

# FWIT East Texas

January, 2022 to March, 2022

## Mission

- FWIT Strives to bring together women in finance for the exchange of ideas, experiences and interest.
- FWIT wants to further the meaningful professions or careers of our members and women in general
- FWIT encourages women to choose finance as a career and work to advance the career opportunities for all women in finance
- FWIT serves as an advocate of and to promote improvements in the professional development, leadership skills, education and training of women in finance.



FINANCIAL WOMEN  
IN TEXAS

*helping women succeed*

East Texas Group

## What have we been up to?

### January

With the new year came another round of COVID which prompted us to cancel our January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with speaker Dr. Sarah Gough and a visit from the FWIT Association President Hazel Davis. Dr. Gough has agreed to come speak another time and Hazel rescheduled her visit for March 29<sup>th</sup>.

We began collecting prom dresses and accessories for the Zonta Prom Boutique which is an event sponsored by Zonta Club of Longview and held February 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful service they provide by giving away formal dresses as well as accessories to young ladies.

### February



*Dorrie DeLand and Tammy Gibbons*

Dorrie DeLand with Texas Bank and Trust dropped off a large load of prom dresses and accessories to Tammy Gibbons for the Zonta Prom Boutique. A few days later, the employees of Texas Bank and Trust had yet another large donation for the Prom Boutique. All in all, Texas Bank and Trust employees donated over 50 dresses. With the help of Spring Hill State Bank employees, there were around 70 FWIT East Texas related donations. This is just amazing!

## FWIT East Texas Officers

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Find us on Facebook @  
FWIT East Texas and  
FWITexas.org

## February cont.

Since we were not able to meet in January, we held a business meeting by Zoom to discuss how many high scholarships to award. We approved two scholarships at \$500 but later approved to increase that to three scholarships.

## March

We had a great meeting with Officer Brandon Thornton of the Longview Police Department presenting the program, "Active Attack Events". He stressed that if we are ever in an active attack situation, we need to remember to A.D.D. – Avoid, Deny and Defend and that what we do matters! Don't forget to visualize an active attack event happening and what you would do in that situation. Where are you going to go and what are you going to do?

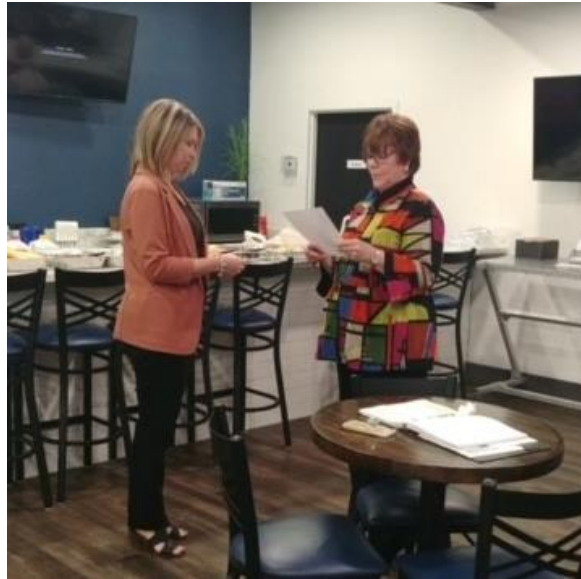


*Officer Brandon Thornton*



*FWIT Association President,  
Hazel Davis*

FWIT Association President, Hazel Davis, was our special guest. Hazel gave us an update on the revised FWITexas.org website and upcoming Annual Conference to be held September 8-9 in San Antonio.



Membership Chair, Janet Sledge, pinned new member Kristy Nevill at the meeting. Kristy is with Spring Hill State Bank and has been a member since November.

*New member, Kristy Nevill, being pinned by Membership Chair, Janet Sledge*

## Community Outreach

We chose One Love Longview for our community outreach project in March. Together, we collected two large boxes of needed items, a case of bottled water and large package of toilet paper. In addition, Kristin Graham sold the leftover taco fixings at the bank for lunch at \$4.00 a plate and raised \$58.00 for One Love Longview. Great idea Kristin! Thank you all who donated. The East Texas Group has proven over and over again that we are a group of ladies with giving hearts.



*Representatives from One Love Longview*



*March Meeting attendees*

## Membership

We gained a new member this quarter and another in the first week of April. Krystal English works at Texas Bank and Trust as a Loan Operations Servicing Associate and she is the cousin of Kristin Graham. They are keeping it in the family!

Laurn Montgomery joined us after the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Laurn works at First National Bank of East Texas in Gilmer. She met Hazel Davis at a TBA event and Hazel invited her to the meeting. Thank you, Hazel, for thinking of us and for introducing Laurn to FWIT.

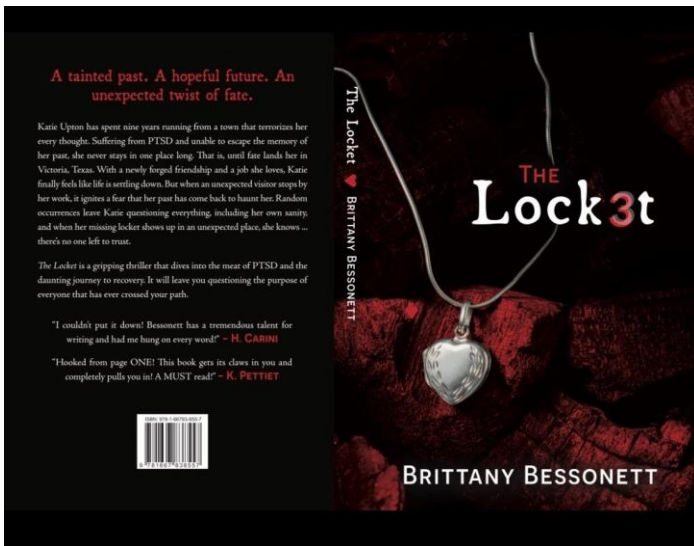
Welcome ladies!!

## Concerns

If you follow Brittany Bessonett on Facebook, you know she is dealing with some horrible back issues. It has been over 3 weeks since Brittany has been able to walk and she is in excruciating pain. As of this writing, Brittany's doctors have not given her a treatment plan. Please pray for her quick and complete recovery.

## Blessings

Speaking of Brittany, there is good news to share! Every year, FWIT awards two educational scholarships for \$1000 each and Brittany won one of them!



*THE LOCKET by Brittany Bessonett*

But that's not all....Brittany is now a published author. Her book, THE LOCKET, has been published and will be available soon. I can't wait to read it! Congratulations Brittany!

Tammy Gage retired from Texas Bank and Trust and was honored at a lovely reception. We wish you well Tammy and hope you will continue to be a part of our FWIT family. Congratulations!



*Tammy Gage's Retirement Reception*

## Upcoming Events

- April 19<sup>th</sup>** Wine and Chocolate Membership Event  
First Federal Community Bank  
805 N. Madison, Mt. Pleasant TX  
5:30 – 7:30
- May 17<sup>th</sup>** Paul Nunn, Pinnacle Financial Strategies and FWIT Member  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Cotton Patch Café', Longview  
Outreach Project – Longview Child Development Center
- June 11<sup>th</sup>** 2022 Summer Leadership Forum  
Historic Menger Hotel  
Free for members but need to sign up early because there is limited space
- August 16<sup>th</sup>** Planning meeting for 22-23 year  
No speaker, we will go over the budget and plan for next year  
5:30 – 7:30  
Spring Hill State Bank
- September 8-9<sup>th</sup>** FWIT Conference  
San Antonio, Menger Hotel