

FWIT NEWS

VOL 15, ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 2024



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Embracing the Uncharted: My Journey Leading Financial Women in Texas"

I never thought I would be in a position like this – leading a group of 300+ POWERHOUSE WOMEN (and a few men) in Texas and beyond as President of Financial Women in Texas. I had myself convinced that there was NO WAY I was capable of doing something of this magnitude, something that carried this much weight, and was a position I have looked up to since I joined the Association in 2018.

I quite literally had a list of the reasons I could never reach this position:

- I despise public speaking
- I have never led a group this large

FWIT 2023- 2024

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

- I am not qualified to do this
- I am a relatively new member of the Association

The list went on and on. As do many of the other lists my brain tends to produce any time I am presented with a challenge or situation I am unsure of. I have always been like that! And this trait is quite honestly one of the things I am putting a great deal of effort into changing about myself for several reasons.

I accepted this position to answer one question: "What if I can?" Is it going to be challenging? Yes! Is it outside my comfort zone? Without a doubt! BUT, I refuse to be complacent and left wondering what if I never took that challenge. Could I have done it? Would I have been successful?

I know one thing for certain: I have absolutely no idea what I am capable of. Is it going to be smooth sailing the whole way? Nope. Will it be fun? You betcha!

I intend to answer all the questions I have asked myself, and I invite you along for the ride. BUCKLE UP LADIES!

FINANCIAL WOMEN IN TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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Reminders

Things to keep in mind...

Things to take note of...

Things to add to your calendar...

Things that are due...

Things to do...

FWIT Association Board Meetings



All members are invited and welcome to attend the monthly meeting held via Zoom.

3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00-11:00 AM, CST

Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode can be found in the Members Area - Helpful Member Info of the website: https://www.fwitexas.org/





Mark your calendars and start planning to attend the 2024 Leadership Forum X on Saturday, April 27, 2024 in downtown Austin, TX

The one-day event is hosted by the Association and includes leadership development opportunities, lunch, and plenty of networking with other FWIT members and guests.

This "don't want to miss" opportunity is a no-cost event for FWIT members and is open to non-members for a nominal cost.

Details coming soon from Education Director, Koren Bowie.

Join FWIT in Galveston Texas, September 18-20, 2024 for the 15th Annual Financial Women in Texas Conference.

Conference Agenda, room block, and details coming soon from Co-Chairs Cheryl Linder, Brandy Patterson and Michelle Klatt.



located on the historic Galveston Strand





HTTPS://LNKD.IN/GHF7G9GV

Let's Get Social! Like, Share, and Follow FWIT



Reminders

Things to keep in mind...
Things to take note of...

Things to add to your calendar.,

Things that are due...

Things to do...

Scholarship Goals

School

Learning



FWIT Empowering Futures Apply Now for Our General Education Scholarships!

We are excited to announce the availability of two General Education Scholarships aimed at supporting the educational, training and credentialing aspirations of our members.

As part of our commitment to further the careers of our members and women in general, we are offering two scholarships, each valued at \$1,000.

All FWIT members in good standing who did not receive an Association Scholarship (Education or Conference) during the 2022-2023 program year are eligible to apply.

Scholarship Details:

■ **Amount:** \$1,000 each

Application Deadline: Application must be received by midnight on February 23, 2024

Notification of Winners: Winners will be notified by email no later than March 15, 2024

How to Apply: To apply for these scholarships, complete the **FWIT 2024 General Education Scholarship Application** or visit the **Helpful Member Info** page on our FWIT website and access the application there. Ensure you submit all required documents and return the application as instructed.

Why Apply: Education is costly! Each scholarship is worth \$1,000 and can offer you financial support to help alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with reaching your education, training or certification goals.

FWIT believes in the power of education to strengthen careers, promote professional development and build skills that further advance our members. These scholarships are a testament to our commitment to that belief. Don't miss out on this chance to take a step closer to your educational pursuits.

For questions, feel free to contact **Awards & Scholarship Chair Charlotte McChesney** at **charlotte.mcchesney@legend.bank** or at 940-232-1592.

2023 - 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following a Legacy of Leadership into the 15th year of FWIT History is the 2023-2024 Board of Directors from across Texas

PRESIDENT

Courtney Yeatman Paso del Norte Group El Paso, TX

TREASURER

Stacy Cammack East Texas Group Longview, TX

VICE PRESIDENT

Jessica Lovell Houston Group Houston, TX



SECRETARY

Brandy PattersonGulf Coast Group
Sweeeny, TX

HISTORIAN

Lori Victory Houston Group Houston, TX

DIRECTOR - MEMBERSHIP

Carmen Bates Houston Group Kingwood, TX

DIRECTOR - EDUCATION

Koren Bowie Austin Group Austin, TX

BY-LAWS CHAIR

BJ Cary Virtual Member Group Cookeville, TN

<u>DIRECTOR - MARKETING</u>

Zelda Morales San Antonio Group San Antonio, TX

DIRECTOR - AT - LARGE

Kristin Graham East Texas Group Longview, TX

NOMINATING CHAIR

Melody Hess Gulf Coast Group Fulshear, TX

TECHNOLOGY CHAIR

Rasheedah Quarles Austin Group Pflugerville, TX

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

Bonnie Beadles East Texas Group Kilgore, TX

VIRTUAL MEMBER LIAISON

Hazel Davis San Antonio Group San Antonio, TX

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR

Charlotte McChesney
Dallas Group
Bowie, TX

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Cheryl Linder, Brandy Patterson, Michelle Klatt Gulf Coast Group Wallis, Sweeny, and El Campo, TX

NEW MEMBERS

FINANCIAL WOMEN IN TEXAS (FWIT)
BRINGS TOGETHER WOMEN IN FINANCE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, EXPERIENCES, AND INTERESTS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A big warm "Howdy, Y'all" to the newest FWIT members across Texas

from July through December 2023

Austin

- Wendy Foster
- Gilianne "Gili" Carter
- Annica Johnson
- Elizabeth Gibson
- Samondria Ivory
- Kris Dillon

Dallas

- Penney Hemby
- Dana Adams
- Kuuleialoha Jenks
- Andrea Sanderson

Houston

- Amy Dossat
- Jessica Romero
- Michele Navratil
- Elizabeth Bertsch
- Alexandra Lord
- Parul Shinde
- Amy Polka



Gulf Coast

- Mary Williams
- Tracie Schuette
- Leslie Sedlock
- Kimberly Jones
- Jamie Dornak

Paso del Norte

• Amber Medina

Virtual

- Treda Shoop
- Maria Lujan

Big Country

- Jennifer McKinney
- Whitney Peacock
- Angel Vijarro
- Keeley Gaddis

East Texas

- Michelle Lowe
- Julie Sharff
- Dana Mosier
- Aida Howard

San Antonio

- Gigi Girling
- Jacquelyn K Sinatra
- Kristin Babb
- Sarah Scott
- Alicia Coombs
- Thelma De Leon
- Alma Valdez Brown
- Sandra Solis
- Cindy Ramirez
- Curt Nelson
- Isabel Olivo

AUSTIN



Pictured above L to R are the 2023 - 2024 Austin Group Officers: Jocelyn Carby/Membership, Jennifer Applewhite/Secretary, Kendra Trump/President, Nicole Noto/Treasurer, and Rasheedah Quarels/Vice President



Pictured L: Jill Vaughan, Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking College of Business Administration, Sam Houston State University presented "Success is What You Say It Is...You Do You" at the Group's October Meeting held on October 19th at the Texas Bankers Association Headquarters.

Jill kept the attendees engaged as she shared her career journey that led her to retire from banking after 38 years to assume her latest role as SHSU Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking.





FWIT Austin Group Members stop to pose for a picture while enjoying time together at the 2023 Conference in Longview, TX.



Congratulations to Austin Group
Member, Nayer Sikder on being
named "Outstanding Women 2023"
by <u>BankBeat.biz</u>, a premier online
source for community banking news.
<u>Click HERE to read her featured story</u>
in the November issue of BankBeat.biz

BIG COUNTRY

FWIT Big Country Group has kept busy this year with After Hours Socials and Luncheons around the Abilene, TX area.



Members of the FWIT Big Country Group had a great time networking and talking business at their September 14th, 2023 After Hours Social held at the Sway Wine & Coffee Bar in Abilene, TX. The cozy and comfy seating offered a nice opportunity for Group President D'Lynn Lane (pictured left) to fellowship with those attending while enjoying a curated selection of the cafes artisanal bites.

To kick off the Holiday Season, Members of the FWIT Big Country Group enjoyed a CHRISTMAS edition after-hours social at Potosi Live in Abilene on December 14, 2023. Everyone enjoyed being treated to appetizers and drinks while playing a few fun games to spark the holiday excitement. Pictured right are those that attended.



DALLAS

FWIT Dallas Group continues to work on growth and providing meaningful programs for group members.





The August program was held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Sr. Business Economist, Jesus Canus provided a Regional Economic Update. 30 ladies attended.



Pictured left are Dallas Group Officers, Lauren Wilson (Treasurer), Judy Helm (President), and Casi Burchinal (Vice President), enjoying the Roaring 20's theme night at the 2023 Conference in Longview, TX. Six member of the Dallas Group attended the 2023 conference. Pictured right are Dallas Group members Lauren Wilson, Lacy Samples, Amy Thorpe and Casi Burchinal who attended the FHLB of Dallas Women in Financial Services conference October 26–27, 2023.





It was a great turnout for The Dallas Group's October 2023 program.

Mallory Herrin, CEO of HerrinHR share a timely topic on Company Culture & Employee Engagement.

Several guest were welcomed, along with one new FWIT Member!

Pictured Left Center is Mallory Herrin with FWIT members and guests in attendance.

EAST TEXAS

Post Conference the FWIT East Texas Group continued the fun, fundraising and financial industry networking with their monthly meetings and events.







It was a great night @ Papacitas Mexican Restraunt in Longview, where FWIT East Texas group enjoyed networking time and speaker presentations from several non-profit organizations (pictured right) they look forward to helping during the year. Pictured upper left are those in attendance. Pictured below left is Membership Chair Janet Sledge & incoming Chairperson Emma Bothwell with new member Aida Howard. New member Dana Mosier was not present, but was welcomed to the group at the October meeting.













The Annual CEO Night and Dessert Auction was again a huge success! This year it was held on November 14th, 2023 at the Summit Club in Longview. The FWIT East Texas group welcomed guest speaker Jack Green, Jr., Secret Service Agent and guest Judge Tim Bryan (pictured left) who graciously volunteered to serve as auctioneer again this year. Without the generous support from area Executive Management Teams, CEOs, local businesses, guests, members, and volunteer who donate their time, the decadent desserts and the monetary donations, the efforts to raise money for scholarships to be awarded to women pursuing a career in the financial service filed would not be possible. Below are pictures from that night's event.







EAST TEXAS



Congratulations to East Texas Group Member, Tammy Gibbons on being named "Outstanding Women 2023" by BankBeat.biz, a premier online source for community banking news. Click HERE to read her featured story in the November issue of BankBeat.biz.

Tammy has been a long time member of FWIT and has graciously volunteered her time in several roles to keep the Association and East Texas group actively engaged as new members join. Most recently, Tammy served as co-chair of the 2023 FWIT Annual Conference in Longview.



thank you



A Huge Texas-Sized Heartfelt Thanks to the East Texas Group for an Amazing 2023 FWIT Conference!

From all the FWIT Members - we'd like to express our gratitude to each of you for the incredible job you did planning, organizing, and hosting it.

We know you worked hard, put in some long dedicated hours and days to make sure every detail was thought of and taken care of so we could make the trip in and enjoy it. You truly created a special environment for us where we could connect, learn, and grow together. We all were able to make some lasting FWIT memories!

A special shout out to Co-Chairs Laura Rodgers and Tammy Gibbons for leading the way and making it happen!

GULF COAST

The 2024 Annual FWIT Conference Baton has been handed over to the FWIT Gulf Coast Group. They will be busy this year hosting local group meetings and planning all the details for the 15th Annual Conference in Galveston, September 18-20, 2024.



Pictured to the left are members of the 2024 Conference Planning Committee from the Gulf Coast Group who were able to join the November planning meeting in person. That day they were challenged with inclement weather but that didn't stop them from meeting. Instead, they decided to host the meeting in person AND virtually. The committee was glad to accomplish finalizing details on sponsorship opportunities for the 2024 Conference.

Be on the lookout for more conference details coming from Co-Chairs Cheryl Linder, Brandy Patterson and Michelle Klatt, or click **HERE** to check out the Annual Conference page on our FWIT website.

Also in November, members and guests heard from William (Pat) Huttenbach (Pictured right), who is a civil litigator and expert in Banking Law. His presentation on "How to Tackle Banking Law" captivated the audience for over an hour, as he shared valuable information on "Altered vs. Counterfeit", "Ampersand vs. And", deposit agreements, wire transfers, and the latest legal judgements on Zelle Fraud. His added magic tricks during his presentation made the topics entertaining.



HOUSTON

FWIT Houston Group members were excited to "get the party roaring" at the 14th Annual 2023 FWIT Conference in Longview. Pictured below are some of the Houston Group members that attended the Roaring 20's Casino Night.



The October 25th, 2023 networking and business meeting welcomed guest speaker Kelly Keith (pictured right), Senior Program Director at The Women's Resource. Kelly shared how the non-profit organization helps women and girls make choices towards becoming independent, productive and financially stable. Houston FWIT Members and guests donated gift cards to The Women's Resource to help support their programs and cover expenses for hosting lunches for high school girls.





The Houston FWIT Group held their 2023
Holiday Luncheon on December 13th, 2023
at the Cadillac Bar. The group enjoyed the
networking time, the monthly business
meeting, and a fun gift exchange to kick off
the holiday season. Pictured left are Houston
Group members and guests who attended.



PASO DEL NORTE

FWIT Paso Del Norte Group is the home of this year's FWIT Association President Courtney Yeatman, who is also the Paso Del Norte Group President. Helping Courtney lead the group this year includes Vice President, Angelina Reyes, Secretary, Bernadette Ramos, and Treasurer, Audrey Zamora.



Pictured left are FWIT Paso Del Norte
group leaders and members who
gathered at La Madeleine French
Bakery and Cafe back in September
2023 to plan out the fiscal year of
meetings and events for the group.
Growing membership is at the top of
the list of what they want to
accomplish together.



Amber Medina, VP of Product
Strategy - Hispanic Segment at
Synchrony is seen pictured left/middle
with members of the Paso Del Norte
Group who attended the October 27,
2023 meeting held at the West Star
Tower in El Paso. Everyone enjoyed the
beautiful view from the Bank's windows
while Amber shared her inspiring story
and shared tips on how to challenge
yourself in life and work.



SAN ANTONIO

FWIT San Antonio Group led by President Sarah Preston has continued to keep busy hosting monthly meetings and welcoming new members.





The FWIT San Antonio Group held an evening

Members Only Holiday Social & Dinner on

December 4, 2023 at Paesano's Lincoln Heights.

Above are pictures captured of new members
being pinned and those in attendance sharing
heartfelt moments together as they kicked off the
holiday season.

In October 2023 San Antonio FWIT group members gathered at Paloma Blanca for a lunch meeting and an engaging presentation on Human Trafficking given by Terri Luttrell, Compliance and Engagement Director with Abrigo. New members were welcomed and pinned by Novie Allen. Thanks to Texas Champion Bank for sponsoring the meeting.



Above are pictures from the November 9th, 2023 evening meeting. Speaker Jill Vaughan, Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking College of Business Administration, Sam Houston State University presented "Success is What You Say It Is...You Do You". Members and guests enjoyed hearing from Jill who pointed out success is personal to you and you shouldn't compare yourself to anyone else. The meeting was sponsored by Futurity First.

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UNVEILING AUTHENTICITY WITH JESSICA LOVELL

Known as a champion for change, lover of process improvement, and seasoned leader with 25+ years of industry experience,
Jessica Lovell recently had an opportunity to share how her life journey empowers her to operate boldly and confidently, cultivating spaces where authenticity can thrive.



Jessica's guest interview aired on Podcast Episode #27 of Thirsty Thursdays with CCWomen (Customer Contact Women) in November 2023.

The CCWomen's theme that month was belonging. The message they wanted to convey was that in today's fast-paced, rapidly changing professional landscape, it can be difficult for women to find a safe place where they can learn, grow, and thrive alongside others. Fostering belonging in the workplace provides opportunities for all of us to show up authentically and know that we'll be accepted with open arms.

Here's why you won't want to miss listening to this interview with Jessica:

• She's real, she's unguarded, and she'll inspire you with her story of how she's navigated her hardships with hope, resilience, and determination and how she now guides others through her experience and leadership.



Jessica Lovell, FWIT Vice President
Houston Group Member

SVP, Director of Customer Relations,
First National Bank Texas

BBA, Business Administration &
Management, Sam Houston State
University, Cum Laude



Click the Liston Now button above to tune in to Jessica's Podcast Interview titled "Unveiling Authenticity".

A Go The Distance A Map Your Field of Dreams







































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Go The Distance Man Your Field of Dreams Man











































