

San Antonio ewiConnect

Chartered 1958

August 2026

President's Message



Lauren Costley
Deacon Recruiting
2025/2026 Chapter President
EWI of San Antonio®

Dear EWI Sisters,

What an exciting season it is to be part of EWI San Antonio! This year, our theme has been **"Rolling Out the Red Carpet"**, and that means creating an experience where every member feels welcomed, valued, connected, and inspired to be part of something meaningful.

As we continue this journey together, I want to remind you that **membership is everyone's business!** Our membership incentive drive this month is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone new to experience EWI for themselves. Guests are always welcome, and there is no better way to grow our chapter than by sharing what makes our organization so special. But growing our membership takes all of us. **We need your support, your introductions, and your invitations.** Think about the leaders in your professional and personal circles who would benefit from the relationships, leadership development, education, and community that EWI provides. Roll out that red carpet and invite them to join us!

As we head back into the school year, I also want to wish our members and your families a wonderful **back-to-school season**. A special thank-you goes to the educators, administrators, staff, and all those who dedicate themselves to caring for and inspiring our children. The impact you make reaches far beyond the classroom, and we appreciate all that you do.

That spirit of giving back leads us to one of our most exciting upcoming events—our **Reading Rally at Wood Middle School!** Please **save the date for Thursday, September 10th** as we come together to reveal the school's new library. This project is a wonderful example of what EWI members can accomplish when we combine our time, talents, resources, and generosity. I want to sincerely thank each of you who have supported the Reading Rally through your **time, donations, and encouragement**. Your contributions are helping create a space that will inspire students, encourage a love of reading, and make a lasting difference in their educational experience. I cannot wait to celebrate this accomplishment together!

And finally, September has even more excitement in store as we look forward to **LCAM in Mobile, Alabama!** After the wonderful experience we shared at the TEXOMA Regional Conference in Corpus Christi last month, I am especially excited to continue building our team, strengthening our relationships, and learning together. Conferences like these remind us that EWI is so much bigger than our individual chapters—we are part of a powerful network of women who believe in professional growth, education, leadership, and community. Let's carry the momentum from TEXOMA into LCAM and beyond. **Let's keep showing up for one another, keep learning from one another, and keep rolling out that red carpet—not only for our guests, but for every EWI San Antonio member.**

Thank you for everything you do to make our chapter stronger. I am incredibly proud to serve alongside each of you, and I am excited about all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

Here's to a wonderful school year, a successful Reading Rally, an inspiring LCAM experience, and an even stronger EWI San Antonio!

Keep rolling out the red carpet, elevating the experience, and lifting one another up!

With gratitude and excitement,

Lauren Costley



San Antonio
ewi
CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

EWI of San Antonio, 719 Carnoustie, San Antonio, Texas 78258
ewisanantonio.org or ewiconnect.com
Email: ewisapublications@gmail.com

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ewi-san-antonio-214537332/>

Share your news and photos in the next *CONNECT*

Submit info to:

jennifer.uecker@affiniuscapital.com

Next issue deadline: September 4, 2026

EWI of San Antonio - August Membership Meeting

August 2026

WHEN

August 20, 2026
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Don't forget to RSVP for our upcoming meeting on **Thursday, August 20** at 5:30pm at **Embassy Suites - Landmark Hotel** for our membership meeting and to hear speaker, Jennifer K. Miley!

WHERE

Embassy Suites by Hilton
San Antonio Landmark Hotel
5615 Landmark Parkway
San Antonio, TX 78249

Reservations can be made by using the "Register Now" button no later than **Friday, August 14 at 7:00pm.**

TICKETS

\$65 Member Ticket
\$65 Non-Member/Guest
\$33 Sustaining Member

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. StarChapter Pay* - via website
2. Cash or Checks** - payable to Executive Women International San Antonio

*Please note that credit card transactions through the website will include a \$4.00 transaction fee. If you wish to pay by cash or check, you can still register but click the "Bypass Payment" button under where you enter your credit card information.

**Checks accepted at meeting or mailed. Please mail to:

Melissa C. Molina
Executive Assistant to the President

University of the Incarnate Word
4301 Broadway, CPO 303
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Agenda:

5:30 pm - Registrations and Reception
6:00 pm - President's Welcome, Mission Statement, Roll Call, Inspiration, Dinner
7:00 pm - Guest Speaker: **Jennifer Miley** on *Transitional Intelligence - Hidden Power Every Women Needs to Thrive Change*
7:45 pm - Fundraising, Announcements, & Adjournment

Speaker:

Jennifer K. Miley is a seasoned executive coach and national speaker known for her expertise in Transitional Intelligence (TQ)—a next-generation leadership competency that fuses adaptability, emotional intelligence, and strategic foresight. With over 35 years of experience, Jennifer has coached leaders from Fortune 500 companies, movie and entertainment industries along with government agencies and professional sports organizations. As the founder of Elite Edge Coaching, she empowers individuals and teams to navigate change with clarity, resilience, and purpose. Her distinctive, client-centered approach blends science-backed assessments with deep leadership insight, driving lasting transformation. A dynamic and sought-after speaker, Jennifer delivers powerful sessions that inspire leaders to embrace change and lead boldly.

Menu:

FARMERS HOUSE SALAD - Arcadian Spring Mix, Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Shredded Carrot and Olde Venice Vinaigrette
TUSCAN CHICKEN - Creamy Tuscan Chicken Sun-dried Tomatoes, Spinach, and Mushroom served with Linguine as well as Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter
RED VELVET BISTRO CAKE - Chocolate Painted Plate with Individual Sized Vibrant Red Cake Finished with Cream Cheese Frosting and Strawberries
Iced Tea Available upon request & Coffee offered with Dessert



August 2026



MEMBER & GUEST AUGUST INCENTIVE!

For our upcoming August Membership Meeting, **we're inviting you to bring a guest!** As a thank you, both you and your guest will receive a complimentary ticket to our gift drawings. We can't wait to meet your guests!

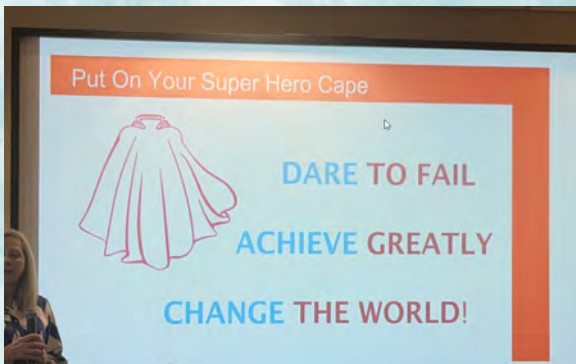
AUGUST Meeting Details

Thursday, August 20th
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Embassy Suites Landmark
Speaker: Jennifer Miley
"Transitional Intelligence"



August 2026

Highlights of Texoma 2026



August 2026

Highlights of Texoma 2026 - cont'd



*A
sweet
friendship
refreshes
the
Soul*



Key Takeaways from the 2026 EWI TEXOMA Regional Meeting

Corpus Christi, Texas | "Sparkling City by the Sea"

The 2026 TEXOMA Regional Meeting highlighted the power of connection, volunteer leadership, and resilience. We focused on strengthening relationships, engaging through committees, and learning practical strategies for thriving personally and professionally.

Featured Session: "The Role of Recovery: Resilience"

- Recovery must be intentional and deliberate - Take a 5-minute intentional reset
- Well-being requires setting healthy boundaries. Protect your time that is sacred (morning reflections, self-care)
- Supportive relationships are essential to long-term resilience and success.

Featured Session: "Recruit, Retain & Revive"

- A Great way to network is through music, Salsa dance party, contests, Bingo (get to know membership game cards), Spring fling at a member's home
- Support one another well, this will reflect to others
- Encourage membership to think critically about committees, remind them it's almost time to sign up and think about it

Overall Themes

- Making meaningful connections
- Building resilience through deliberate recovery
- Creating sustainable success through boundaries and supportive relationships
- The value of volunteering and committee involvement
- Thriving together through collaboration



Take some time for yourself and have a little fun!

August 2026



Marsha Garza
USAA



Lauren Costley and her brother
Deacon Recruiting



Melissa Molina
University of Incarnate Word



Amanda Avendano
Enterprise Fleet Management

HAPPY 
SCHOOL
DAYS



Margaret Eckhardt
Affinius Capital



Ronnette Pittman
Sustaining Member



Jennifer Uecker
Affinius Capital

August 2026



SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Help Us Cross the Finish Line! ♥

We still need your support to transform the **Wood Middle School Library!**



WOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
14800 Judson Road
San Antonio, Texas 78233



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



TIME TO BE DETERMINED





We still need support with our **Amazon Wish List!**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2FL3402T2AL7P?ref=wl_share



Please email **Debbie Saldana** or **Christina Cardenas** with the items you purchase so we can keep our Wish List up to date.





Look for **SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY**
UTSA ROADRUNNER & STUDENT ATHLETES!



Read. ♥ Create. ♥ Discover.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2026 | MOBILE, AL

EWI's Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting ("LCAM") is an annual professional development conference where members from our Chapters gather to connect, network and grow professionally. Keynote speakers, workshops, seminars, group discussions, and more offer diverse learning opportunities. Social gatherings provide networking and establish new connections. Reading Rally events and other philanthropic activities reach the local community and help the Chapters learn how to implement programming in their communities. Our annual Celebration Gala allows recognition of our members and the many successes of our Chapters. Delegates representing each Chapter meet to approve the budget, elect the slate of officers and conduct the business of the organization during our annual business meeting.

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

EVENT SCHEDULE

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

\$950 - Early Bird, ends June 30
\$1,000 - Regular Registration
\$1,250 - Non-Members

REGISTRATION + LEADERSHIP CAUCUS:

\$1,100 - Early Bird, ends June 30
\$1,150 - Regular Registration

GALA ONLY:

\$125

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

TITLE TBD

Carrie and Grace Key



NEW AOL MODULE!

LEGACY LEADERSHIP: BUILDING BRIDGES TO TOMORROW

Kristi Emmons Jones



LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

HOLLY STEPHENSON – BUILDING BLOCKS OF STRONG BOARD LEADERSHIP

Have you ever considered what the building blocks are to strong leadership and a strong board? Be sure to join this year's Leadership Caucus where you will explore "Building Blocks of Strong Board Leadership". Strong board leadership is built one block at a time - through experience, independence, trust and open dialogue. Come prepared to learn and grow together!

This additional programming is essential for Chapter Board Members, Committee Chairs, and any other members who are interested in additional learning. (If attending this programming, please select LCAM registration with Leadership Caucus. Additional cost applies.)

Need assistance with justifying your registration, use our LCAM Justification Tool Kit!

August 2026

Positivity and the Power of Small Acts of Kindness

A reminder that simple, thoughtful actions can strengthen connection, lift morale, and brighten someone's day.

Positivity is often built through small, everyday moments. A smile, a kind word, a thoughtful check-in, or a simple "thank you" can have a meaningful impact on someone's day. These small acts may seem minor, but they can help create a sense of connection, belonging, and encouragement.

Small Acts, Big Impact

Small acts of kindness are one of the simplest ways to promote positivity. Holding the door open, offering help, recognizing someone's effort, sending a quick note of appreciation, or taking time to listen can lift someone's spirits. These actions remind others that they matter. They also help build trust and strengthen relationships in both personal and professional settings.

"Kindness is simple, but its impact can ripple far beyond the moment."

How Positivity Spreads

Kindness can also be contagious. When one person brings positive energy into a conversation or situation, it often encourages others to do the same. Studies on emotional contagion show that emotions can spread through social interaction, including tone, facial expressions, and body language. This means the way we show up can influence the people around us.

Choosing Encouragement During Stressful Times

Practicing positivity does not mean ignoring challenges or pretending everything is perfect. Instead, it means choosing to respond with patience, empathy, and encouragement, even during stressful times. A positive mindset helps create a more supportive environment where people feel comfortable, motivated, and appreciated.

A Simple Challenge for This Week

- Send one note of appreciation to a colleague, friend, or family member.
- Pause to ask someone how they are doing—and really listen.
- Recognize a small effort that might otherwise go unnoticed.
- Offer help before someone has to ask.



August 2026

Positivity and the Power of Small Acts of Kindness - Con't

Ultimately, small acts of kindness can have a big impact on overall well-being. They help create stronger connections, improve morale, and remind us that we all have the ability to make someone's day a little brighter. By choosing kindness and positivity in our daily interactions, we contribute to a healthier, more uplifting, and more connected community.

"No matter how busy you are, you must take time to make the other person feel important. Everyone has an invisible sign hanging from their neck saying, "Make me feel important." Never forget this message when working with people."

Source: Mary Kay Ash on People Management (paraphrased)



August 2026

Leading with Heart: Vicki Chapman

2025-2026 CORPORATE PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Some leaders make an impression through their words. Others make a lasting difference through their actions. Vicki Chapman has done both.

For those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Vicki through Executive Women International, she is much more than a leader—she is a mentor, a cheerleader, and a friend. She has an incredible gift for making people feel seen, valued, and capable of achieving more than they ever imagined. Whether she is leading a meeting, offering encouragement, or simply sharing a conversation, Vicki has a way of bringing out the best in everyone around her.



Her leadership is grounded in kindness, humility, and authenticity. She celebrates the successes of others without seeking recognition for herself, always believing that the greatest accomplishment is helping someone else grow. She listens with compassion, leads with integrity, and serves with a generous heart.

Watching Vicki's journey to becoming Corporate President of Executive Women International has been inspiring. It is a testament to years of dedication, service, and an unwavering commitment to the EWI mission. Yet, despite her accomplishments, she remains approachable, gracious, and genuinely interested in the success of every member she meets.

Vicki reminds us that true leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room. It's about lifting others, creating opportunities, and leaving people better than you found them. Her influence reaches far beyond meetings and events—it lives in the confidence she inspires, the relationships she builds, and the countless lives she has touched.



Thank you, Vicki, for leading with courage, serving with grace, and reminding all of us that the best leaders lead with heart. Your legacy will continue to inspire EWI members for generations to come.

Submitted by Melissa C. Molina
Representing University of the Incarnate Word

August 2026

Welcome Baby Georgiann

**Congratulations to
Sarah Bisang
SWBC**



August 2026

August Anniversaries

Omni La Mansion - Del Rio
Ernst & Young

29 years
68 years

Happy Birthday

Lynn Smasal, *Sustaining Member*
Melissa Molina, *University of Incarnate Word*
Christina Cardenas, *H-E-B*

August 2
August 6
August 17

Brenda Martinez, *CPS Energy*
Susie Salazar, *St. Mary's University*
Sylvia Rodriguez, *Sustaining Member*

September 4
September 20
September 28



August 2026

2025–2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

August 20, 2026
September 24, 2026*

Embassy Suites Roosevelt Library - Installation of 2026-2027 Board of Directors/Approving 2026-2027 Budgets

* Please note September Meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month

BOARD MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

August 26, 2026

Hosted by Bank of Texas



If you would like to see the previous General Meeting or Board Meeting minutes please reach out to our Chapter Secretary.

August 2026

2025-2026 Officers & Directors

President Lauren Costley Deacon Recruiting 210-807-5627 lcostley@deaconrecruiting.com		Membership Director Cali Beeman The ETC Companies 210-323-7846 cali@eligibilitytrackingcalculators.com	
Vice President/President Elect Melissa Molina University of the Incarnate Word 210-832-2125 mcmolin1@uiwtx.edu		Program Director Pat Nava USAA 210-913-7033 patricia.nava@usaa.com	
Secretary Marsha Garza USAA 210-859-4650 marsha.garza@usaa.com		Publications Director Jennifer Uecker Affinius Capital 210-254-2849 jennifer.uecker@affiniuscapi.com	
Treasurer Melissa Molina University of the Incarnate Word 210-832-2125 mcmolin1@uiwtx.edu		Fundraising Directors Kathryn Shelton / Lauren Costley Watermark Group / Deacon Recruiting 210-599-0400 / 210-807-5627 kathryn@thewatermarkgroup.com lcostley@deaconrecruiting.com	
Sergeant-At-Arms Gloriane Quintanilla Bank of Texas 210-639-6397 gquintanilla@bankoftexas.com		Director-at-Large Kathryn Shelton Watermark Group 210-599-0400 kathryn@thewatermarkgroup.com	

2025-2026 Chapter Advisors

Advisor Alicia Clark Ernst and Young 210-606-5866 alicia.clark@ey.com		Advisor Kelsey Hankins Porter Loring 210-227-8221 khankins@porterloring.com	
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August 2026

2025–2026 Committee Chairs

ASIST/EWISP
Philanthropy
Hospitality
Budget
Parliamentarian
Historian
Nominating
Bylaws
Social Media
Membership
Membership Retention
Chaplain
Care & Concern
Programs
Publications
Fundraising

Chloe Knauer
Debbie Saldana, Christina Cardenas
Frances Dominguez, Sylvia Spanos
Melissa Molina
Frances Dominguez
Lorie Lopez
Alicia Clark
Caroline Diaz
Lauren Costley, Cali Beeman
Cali Beeman
Cheri Wiese
Margaret Eckhardt
Joyce Carothers
Pat Nava
Jennifer Uecker
Kathryn Shelton

OUR MISSION

Executive Women International (EWI) brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

OUR VISION

To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference as they inspire others.

OUR VALUES

Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Collaboration