

Wichita eViConnect



2022-2023 President Allison Walden
Downing & Lahey Mortuary

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Happy Holidays!

At our meeting last week we were able to fill 30 boxes of food for the children at Colvin Elementary School. Ashley Goodman, Professional Engineering Consultants, will work with members of the Wichita Police Mounted Unit (connection courtesy of Jennifer Clark, Wichita Police & Fire Foundation,) to deliver the food to the students today. Thank you for your help in making this possible!

As we look to 2023, please help us plan a year of meetings that are fulfilling, both personally and professionally. We hope to see high attendance, guests and executives in attendance, and the fostering of connections both new and old. As such, please reach out to me or to Jennifer Clark, Programs Director, if you have thoughts on any of the following:

- ◆ How can we foster business to business connections at meetings?
- ◆ Do you have ideas for fun activities at meetings?
- ◆ Do you have ideas and/or connections with local speakers who could lead short 15-20 minute professional development sessions?

We'd also like to serve as a resource for community service opportunities. If you are involved in an organization that has a need for volunteers, please send that information to me and I am happy to push that out to the chapter.

As we wrap up the calendar year, I wish you happiness, HEALTH, and plenty of time with loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison Walden".

Allison

Book Recommendation: [28 Holidays](#) by Elin Hilderbrand

Need a mental break from the holidays? Why not get lost in a good book! Try "28 Summers," by Elin Hilderbrand. Set in Nantucket, the story follows Mallory and Jake on their decades-long friendship. As in her other books, Elin beautifully describes Nantucket; so well that it feels as if you're there. This is one you'll definitely be recommending to your friends!

MEETING RECAP November 2022 Chapter Meeting



- ♦ Held at HJH Investments, RH Garvey Building on November 16, 2022
- ♦ Closed meeting, members only, to discuss what the future of EWI—Wichita should be!
- ♦ Voted to accept changes to the Chapter Standing Rules—most notable change that ALL representatives must RSVP for chapter meetings, even if the RSVP is no. If you do not RSVP, you will receive a bill for the meeting fee
- ♦ Voted to accept the Investment Policy proposed by Treasurer, Emma Hahn

MEETING RECAP November 2022 Board Meeting

- ♦ Held at HealthCore Clinic on November 3, 2022
- ♦ Will vote on Chapter Standing Rules and Investment Policy at chapter meeting
- ♦ Working on acquiring requests for proposal from Northwestern Mutual and Korol Financial Group to transfer investments so there is no conflict of interest
- ♦ Members are encouraged to find a second representative at their company if possible and utilize the [True Blue Referral Rewards](#) program!

MEETING RECAP

December 2022 Chapter Meeting



- ◆ Held at the Wichita Marriott on December 7, 2022
- ◆ Assembled 30 boxes of food for the children and families at Colvin Elementary School!
- ◆ Played a version of “Two Truths and a Lie” to get to know our new members who were in attendance.

MEETING RECAP

December 2022 Board Meeting

- ◆ Held virtually by Zoom on December 8, 2022
- ◆ We will need a virtual board and chapter vote by 12/31/2022 for the investment provider changes; still waiting on responses from proposed entities. Please look for an email from Allison on this and kindly respond as soon as possible.
 - ◆ Board is to review strategic plan and send feedback to Vice President.
- ◆ Members are encouraged to find a second representative at their company if possible. and utilize the [True Blue Referral Rewards](#) program!

SAVE THE DATE


ALL MEMBERS MUST RSVP. YOU WILL BE BILLED FOR THE MEETING FEE IF YOU DO NOT.

<https://www.squadup.com/events/ewi-of-wichita-january-chapter-meeting>

EWI WICHITA JANUARY MEETING

FIRM NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH
5:30PM SOCIAL • 6:00PM DINNER




United Way


**United Way
of the Plains**

245 N. Water St.
Wichita, KS 67202

Dinner by
Nancy's Amaizin



Our speaker will be



Pete Nájera
President & CEO

Wichita
ewi

CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

PLEASE RSVP VIA SQUAD UP
BY 01/16/2023

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



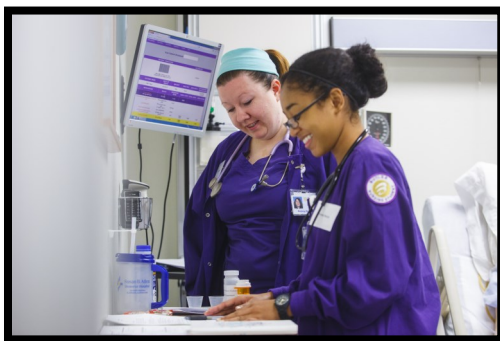
Inspire. Empower. Transform.



Executives and Representatives from your company:

Hayley Hobbs, Representative (Director of Donor Relations) | Tom Borrego, Executive (Vice President of Advancement)

- ◆ *How long has your company been in the Wichita area and what size is your organization?* **We started as the Endowment Association for Butler in 1967, however Butler Community College has been serving the region since 1927!**
- ◆ *What is your company's mission?* **"The Foundation will nurture relationships that will create opportunities for stakeholders to make a difference in the lives of Butler students."**
- ◆ *How can your company assist other ELWI firms?* **It is our job to make sure current and prospective students can succeed at Butler. If you know anyone who is planning to attend, curious about attending, or maybe needs a boost while they are here, please let us know! We have all kinds of ways of helping students and the community as well as helping people meet their charitable goals.**
- ◆ *What's an interesting fact about your business that others may not know?* **We give away \$1 million annually to our students! Mostly scholarships, we also have program funds used to assist various academic and non-academic programs at the college.**
- ◆ *What makes you stand apart from your competitors?* **We have a small staff, but efficiently run the Foundation with a \$15 million endowment and recently completed all of the fundraising and complete build work on the Redler Institute of Culinary Arts. It is highly unusual for a higher education non-profit to manage all parts of a capital building project, but it was important to us that it be done in time for the fall semester and lo and behold it worked!**
- ◆ *What are you doing to mentor women in your industry?* **One of the most important aspects of working in nonprofit is professional growth. There are so many different ways to change how and what kind of work you do—it makes fundraising both exciting and challenging! There is an increased focus especially on making sure women in fundraising are receiving equitable pay to their male colleagues. This is an important movement and one we are grateful to our Executive for championing!**



Director Messages

Happy Holidays! Thank you everyone for your generosity in donations to the Colvin Elementary families. All the boxes of food donated will be enjoyed by them over the winter break. It is so rewarding to be part of an organization that has a passion for giving back!

Ashley Goodman, Vice President
Professional Engineering Consultants



Treasurer's Report *Emma Hahn, Treasurer* *Stoutheart Financial Group*

Commerce Bank Chapter Operating Account:

11/1/22 Opening Balance: \$18,629.54
11/30/22 Reconciled Balance: \$18,120.61

Deposits:

1. Regular Meeting Dues: \$880.00
2. Firm Dues: \$460.00
3. Colvin Food Drive Donations: \$100

Expenses:

1. Regular Meeting Expenses: \$762.28
2. Operating Expenses (Name Tag Cases): \$183.30
3. Web Hosting: \$108.75
4. Service Fees: \$14.00
5. LCAM Room Reimbursement: \$880.60

Commerce Bank BCDP Account:

11/2/2022 Opening Balance: \$1,288.85
11/30/2022 Reconciled Balance: \$1,288.85
No expenses or deposits.

Meritrust Credit Union Savings Account:

11/1/2022 Opening Balance: \$24,277.13
11/30/2022 Reconciled Balance: \$24,278.13
Deposits: November Interest: \$1.00

Ameriprise BCDP Account (Stoutheart):

11/1/2022 Opening Balance: \$65,399.35
11/30/2022 Reconciled Balance: \$69,053.01



Please send payments to:

Emma Hahn
Stoutheart Financial Group
8621 E. 21st St. N.
Ste. 130
Wichita, KS 67206

Director Messages



Hello, EW!! I hope everyone is staying warm and enjoying the holiday season so far! As you've seen recently, and as sent out by Allison along with this newsletter, Posting Memos are being sent out monthly by our President, Allison Walden. What is a Posting Memo? Potential firms are recruited by the Chapter and "posted" to the membership for approval via email. An existing member firm in good standing may challenge a proposed new member firm's potential membership in the Chapter (see the Standing Rules for more details.) This memo has another purpose, though, to make connections. If you or your executive have any contacts at any of the posted firms, we want to know that as well! Please reach out to me by email or phone (stuttle@deltadentalks.com or 316.807.7732) anytime if you have questions about current membership or suggestions for new members.

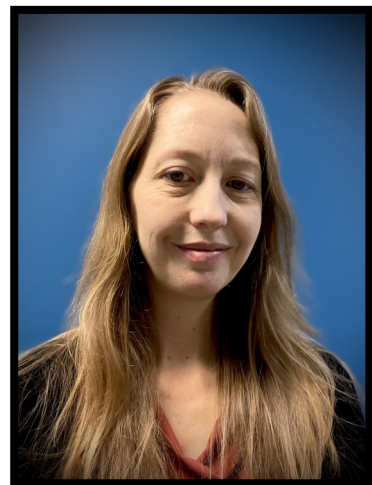
Sydney Tuttle, Membership Director, Delta Dental of Kansas

Happy Holidays, EW!! I hope your holidays are filled with love, laughter, family, and friends! If you are planning to buy gift cards this year, I encourage you to sign up for RaiseRight. It is our newest fundraiser. It's as simple as:

1. **Join the Program.** Download the RaiseRight mobile app on your smartphone or tablet or visit the website [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise-right.com). Then enter the enrollment code to join: **Z3AK4JBLWEK8**
2. **Buy gift cards and earn for your organization.** When you are ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments. You can link a bank account, add a credit card, or both. The brand gives back to EW! the moment you buy a gift card—at no extra cost to you!
3. **Get and use your gift cards.** eGift cards are delivered within the app in minutes. Physical gift cards are mailed to me. If you choose this option, please let me know; we may be able to change the shipping address directly to you.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need assistance signing up.

Darna Gould, Fundraising Director, HealthCore Clinic



Scholarship time is upon us! We have a lot of deadlines coming up soon for our EWISP (traditional high school graduate scholarship) and ASIST (non-traditional student returning to school) scholarships. Here are some of the most important ones.

January 3, 2023—Scholarship application website opens

March 24, 2023—Application submissions deadline

May 7, 2023—Chapter judging closes

I will be recruiting for scholarship judges soon, if you have ideas on who would be a great judge for the committee, please let me know!

Annie Murach, Director At-Large, United Way of the Plains

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



New Replacement Representative

Leesa Griffin

Berry Companies

Leesa supports a team of six c-suite executives and works on the company's philanthropic initiatives. Her background is in communications, which has come in handy from working in nonprofit to serving on local boards and providing administrative and costume support for a prominent local dance studio. Leesa and her husband have four daughters, and she spent the past 14 years homeschooling them before returning full-time to the workforce. An avid theatre/performing arts junkie, Leesa is often managing costumes or helping backstage with productions.



New Replacement Executive

Alana McNary

Professional Engineering Consultants

Alana recently became the Chief People Officer of PEC. After graduating from Wichita State University, she spent 13 years in the manufacturing sector working in HR. She is also very active in her community participating on several boards: Sunlight Children's Home, Kansas Workforce Alliance, and Partners In Education (PIE) USD 490. Alana married her high school sweetheart, Isaac, 16 years ago and they have 2 boys together, Isaiah and Aedric. In her spare time, her family foster's dogs, and they love to run when they can.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Firm and Representative *Heather Vandever and Barry Downing* *Northrock, Inc.*



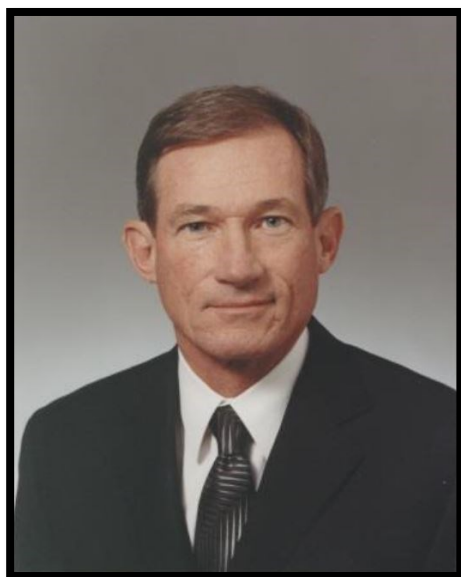
Heather is Administrative Manager to Barry Downing, President/CEO of Northrock, Inc. and to the Downing family philanthropic organizations. Prior to joining Northrock in 2009, Heather was Executive Assistant to the Chairman of Hawker Beechcraft during a highly transformative period of merger and acquisitions. She also spent seven years in The Coleman Company corporate legal department serving in corporate governance, product liability, patent/trademark law, and licensing roles. With a career spanning more than 30 years, she has dedicated her profession to supporting executives in venture capital, aviation, corporate legal, and banking industries. Heather graduated from Southwestern College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is married to husband Jamie, and they have two adult daughters.

Barry Downing, owner of Northrock, Inc., grew up in poverty in South Wichita, Kansas with a mother who provided daily affirmation that “we could be and do anything when we grew up.”

This early adversity, encouragement, and deep desire to change his lot in life seems to have worked well for Mr. Downing. Over a 50-plus year career in business, he has demonstrated the dedication, creativity, and industry to start and build several companies in various fields including travel services, hotel management, real estate development, disaster recovery, oil and gas management, banking, and financial investment. In the process, he has built a personal fortune and started businesses now employing over 2,200 employees generating annual sales of over \$1,000,000,000. Each company has been characterized by a unique vision, development, and application of innovative ideas and technologies, creating change and providing new customized services for specific customer groups.

Downing also applies this same vision, entrepreneurial principles, and determination in charitable endeavors where he currently spends half of his time. In 1999, he became aware of emerging brain development research and longitudinal studies demonstrating the dramatic life outcomes improvement that could come from providing high-quality early education services to children living in poverty. He set a team to work researching what had worked and what had not in the field of early learning for minority and poor children. The team developed a unique public-private partnership (The Opportunity Project) designed not only to make a difference in the lives of Wichita children in poverty, but also to change the way people think about early at-risk education and to improve at-risk early learning environments in Kansas and across the nation.

To date, more than \$14 million has been raised and spent to build and endow three large state-of-the-art early learning centers (TOP Early Learning Centers) which will enroll over 600 children in Wichita, Kansas, this year. The Opportunity Project continues to aggressively use its platform to advocate statewide and nationally for community partnerships to support early education for at-risk students. TOP Pre-K graduates consistently score in the 85% percentile of kindergarten readiness and report outstanding later life educational outcomes.



Future Meeting Dates

- ♦ January Board Meeting: January 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at HealthCore Clinic
- ♦ January Chapter Meeting: January 18, 2023 at United Way of the Plains
- ♦ February Board Meeting: February 2, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at HealthCore Clinic
- ♦ February Chapter Meeting: February 15, 2023

You can view all of our upcoming meeting dates on our website via the [Chapter Calendar](#)

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: EWI of Wichita

Instagram: @ewiofwichita

Volunteer Opportunity!

We don't have any December birthdays to celebrate, but what better way to celebrate the holiday season than by volunteering at Botanica's Illuminations! This opportunity was brought to our attention by De Nelson from City of Wichita! If you are interested in being part of one of the most magical holiday experiences in Wichita, please contact Kristi Conkle, Volunteer Services at Botanica, kconkle@botanica.org or 316-264-0448.

Contact us!

*Below you'll find information to contact your 2022-2023
Board of Directors as well as Corporate EWI*

Allison Walden—President | waldena@dlwichita.com | 316.682.4553
Ashley Goodman—Vice President | ashley.goodman@pec1.com | 316.206.1315
Kathy Armbruster—Secretary | kathy.armbruster@aghlc.com | 316.291.4139
Emma Hahn—Treasurer | emma.hahn@ampf.com | 316.630.8118

Davna Gould—Advisor and Fundraising Director | dgould@healthcoreclinic.com
Pam Dinwiddie—Sergeant-at-Arms | pdinwiddie@e-aviation.com
Annie Murach—Director-at-Large | amurach@unitedwayplains.org
Hayley Hobbs—Communications Director | hhobbs@butlercc.edu
Sydney Tuttle—Membership Director | stuttle@deltadentalks.com
Jennifer Clark—Programs Director | jennifer@wichitapolicefoundation.org

EWI Corporate Office

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