

San Antonio ewiConnect

Chartered 1958

May 2026

President's Message



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

Dear EWI San Antonio Chapter Members,

As we step into May, I'm filled with gratitude for each of you and the incredible impact you continue to make within our chapter, your workplaces, and our community. This month is especially meaningful as we prepare to gather for one of our most inspiring events of the year: Scholarship Night on May 14th. I truly hope you will join us as we celebrate the achievements, dreams, and bright futures of our scholarship recipients. Your presence makes a difference, and it's a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

May also brings us the opportunity to honor the many nurturing roles you embody. Whether you are a mother, stepmother, grandmother, sister, aunt, godparent, mentor, or a guiding influence in someone's life - you are helping to raise a village. Your care, leadership, and encouragement shape lives in ways that often go unseen but are always deeply felt. This Mother's Day, we celebrate all of you and the unique, meaningful roles you play.

I encourage you to stay engaged and connected in the coming months. Attend our meetings, bring a guest, and keep an eye out for exciting opportunities ahead. Our Annual Reading Rally is just around the corner, and we're also looking forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming conferences, Texoma in late July and LCAM in September. These moments allow us to grow, learn, and strengthen the bonds that make our chapter so special.

Above all, please remember that this organization exists to support you...professionally and personally. Through our "Roll Out the Red Carpet" initiative, we remain committed to elevating your member experience and ensuring you feel valued, seen, and empowered every step of the way.


Thank you for being the heart of this chapter. I look forward to seeing you soon and celebrating all that we continue to accomplish together.

With appreciation and encouragement,

Lauren Costley



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@affiniuscaptial.com

Next issue deadline: June 5, 2026

May 2026

April Meeting Recap



Welcome to our wonderful new members! So happy to have you.



Christina Casiano
Standard Aero



Sarah Bisang
SWBC



Benita Collins
Via Metropolitan Transit



Angela Theesfeld
Davidson Camp Insurance

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

April Meeting Recap



EWI of San Antonio, 719 Carnoustie, San Antonio, Texas 78258
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EWI of San Antonio - Annual Scholarship Banquet & Executive Night



When

May 14, 2026
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Where

The University of Texas at San Antonio Downtown Campus
501 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd
San Antonio, TX 78207

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

Join us for our upcoming meeting on Thursday, May 14 at 5:30pm at The University of Texas at San Antonio Downtown Campus for our Annual Scholarship Banquet & Executive Night!

Reservations can be made by replying to this email or using the "Register Now" button no later than Monday, May 11 at 8:00am. If you would like to sponsor a meal for one of our winners or their guest, please feel free to do so. You are able to add a guest in the registration section on the website.

Agenda:

- 5:30 pm - Registrations and Reception
- 6:00 pm - President's Welcome, Mission Statement, UTSA Welcome, Inspiration
- 6:10 pm - Dinner Service
- 6:45 pm - ASIST & EWISP Scholarship Presentation
- 7:45 pm - Announcements, LCAM Scholarship Drawing & Adjournment

Menu*:

Salad -

Asparagus Mediterranean salad with hearts of palm, grilled portabella mushroom, piquillo peppers, boursin cheese and toasted pine nut vinaigrette

Entree - Your choice of options below.

Option One: Charred beef tenderloin & jumbo lump crab cake laid over mashed potatoes, grilled zucchini squash and served with agave demi glaze

Option Two: Spinach mozzarella stuffed chicken with a rosemary crispy potato cake and sauteed spinach

Option Three: Vegetarian

Dessert - Your choice of options below.

Option One: Triple chocolate mousse tower with fresh strawberry coulis

Option Two: Creme brule cheesecake with wild berry sauce

*All served with biscuits and focaccia with butter, ice water and iced tea.



May 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!

May 2026

Honoring the Many Ways Women Nurture and Lead This Mother's Day

As Mother's Day approaches, we pause to recognize and celebrate the women whose strength, care, and perseverance shape not only families, but workplaces, communities, and future generations. Motherhood takes many forms—biological, adoptive, step, chosen, and mentoring—and each reflects a profound commitment to nurturing growth, resilience, and possibility.

For many women in our professional community, the role of “mother” exists alongside demanding careers, leadership responsibilities, and a constant balancing of priorities. These women demonstrate daily that empathy and ambition are not competing values, but complementary strengths. The same qualities that define thoughtful parenting—patience, advocacy, adaptability, and vision—also define effective leadership.

We also acknowledge that Mother's Day can carry different meanings for different people. Some are remembering mothers who are no longer with us, others are navigating infertility, caregiving for aging parents, or serving as mentors and role models in the lives of younger colleagues. All of these experiences belong in our community, and all deserve recognition.

At its core, Mother's Day is about honoring the quiet and extraordinary work of nurturing others—often without recognition, often behind the scenes. It is about celebrating women who uplift, guide, and create space for others to thrive, whether at home, in the office, or beyond.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate the women among us who lead with compassion, who create opportunity, who model resilience, and who remind us that success is not only measured by titles or timelines, but by the lives we touch along the way.

To all who mother, mentor, care, and lead—thank you. Your influence reaches farther than you know.

May 2026



Sarah Bisang and her mom, Beth



Lauren Costley with her mom



Denise Cross with her mom



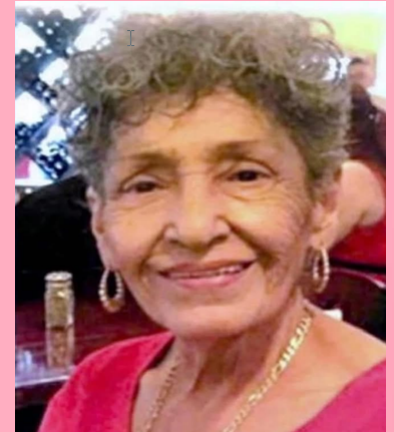
Lorie Lopez with her family



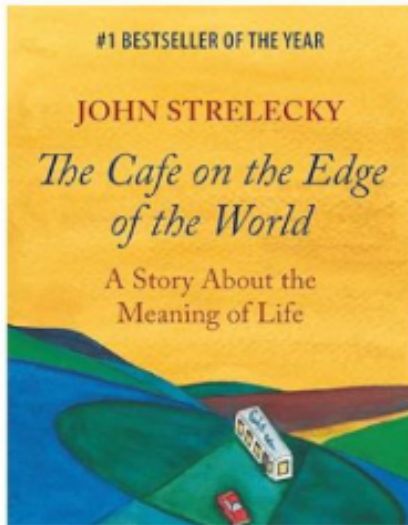
Margaret Eckhardt with her Mom, husband, and sister



Jennifer Uecker with her Mom and oldest daughter



Lorie Lopez's mom - Rosie



The Cafe on the Edge of the World is a short, reflective novel by John Strelecky that blends storytelling with life philosophy. First published in 2003, the book has become popular for readers seeking purpose, clarity, or a pause from the rush of everyday life.

The story follows John, the narrator, who is on a long road trip when he stops at a small, remote café late at night. Inside the café, he notices three questions printed on the menu:

- Why are you here?**
- Do you fear death?**
- Are you fulfilled?**

Through conversations with the café's staff and other patrons, John begins to reflect deeply on his own life choices, career path, and definitions of success and happiness. The café becomes a symbolic place outside of time—a setting that encourages honest self-examination rather than providing direct answers. The questions posed in the story are simple, yet powerful, pushing readers to confront issues they may avoid in everyday life. The author emphasizes that fulfillment is subjective and personal, not something defined by society, titles, or income.

One of the most memorable personal moments in *The Café on the Edge of the World* occurs when the café's calm atmosphere and conversations unfold around John, the questions start to feel uncomfortably personal, especially the one asking whether he is truly fulfilled. As he reflects, he realizes how much of his life has been shaped by expectations rather than intentions. He has been busy, productive, and externally successful, yet he struggles to explain *why* he is doing what he does. This moment becomes deeply personal because of the realization that a full schedule does not automatically mean a meaningful life.

John hears a story about a fisherman who lives a simple life, spending time with his family and enjoying his days. When a businessman suggests ways to optimize the fisherman's work to earn more money, the fisherman calmly explains that he already has what the businessman is ultimately working toward—time, peace, and fulfillment. This story hits John personally, forcing him to see how easily people postpone happiness in pursuit of an idea of "someday." This is powerful for John. He doesn't leave the café with a concrete plan; instead, he leaves with a shift in perspective. He begins to understand that fulfillment isn't about reaching a future milestone, it's about aligning daily life with personal values. The experience at the café becomes a quiet but lasting wake-up call, encouraging John to live more deliberately.

This little book has already sold over 6 million copies worldwide and shares a simple story and questions to help you determine your purpose in life. You can read it in an afternoon, but the lessons may stick with you for years.

Submitted by Margaret Eckhardt

May 2026

Happy Anniversary

**Deacon Recruiting
USAA**

**15 years
53 years**

Happy Birthday

**Benita Collins, *VIA Metropolitan Transit*
Lori Reed, *The Watermark Group*
Sheryl Moreno, *Weston Ventures*
Chloe Knauer, *UT San Antonio***

**May 10
May 19
May 21
May 30**

**Barbara Jordan, *Sustaining Member*
Christina Casiano, *Standard Aero*
Adriana Estevez, *Morgan Stanley*
Alicia Clark, *Ernst & Young*
Caroline Diaz, *Port Authority of San Antonio***

**June 7
June 9
June 12
June 16
June 18**



May 2026

2025–2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

May 14, 2026*	UT San Antonio - Downtown Campus
June 18, 2026	Porter Loring - West
July 2026	No Meeting
August 20, 2026	Embassy Suites
September 24, 2026**	Installation of 2026-2027 Board of Directors

*Please note May meeting is the 2nd Thursday of the month

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

BOARD MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

May 20, 2026 (Lunch Mtg)	Four Brothers, 112 College St
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If you would like to see the previous General Meeting or Board Meeting minutes please reach out to our Chapter Secretary.

May 2026

2025-2026 Officers & Directors

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

2025-2026 Chapter Advisors

<p>Advisor Alicia Clark Ernst and Young 210-606-5866 alicia.clark@ey.com</p>		<p>Advisor Kelsey Hankins Porter Loring 210-227-8221 khankins@porterloring.com</p>	
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2025–2026 Committee Chairs

ASIST/EWISP	Chloe Knauer
Philanthropy	Debbie Saldana, Christina Cardenas
Hospitality	Frances Dominguez, Sylvia Spanos
Budget	Melissa Molina
Parliamentarian	Frances Dominguez
Historian	Lorie Lopez
Nominating	Alicia Clark
Bylaws	Caroline Diaz
Social Media	Lauren Costley, Cali Beeman
Membership	Cali Beeman
Membership Retention	Cheri Wiese
Chaplain	Margaret Eckhardt
Care & Concern	Joyce Carothers

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