

# Oklahoma City EWI Connect

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August 2020

## Letter from the President



Dear EWI of Oklahoma City,

It seems like it has been too long since I've said, "thank you." COVID-19 has brought about different challenges for all of us, and yet we all still come together for this great organization that is EWI.

EWI is where our friends are, it is where we learn, it is where we uplift members of our community and it is where we grow.

To each and every one of our members who has stayed with us as we transitioned to virtual meetings, learned a new website and registration/payment process, determined how to take the best care of our members while remaining fiscally responsible and navigated the many other changes this pandemic has brought: **THANK YOU.**

We are now cautiously transitioning back toward some semblance of 'normal' by meeting in person for our August ASIST Scholarship Dinner. While I am eager to reconvene face-to-face, we must heed social distancing measures and wear our face coverings. Our August host, member firm The Sheraton, has assured us they have excellent safety protocols in place. While we prepare for our first in person meeting in five months, we know things will look different, but the strength of our organization remains the same. What better time to come together than to celebrate our ASIST Scholarship winners and be reminded of the great impact we make on those in our community who need a hand to reach their educational and professional goals.

Engage. Empower. Inspire.

WE are EWI.

Christine Laird  
Oklahoma City Chapter President  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

### 2019-2020 Officers & Directors

#### President

Christine Laird, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

#### Vice President/President-Elect

Sierra Eberle, Arvest Bank

#### Secretary/Co-Treasurer

Michelle Ferguson, Skyline on Bricktown Canal, LLC

#### Co-Treasurer

Ramona Carey, SSM Health

#### Program Co-Directors

Carrie Parker, The Sheraton Downtown Hotel & Julie Schmiedeskamp, Colcord Hotel

#### Sergeant-At-Arms

Kelly Hamilton-Coyer, OGE Energy Corp.

## LCAM 2020 Update

For the first time in EWI history, the Leadership Conference & Annual Meeting (LCAM) is going virtual! Like countless other organizations across the country, EWI has been adapting to changes in society brought on by COVID-19. While pivoting to a virtual LCAM will be different, the Corporate Board promises it will be still fun, informative and engaging.

The MOST important fact about this year's LCAM that you need to know is that it is FREE! Yes, another first for EWI...a free LCAM experience. With the absence of expenses to enjoy LCAM this year it is EWI's hope that everyone who is available to attend will choose to do so. Offering a virtual experience changes the scheduling of this year's conference, shifting LCAM to fit into 1 ½ days: all-day on Friday, September 18 and a ½ day on Saturday, September 19.

Leadership Caucus will be held on September 18 among additional programming, and it promises to offer critical leadership development once again for EWI members. Keeping with tradition, the Annual Meeting will be held on September 19. Though members across the country and Canada won't convene at a central location, Corporate President Felicia Senter is encouraging local Chapters to host socially distant LCAM watch parties and represent their city in a fun, creative way. EWI of Oklahoma City's incoming President Sierra Eberle is currently considering the possibility of a LCAM watch party.

If you haven't done so already, make a request to your Executive to virtually join LCAM for FREE this year and get a taste of what past attendees have always been bragging about.



### August Birthdays

August 21 – Doug Adkins, Executive, Arvest Bank  
August 31 – Micha Krodel, Executive, Colcord Hotel

**Happiest of birthdays to all!**

## News and Notes: Fundraising Update

COVID-19 has caused financial hardships for many industries, including non-profit organizations. Though EWI of Oklahoma City made the tough decision to cancel the Libations and Luxury Wine Tasting fundraiser this year, we still pursued grant opportunities. We're pleased to share that Monday, July 27 we were notified our grant request for \$2,500 from the OGE Foundation was approved. We are deeply grateful that member firm OGE continues to support the important work of non-profits in the communities they serve. The grant we have been awarded will fund our 2021 ASIST Scholarship Program.

This year has brought about challenges none of us expected, but those challenges have not kept us from pursuing our strategic plan and seeing success. Our fundraising efforts have remained strong through generous charitable contributions and grants from those who believe in our philanthropic initiatives. With the support of our donors we have the foundation needed to reach our philanthropy goals for the 2020-2021 year.

## Corporate Corner: Courageous Conversations with EWI Corporate President Felicia Senter

On July 23 thirteen members across EWI gathered virtually for a one-hour Courageous Conversation hosted by EWI Corporate President Felicia Senter. There were a few different topics discussed throughout, including how we were fairing amid the pandemic, our feelings toward recent protests and how we were doing overall balancing priorities, family, COVID-19 and social unrest.

It was a welcome conversation that opened with Felicia letting attendees know she was a 'safe space,' meaning we could confidently ask her any questions while also candidly sharing thoughts on the aforementioned topics. We laughed, we cried, shared revelations and concerns and even a couple of ideas. It felt like a needed mental and emotional well-being session among trusted friends. The thought of Courageous Conversations may cause you trepidation, but I encourage you to engage them. Not only are they great learning and growth experiences, they create stronger bonds of friendship and trust.

### DATES TO NOTE

**August 11, 2020 at 5:30PM**

ASIST Scholarship Dinner hosted by member firm The Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel: 1 N Broadway Ave, Oklahoma City OK 73102. Parking is available for \$2/hour and located in a parking garage on the south side of the hotel (across from the Cox Convention Center). Per City of Oklahoma City ordinance, face coverings are required to be worn while not eating or drinking.

**August 18, 2020 at 6PM**  
EWI Corporate Virtual Happy Hour

**August 25, 2020 at 12PM**  
August Board Meeting hosted by SSM Health at 1000 N Lee Ave, Oklahoma City 73102

## Board Digest Oklahoma City Chapter: July 2020

The Board of Directors met on July 28, 2020 at the Colcord Hotel, Wright Room, 15 N Robinson Ave, Oklahoma City OK 73102.

### Current Membership:

16	Member Firms
23	Executives
17	Representatives
8	Sustaining

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Fundraising Update** – Christine reported our chapter was awarded a \$2,500 grant by the OG&E Foundation. The OG&E grant makes this the second grant for this year after receiving the NW OKC Rotary grant earlier in 2020. She stated that the chapter has one additional grant from Enterprise Foundation still pending for \$2,000.
- **LCAM 2020** - Christine reported that LCAM 2020 will be a virtual meeting and is confirmed to take place for a full day on Sep 19<sup>th</sup> and a half day on Sep 20<sup>th</sup>. The 19<sup>th</sup> will consist of Leadership Caucus activities and encouraged all who had any interest in Leadership to attend as this will be a free conference. Sep 20<sup>th</sup> will consist of the EWI Corporate Business Meeting and welcoming the incoming board. It was also suggested that our local chapter organize an LCAM watch party. Sierra will look into this and Ramona has offered to check availability of the Rapp Conference Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

The August Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 12PM. The host is SSM Health at 1000 N Lee Avenue, Oklahoma City OK 73101.