices cut into hearts with Grapes, Strawberry Lemonade, Chocolate Chunk Brownies drizzled with Caramel, Russel Stover Candies, Strawberry Lemonade

I am open to any other ideas...so if you have something you want to bring, that ties into the theme, by all means...do list it on the sign-up sheet!

Cupcake Decorating Station with Sprinkles, Frosting & White and/or Strawberry Cupcakes

Craft Station: Wooden Block Photo Frame and Selfie Station for the children of all ages to keep or give to their mother as a Valentine.

Scattered Sweetheart Sweet Tarts or Hershey Kisses will decorate the buffet

Sign UP Sheets will be communicated to the membership for Volunteers to sign up to work parties and donate food, beverages, cups, napkins, plates, etc. Thank you in advance to those Executives or Representatives that participate!

Chapter Events



Wichita Chapter

Wine Tasting 101

With Nate Beyer, Director of Banquets
Hyatt Regency



Hyatt Regency

Wednesday, February 21

5:30pm Networking

6pm Program

Light Hors d'oeuvres served
as Nate instructs us on
foods that will pair well
with the wines.

Chapter Events

In March, we will be holding Fireside Lunches and Dinners. Fireside Lunches/Dinners offer members the opportunity to make connections and develop lasting relationships both personally or professionally due to the limited size of the individual groups. Hosting a fireside gathering allows the host the opportunity to showcase their firm.

Approximately eight member firms will be needed to act as hosts for these lunches/dinners. The hosting firm will determine the location, time, and menu for their fireside gathering. In addition, the hosting firm will be responsible for the cost associated with the meal.

If your firm would like to host a fireside gathering, please contact Davna Gould with HealthCore Clinic, Inc. Phone: 316-612-6883 or e-mail DGould@healthcoreclinic.org

The March Fireside Gatherings are one of EWI Wichita Chapter's Fundraiser Events for the year. Therefore, each firm will be assessed \$35.00 regardless as to whether the firm's representative can attend.





Happy Birthday to YOU!!!

January 8 ~ Terry Calloway, Wichita Children's Home
January 18 ~ Gina Hess, Kansas Health Foundation
January 20 ~ Connie Velghe, Chapter Life Member



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



facebook.com/ewicorp



@ewicorporate



@ewicorporate



pinterest.com/ewicorporate



We post the chapter meeting minutes on our EWI Wichita website at
<https://ewiwichita.org/>

ABOUT EWI

Established in 1938, EWI is a non-profit organization with more than 1,900 member firms and 2,200 representatives in major cities throughout the United States and Canada.

EWI brings members together to promote member firms, to enhance personal and professional development, and to encourage community involvement.

As a premier organization for networking and leadership development for today's business professionals, EWI offers professional development through its Academy of Leadership, scholarships, online learning, and philanthropic initiatives with a focus on literacy.

EWI also provides over 600 board positions to women on the corporate and chapter level annually. For more information, visit ewiconnect.com.



Share your news & photos in the
monthly *Connect*

Contact: Pam Dinwiddie
pdinwiddie@txtav.com

Submission deadline:
February Issue ~ 2-8-18

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Third Wednesday of
each month unless
otherwise noted

Wednesday, January 17
Officer Lisa Berg,
Homeless Outreach Team

Distillery,
244 N. Mosley
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, February 21
Wine Tasting 101

Hyatt Regency,
244 N. Mosley
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chapter Board Meetings

Second Wednesday of
each month

~All members are welcome~

Contact Tami Barker
at tami.barker@Hyatt.com