

San Antonio ewiConnect

Chartered 1958

July 2026

President's Message



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

As July arrives, summer invites us to slow our pace just enough to enjoy life's simple moments. Whether you're traveling to a new destination, spending time with family and friends, or simply taking advantage of a little downtime, I hope this season brings you opportunities to recharge, reconnect, and create lasting memories.

July also gives us the opportunity to celebrate our nation's independence. As we commemorate Independence Day and reflect on America's 250-year journey, we are reminded that freedom has been shaped by countless courageous individuals. I am especially grateful for the remarkable women who challenged expectations, broke barriers, and paved the way for future generations of female leaders. Their determination, resilience, and vision continue to inspire us as we lead in our workplaces, our communities, and within EWI.

Their legacy reminds us that leadership is built through service, courage, and lifting others along the way—values that are at the heart of our EWI community.

This year, our chapter theme, **"Elevating Our Member Experience: Rolling Out the Red Carpet,"** reflects our commitment to ensuring every member feels welcomed, valued, and celebrated. Whether you've been a member for many years or recently joined our chapter, our goal is to create meaningful experiences, foster authentic connections, and provide opportunities for both personal and professional growth. Every event, program, and interaction is an opportunity to roll out the red carpet for one another.

As we continue through the summer, I encourage you to stay connected with your fellow members, invite a prospective member or guest to experience EWI with our August incentive, and take advantage of the many opportunities our chapter offers. Together, we are building a community where every woman has the opportunity to learn, lead, and thrive. We want to see you!!

Thank you for your continued engagement, enthusiasm, and support. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events as we continue elevating the member experience—one red carpet moment at a time.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, joyful, and memorable July!

Warmly,

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.facebook.com/ewisanantonio/>



<https://twitter.com/ewisanantonio>



<https://www.instagram.com/ewisacommunications/>



<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: August 10, 2026

July 2026

June Meeting Recap



Thank you to Kelsey Hankins and Porter Loring Mortuary for hosting our June EWI Chapter meeting! It was a wonderful meeting with delicious food and great information.



July 2026

June Meeting Recap



Our new 2026-2027
Board was presented
to membership

July 2026

Scholarship Night Inspiration

To the young women and men stepping into new opportunities, the professional women leading with strength and purpose, and especially those who have fought through hardships to build a better future:

Never doubt the value of your voice, your dreams, or your determination. Every challenge you have faced has helped shape the strength, resilience, and courage within you.

To the young adults graduating high school and preparing to begin college for the first time, this is the beginning of a new chapter filled with opportunity, growth, and discovery. You may feel excited, nervous, uncertain, or even afraid of the unknown. College will challenge you in ways you may not expect, but it will also help you discover strengths within yourself that you never knew existed.

Do not be afraid to ask questions, take chances, meet new people, and step outside of your comfort zone. Believe that you belong in every classroom, every conversation, and every opportunity placed before you. Your ideas matter, your future matters, and your presence has purpose.

To the women beginning college while balancing work, raising children, healing from painful circumstances, or rebuilding after hardship — your journey is extraordinary. For those working to create a better future for yourselves and your families, your courage does not go unnoticed. Choosing education, growth, and hope in the middle of adversity is one of the bravest decisions a person can make.

There will be moments of exhaustion, fear, and uncertainty, but do not allow those moments to convince you to stop moving forward. Your story is not defined by the hardships you have endured, but by the strength and determination you show in rising above them.

To the professional women who have paved the way, continue to encourage, mentor, and uplift others. Your support, wisdom, and example have the power to change lives in ways you may never fully realize.

Success is not measured only by titles or accomplishments, but by perseverance, compassion, integrity, and the impact you make on the lives of others along the way.

Support one another. Encourage one another. Celebrate every victory — big or small. The future is brighter because of people who refuse to give up, who continue to rise despite adversity, and who dare to believe that a better life is possible.

You are stronger than you know, your journey matters, and your future is filled with purpose.

Submitted by: Cheri Wiese, UT San Antonio

July 2026

Black-Eyed Pea Salad

INGREDIENTS

1 large tomato, diced
 ½ medium red onion, finely chopped
 1 small red bell pepper, finely chopped
 1 jalapeno, finely chopped
 2 Tbsp green onions, chopped
 2 Tbsp parsley leaves, chopped
 ¼ cup unseasoned rice wine vinegar
 ¼ cup canola oil
 ½ tsp sugar
 Salt & pepper
 2 – 15 oz cans black-eyed peas, drained

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine first six ingredients in a bowl.
2. In separate bowl, whisk together rice wine vinegar, canola oil, sugar, salt and pepper.
3. Stir all ingredients in with black-eyed peas and let marinate for up to 8 hours in refrigerator before serving.



Great as a side dish. Also goes well with tortilla chips for a snack.



A Recipe
 for
 HAPPINESS
 a large
 Smile
 LOTS OF | a jar of
 HUGS | kisses
 a big spoonful of
 KINDNESS
 followed by more hugs

Crack Green Beans

Ingredients:

5 – 8 oz cans green beans, drained
 12 slices crisply cooked bacon,
 chopped
 2/3 cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup melted butter
 7 tsp soy sauce
 1 ½ tsp garlic powder

Instructions:

1. Pour the green beans into 9X13" pan. Add cooked bacon pieces.
2. Mix brown sugar, butter, soy sauce and garlic powder. Pour mixture over beans.
3. Bake in oven for 40 minutes at 350° F.
4. Stir well before serving.



July 2026



Chapter Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 PM

TEXOMA Conference

Friday, July 31 & Saturday, August 1

Venue: Omni Corpus Christi Hotel

Registration Details:

- o Early Registration (by July 1st): \$250
- o Standard Registration: \$300
- o Chapter Meeting & Dinner: \$50

Early registration is now open, and you are encouraged to secure your spot and take advantage of the discount.

Link to the Registration Page:

<https://www.corpuschristiewi.org/2026-ewi-texoma-conference/>

Hotel Information & Links:

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel: 900 North Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

[Omni Corpus Christi Hotel | Hotels in Corpus Christi, TX](#)

Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina: 707 North Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

[Corpus Christi Hotel | Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina](#)

Residence Inn by Marriott Corpus Christi Downtown: 309 S. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

[Residence Inn Corpus Christi Downtown | Long-Stay Hotel with In-room Kitchens](#)

This will be a dynamic program featuring illuminating speakers, networking opportunities, and a fun Friday evening experience you won't want to miss.





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!

July 2026

Board of Directors Spotlight

Alicia Clark

About Me:

Alicia is an Assistant Director with Ernst & Young LLP. She is an Account Manager who works with State and Local Governments across the states of Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Iowa and Texas. She has been married to Ryan Clark for 15 years and have two amazing daughters, Mackenzie (13) and Aubrey (10). They live on the softball field and she wouldn't trade it for anything.

Hobbies

When she's not coaching (from the sidelines or on the field) she loves to read, float in a pool and spend time with friends!

EWI Service

While Alicia has been an EWI member she has proudly served as Chapter President, VP, Treasurer and Scholarship Chair as well as Corporate Scholarship Chair.

Favorites

Music: Anything!! You never know what is coming next on my playlist
Food: Pasta or Chocolate!
Vacation Spot: Anywhere with water where I don't have to cook!

**Be who you are and
say what you feel,
because those who
mind don't matter
and those who
matter don't mind.**



July 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"



July 2026

EWI Members enjoying vacation vibes



Kelsey Hankins
Porter Loring Mortuaries



Marsha Garza
USAA



Amanda Avendano
Enterprise Fleet Management



Melissa Molina
University of the Incarnate Word

July 2026

July Anniversaries

Arthur Pfeil Smart Flowers

68 years

Happy Birthday

Kelsey Hankins, *Porter Loring Mortuaries*

July 9

Mary Padron, *Sustaining Member*

July 11

Charito Lincoln, *Methodist HC Ministries*

July 16

Lauren Costley, *Deacon Recruiting*

July 17

Diane Skillrud, *Sustaining Member*

July 28

Denise Cross, *Sustaining Member*

July 31

Lynn Smasal, *Sustaining Member*

August 2

Melissa Molina, *University of Incarnate Word*

August 6

Christina Cardenas, *H-E-B*

August 17

July 2026

2025–2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

July 2026	No Meeting
August 20, 2026	Embassy Suites
September 24, 2026*	Roosevelt Library - Installation of 2026-2027 Board of Directors

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

BOARD MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

July 29, 2026	Virtual
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.***

June 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@affiniuscapital.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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July 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