

Letter from President



The Washington DC chapter hosted a fabulous *Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting (LCAM)* in September and installed a new board of directors in October. Now we resume our continuing efforts to grow EWI and make it better.

EWI is about careers, connections, and community; and people retain memberships for

different reasons.

Careers: Our professional webinars and other resources are available to you and all your coworkers. Committee service is a great springboard to enhance your career in corporate boardrooms.

Connections: EWI members don't just exchange handshakes and business cards, but many hugs and real friendships.

Community: Every penny of money collected for our scholarships and reading rallies goes into the community. Not many other organizations can say that.

Not everyone joins EWI for the same reasons, but there are good reasons for everyone to join. We should all become well informed of the benefits we and our employers get with our memberships. This will allow us to explain them with greater detail and enthusiasm to prospective members this year, which will benefit us all.

In the meantime, let's all bring a guest to our November meeting and enjoy a presentation by our own Terry Monaghan of 'Time Triage', called [*The Five Myths of Networking*](#). A relevant program with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and a reduced meeting fee presents a great opportunity to showcase our unique organization to prospective new members.

Martin Smith
Best Messenger Inc

2014-2015 Officers & Directors

President

Martin Smith, Best Messenger

Vice President

Lisa Scott, Suntrust Bank

Secretary

Jocelyn Hunter, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

Treasurer

Pamela S. West, Attorney at Law

Ways & Means

Meena Tharmaratnam, Ibhana Creations

Membership Director

Position Currently Unoccupied

Sergeant-at-Arms

Melissa Ballagh, Susan I. Wranik Associates

Programs

Terry Monaghan, Time Triage

Board Advisor

Susan I. Wranik, Susan I. Wranik Associates

Publications Director

Position Currently Unoccupied

DC Hosts LCAM 2014

The *Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting* was hosted by the Washington DC chapter this September in Crystal City, Virginia. Every indication is that the event was a great success.

Perhaps the highlight was our river cruise on Friday night. Over 120 people wine, dined, and danced the night away on the Odyssey Potomac River Dinner Cruise, which provided a unique view of the DC monuments. We are thankful for all the time that Patti Ripperger of [FMC](#) and the LCAM Planning Committee put in to make this evening a great success, and for the excellent bus services provided by Karen Smith and [Sly's Limousine Service](#).

On Chapter Night, when people set out on their own to have dinner together, at least three groups went to [Carmines Restaurant](#), which afforded them the quintessential Washington DC experience of an after dinner walk on the nation's front yard just three blocks away.

The business of EWI was conducted in the parliamentary proceeding known as the annual meeting. Two significant changes to the corporate bylaws were announced:

The board of directors approved the introduction of an individual class of membership, which welcomes people to join with or without the support of their employers, and allows people who change employment to retain their memberships. This change is optional to all chapters, and ours voted in favor of welcoming the new class of individual membership.

We also made a final decision on the option of posting prospective new members for review, and have decided by a chapter vote to continue the practice. EWI will remain a non-competitive group, which ensures that any member has veto rights over the provision of membership to prospective new members in similar businesses, given approval by the chapter board.

Our cruise raffle netted approximately \$1,000 for the Foundation, which provides scholarships and reading rallies, and if we sell the rest of our Christmas ornaments this year, another \$600 will be added to the fund.

Odyssey Cruise



Everyone had a great time on the Odyssey river cruise hosted by the DC chapter during LCAM 2014!



November Meeting

Join us the second Wednesday of the month, Nov. 12, at 6:00pm for appetizers, wine, and a thoughtful discussion titled *The Five Myths of Networking*. Register [now!](#) Park next door after 5:00 for just \$8.00 at PMI. (It costs \$19.00 if you enter the garage before 5pm).

Great Holiday Shopping Idea

If you buy Christmas ornaments from the White House Historical Association or Gift Shop every year, consider buying them from EWI. The EWI Foundation purchased a quantity which allows us to sell them for you at the regular prices while still raising money for our non-profit scholarship and reading rally programs. Not only that, but you can skip the tax, shipping, and shopping hassles and purchase them at our next EWI meeting!

We were very pleased to have recently received an email from Patricia Royals, president of the DC chapter in 1980. Patricia has twelve grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren and lives in Boyd, MD, located in North Montgomery County. She sends regrets for not attending EWI meetings due to distance, but says she is still happy to support our group! We thank Patricia for starting off our fundraiser with her purchase of 12 ornaments!

Don't miss your chance to get some shopping done early this year and be ready for the season that's to come soon! Get your ornaments this Wednesday at Suntrust.

Support EWI with Your Purchase



The ornament above depicts the Truman Balcony of the White House. An informative booklet and neat gift box make this a great corporate or personal gift.

Board Service with EWI

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

By Martin Smith

EWI presents monthly, professional webinars to keep you informed about new and interesting topics that affect your life and career. But *leadership* is what you get when you make the most of your EWI membership. Leadership means different things to different people and to some it is just a vague word. But leadership means corporate board service, and it begins with work on an EWI committee.

Board service at EWI is a great springboard to corporate board service, which may be a powerful way to advance your career. Here we develop the skills needed to improve our professional lives and make ourselves credible candidates for a corporate board seat.

EWI invites you to build your professional capital with leadership training at the **Academy of Leadership**. EWI courses are offered every year at LCAM and the spring conference. Many individuals and institutes, EWI says, believe that leadership cannot be taught, and that some people are just born with it. The Academy of Leadership, on the other hand, is “driven by the understanding that behavior is the foundation of all successful leadership”.

Skills can only get someone so far, and “behavior is the corner stone of creating and solidifying the effectiveness of a leader,” says EWI, which has a long history of teaching and coaching successful leaders. Give yourself the gift of potential and get your leadership on with EWI!

Board Retreat

The newly elected DC chapter board met with our outgoing board for the annual board retreat this October to chart our chapter's course for the year. [Carmines Restaurant](#) donated a great meal with attentive and friendly service as usual, and past DC chapter president Jenny Wild provided an exclusive [Alternate Perspectives](#) workshop. Together, we identified our goals and the skills needed to achieve them.



The incoming board of directors is installed in October by corporate board liaison Cheryl Hawkins. From the left: Martin Smith, Lisa Scott, Jocelyn Hunter, Pamela West, Melissa Ballagh, Terry Monaghan, Suzette Smith, Michelle Joseph, and outgoing president, Susan Wranik.

The board of directors will now work to populate their committees with members who have the desired skills.

Find a committee that need your skills and volunteer to serve. Just a few hours a week or less can put you on a road to greater things. EWI is a great place to expand your horizons with boardroom experience, and using your skills in service of a committee can be your launching pad if you decide to open yourself to that future.

'Atta Boy!'

Our November webinar included a test members could take online, and the first participant to email in with a perfect score won Traci Brown's autographed book, *Body Language Confidential*, and her CD, *Mastering Magical Persuasion*. Way to go **Martin Smith** for bringing the prize to Washington DC!

Children's Award

Room to Read founder John Wood was presented with a 2014 World's Children's Prize Honorary Laureate Award by the Royal Highness of Sweden.

[Room to Read](#) is a global organization seeking to transform the lives of millions of children in the developing world by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education

DATES TO NOTE

November 12, 2014

The Five Myths of Networking, 6:00pm at Suntrust, 1445 NY Ave NW

December 2, 2014

Monthly Webinar at 3:00pm with topic to be announced

December 10, 2014

Holiday dinner and 2014 chapter awards at Suntrust