



President's Message

Happy New Year! Are you hanging in there with your New Year's Resolutions? Your EWI Board is. We have been working hard on your behalf to bring you everything **EWI** has to offer through "**Connections – Careers – Communities.**" I can't wait to see the fireworks from each of our meetings.

Connections – The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Sue Burkhard, will be meeting next week to discuss recruitment efforts to enlarge you and your firm's network of connections. (Remember we are all a part of this committee; share your connections for membership.) The Mentoring Program, designed over the last year, has been such a success in retaining our membership. I encourage our seasoned members to step up and be a mentor; we'll need you as new firms come on board. As of this writing, 100% of our member firms have given an oral commitment to renewing their membership for the 2010 year and we have five new firms posting for membership. How exciting!

Careers – The Program Committee, under the leadership of Alecia Hartwig, met between the holidays to discuss programs for the upcoming year. They took note of the survey comments and designed programs that will provide both educational value and fun to each meeting. As soon as location sites are firmed up, we'll post this year's programs.

Communities – Along with our programs, we anticipate stepping out into our community with various philanthropic opportunities. We have incorporated a service component to coincide with a monthly program for you to partake in and are looking into participating in other service activities.

**So, you see why I can't wait for the fireworks!!!!
I'm excited for the Omaha Chapter!**

Remember the building blocks you received at installation? Your Board has taken those to heart and built a wonderful foundation for the year. Come along and place your block on the wall to grow with us this year through the **Omaha Chapter of EWI - "Connections – Careers – Communities."**

Darlis Vauble

LOCAL BOARD

Darlis Vauble, President
Woodmen of the World
402-661-8383

Ruth Utman, Vice President
Burlington Capital Group LLC
402-930-3068

Lori Mitera, Secretary
West Asset Management
402-546-7177

Jennifer Chleboun, Treasurer
Ameristar Casino
712-328-8888

Sue Burkhard, Membership Director
McCarthy Group Advisors LLC
402-393-1300

Janet Schawang, Sgt-At-Arms
AOI Corporation
402-896-5520

Alecia Hartwig, Program Director
Greater Omaha Chamber
402-346-5000

Gwen Christensen, Publication Director
West Asset Management
402-384-5157

Connie Davis, Ways & Means Director
Baird Holm LLP
402-231-8534

Sheryl Martin, Director At Large
AAA Rents & Event Services
402-339-3707

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February:

EWI Board Meeting:
West Asset Management
4:30pm, February 3, 2010

EWI Monthly Meeting:
Baird Holm
Wednesday, January 20,
1700 Farnam St., Omaha, NE
5:30pm

Birthdays:


Connie Davis **January 6**
Stacie Robertson **January 9**

December Meeting Highlights



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ewi-omaha.org
www.ewiconnect.com



We would like to recognize **Ruth Utman** for the Wine she donated for the December Party, as well as **Sue Burkhard** for the upcoming Raffle Drawing prize.

Please keep in mind that if you as Chapter Members or your firm have anything they would like to donate for the raffles or have donated for our monthly raffle. The money generated from the raffles is deposited in our chapters General Fund.



Mark your calendars! 2010 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, January 20, 2010
- Wednesday, February 24, 2010
- Wednesday, March 24, 2010
- Wednesday, April 21, 2010
- Wednesday, May 26, 2010
- Wednesday, June 23, 2010
- Wednesday, July 28, 2010
- Wednesday, August 25, 2010
- Wednesday, September 29, 2010
- Wednesday, October 27, 2010
- Wednesday, November 17, 2010
- Wednesday, December 15, 2010

***these dates are subject to change



Recently a need came apparent for our chapter. We needed a laptop to keep our financial information on. We reached out to our members and you delivered

Darlis Vauble - Woodman of the World for donating the laptop
Alicia Hartwig - Omaha Chamber - Flash Drive
Gwen Christensen - West Asset Management - Microsoft Office.

January Chapter Meeting

January 20

Baird Holm

7517 Pacific, Omaha, NE 68114
Conference Center on the 15th floor

Program: D.R.E.A.M.

Presented by Steve Warren

Directions and parking: Street parking is available on Farnam and Douglas Streets plus some of the other side streets. Arrival before 6:00 p.m., you may use either the Farnam Street or 18th Street entrances into the building. The Woodmen Tower is locked at 6:00 p.m. anyone arriving after 6pm will need to use the 18th Street entrance on the West side of the building and we will have someone there to meet you and let you into the building. Proceed to the elevators and come to the 15th floor.

\$25.00 per person

Checks payable to: Executive Women International

If you do not cancel your reservation with 48 hours of the event, you will be responsible for payment of the meal.

RSVP by Friday, January 15

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Guests: _____

Email: jschawang@aocorp.com

Subject Line: EWI RSVP

Mail: Janet Schawang

Advanced Office Interiors

8801 South 137th Circle

Omaha, NE 68138

Membership Committee Request

If you will be bringing a prospective member to this month's chapter meeting, please notify Sue Burkhard, Membership Chair, in advance of the meeting. The Membership Committee members will then make certain that your guest is welcomed on behalf of the Omaha Chapter and can visit with her about the membership process and answer any questions. Membership information kits will also be available for your guest to take if she is interested. Thanks for your help in introducing prospective members to our chapter!

Save the Date!

February Chapter Meeting

February 24

Alegent Health Immanuel

EWI Corporate News

As we begin our new year, I encourage you to take this opportunity to take a fresh new look at your participation in your Chapter's objectives and goals for the year.

I would like to share with you a few reminders that have helped me in my role as Corporate President. These reminders were shared with me my first year on the Corporate Board and again this year during my installation as your Corporate President.

- *Listen - you can always learn by listening.*
- *Be patient - give people a chance to think and react to your ideas.*
- *Ask for help. People all around you have the capability and the knowledge to help solve problems.*
- *Show sincere appreciation - give visible and specific credit to others.*
- *Be flexible and think positive - sometimes there is more than one good way to get things done.*

And my favorite leadership principle that I learned from Lead Star during Leaders Summit in Philadelphia, PA:

Courage + Initiative + Perseverance + Integrity = Success

During this year, your Corporate Board and Corporate Office staff are using courage and initiative to step out of our comfort zones as we work with you to retain and grow our membership; we are using perseverance to stay the course in spite of obstacles and challenges; we continue to rely on our integrity to operate EWI in the most efficient manner possible, all of which will equal success for EWI.

Stay tuned for future EWI Connect issues as updates from each of the Corporate Board Officers and Directors will be included. We are working diligently to:

- *Provide open communication between the Corporate Board, Corporate Office staff and all members of EWI*
- *Streamline our procedures and update our procedure manual*
- *Provide marketing materials to assist you in marketing EWI*
- *Support your membership retention and recruitment efforts*
- *Provide quality tele-seminars and utilize cutting-edge technology for their delivery*
- *Evaluate and redesign our website and templates for ease of use*
- *Assist all Chapters with identification of classifications available for membership growth within the Chapter*
- *Assist our Satellite Chapters (EWI of San Francisco and EWI of Grand Prairie) as they work to achieve Charter status*
- *Plan the 2010 LCAM*
- *Review our Bylaws for clarity*
- *Prepare for the Corporate Reading Rally*

We value you and your input, and our doors are always open to our members. Many good wishes to each of you for a successful 2010!

Louise B. Anderson

2009-2010 Corporate Board President





In the Spotlight!
EWI Omaha Chapter Committee

Program Committee – Director: Alecia Hartwig 978-7936 ahartwig@omahachamber.org
This committee is responsible for arranging monthly Chapter meetings (including venue, menus, program topics, and speakers).

With a focus on community, careers and connections the Program Committee met to determine the program schedule for 2010. Program Director Alecia Hartwig of the Greater Omaha Chamber comments, "I am really excited about the educational speakers, exciting venues and fun events being lined up for the year." She also expressed thanks to committee members Linda Hammond, Ruth Utman, Kathy Fry, Becky Rupiper-Greene, Carolyn Ziemann, Darlis Vauble and Connie Davis for their planning and to the entire EWI membership for the valuable input provided through the survey. A full program will be published next month, once all programs are confirmed.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Join the Omaha Chapter of Executive Women International in 2009 and only pay dues for 12 months!

The Omaha Chapter Board is challenging every chapter rep to recruit new member firms now through 12/31/09 so that we can offer this special dues rate to as many new member firms as possible.

The top recruiter from August 1 – December 31 will receive \$50 cash!

(In the event of a tie, a drawing will determine the winner.)

We have a winner!
Ruth Utman

Ruth has chosen to donate the money she won back to the EWI. We encourage everyone to step out of their box and recruit a new firm!



We Saw It Here

We have two articles for this month's edition. Be sure to read them all about our Member Firms!

We start with a feature video about AOI – they were featured on KETV in Dec for their dedication to making sure the employees reap the rewards of all their hard work to keep them from being a recession victim.

<http://www.ketv.com/video/21582884/index.html?taf=oma>

Copy and paste the link.



Susan Madsen:

Bringing Midwestern hospitality to the masses

The road traveled by Susan Madsen began in a motel in Avoca, Iowa, and continues today at the Embassy Suites in downtown Omaha, where she is general manager. Madsen knows a thing or two about hospitality. She's spent much of her life learning the lessons of making people feel comfortable away from home. "My parents, Herb and Joyce Sizemore, owned a small motel in Avoca, Iowa, where I grew up," she said. "My sisters Kay and Linda and I worked there, checking in guests, cleaning rooms and doing the laundry. We literally grew up in the business. Because of that work experience early on, I realized this was a business suitable to my personality and goals."

Madsen has held various positions in the hotel business over the years. "I started working right out of high school and worked my way up through different departments and positions in the hotel business," she said. "I started in human resources, and quickly realized that I loved the hotel business and always found the work to be very interesting and ever-changing."

During her 26-year tenure with Marriott International, she held various positions: Director of Services, Director of Human Resources, Area Director of Human Resources, and Resident Manager. She spent five years working at the Marriott Reservation Center in Omaha, and served as the general manager at the Kansas City Airport Marriott Hotel for a term as well.

"I've had the opportunity to live and work [in Omaha], Minneapolis and Kansas City and continue to find the Midwest the most hospitable part of the country," she added.

Madsen said there are many things that have surprised her in working in the hotel business, and that she enjoys her work every day. "You get to meet so many people from all over the world, both guests and associates," she said. "When we exceed our guests' expectation, whether it's just a good night's sleep or planning and hosting a wedding of their dreams, it's very gratifying."

Despite the lagging economy, Embassy Suites has maintained a healthy business, Madsen said. "Although many hotels are experiencing a decline in occupancy and room rates, we're fortunate to be in the Old Market and have close proximity to major businesses and the Qwest Center Omaha, so we're keeping busy," she said.

The economic climate has mandated some changes at the hotel, though, including finding ways to do business more efficiently but without sacrificing customer service. "We still have to deliver the core pillars at Embassy Suites — two-room suites, complimentary manager's reception and complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast — and are closely monitoring business conditions for the next

year," she said. "Everyone is competing for the business and with so many choices in hotels, you really have to differentiate your product and service to secure new and repeat clientele."

Madsen finds joy in her work at Embassy Suites, and part of that lies in getting to know the associates who work at the hotel. "We have a 'Make a Difference' culture at Embassy Suites and our associates are empowered to make decisions to deliver excellent customer service, above and beyond," said Madsen. "Celebrating success is important and we're always looking for ways to motivate every associate."

She said she is surprised by some of the letters she receives about the excellent customer service at the hotel. "One associate baked cookies for a guest who was staying with us for several days, due to medical treatment in a local hospital. He was so appreciative of her thoughtfulness during his very difficult time in Omaha."

Madsen has had several encounters with celebrities at hotels over the years, though "most of the time, the famous guests like to keep a low profile and most check in under a different name." Her most memorable encounter? Meeting Bill Cosby during his stay at the Omaha Marriott Hotel. "He actually came into the kitchen and wanted to make a sandwich, which he did, and went behind the bar and started making drinks for our guests," she said. "That was really fun for everyone to see him as a 'regular' guy."

Madsen came to Omaha from Kansas City in January 2008. She lived in Embassy Suites for six months while her house was being sold, an experience she enjoyed very much. "I took the elevator home at the end of the day, and really enjoyed getting to know the Old Market and downtown area," she said. Recently, she was excited by the opportunity to participate in the discussions on the master planning process of downtown Omaha's growth and change. "It will be exciting to watch so many different areas of downtown being developed and improved," she said. "We have such great dining, arts and entertainment in Omaha and we really need the Omaha citizens to take a 'staycation' locally."

"They may be surprised at all the options available right in our own back yard," Madsen added.

For those who want to take a "staycation," call Embassy Suites at 346-9000.

*Madsen is married with a young son, Alec, three grown children, Michelle, Erik and Aaron, and two grandchildren. In addition to work as general manager, Madsen is on the Metropolitan Hospitality Association Board, the Nebraska Hotel Most Association Board, and is the President of Skal Omaha. **EB***

"We have a 'Make a Difference' culture at Embassy Suites and our associates are empowered to make decisions to deliver excellent customer service."

Trivia Question
How many EWI chapters world-wide are there?

Bring your answer to the next meeting to see if you're correct - a drawing will be held for all the correct answers. A small prize will be given.





FORM 18
Agenda of the Board of Directors Meeting
Omaha Chapter
EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL®
December 1, 2009

Call to Order: McCarthy Advisors, Called to order at 3:15pm by Darlis Vauble.

Roll Call: Darlis Vauble, Ruth Utman, Lori Mitera, Jennifer Chleboun, Janet Schawang, Alecia Hartwig, Gwen Christensen, Connie Davis, Sheryl Martin
 Absent: None

Minutes:

The November Board Meeting Minutes are attached. Is there a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes? Motion made by Alecia Hartwig. Seconded by Ruth Utman. All in favor.

Are there any corrections? The amount reported for the basket silent auction at Executives' Night was incorrect. The correct amount should be \$2,090.

Is there a motion to approve the November 2009 Board Meeting Minutes?
 Motion made by Lori Mitera. Seconded by Alecia Hartwig. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurers Report is attached. The balance in the General Account is \$2,292.78. The balance in the B/C/DP account is \$2,039.99 cash on hand and \$50,766.07 in investments, for a total of \$52,806.06.

Presentation of Statements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Baird Holm	Executives' Night Hobby Lobby	\$ 48.58
Blooms	October Executives' Night Flowers	\$123.00
College of Saint Mary	November Chapter Meeting Dinner	\$362.73
Shirley Gunderson	November Chapter Meeting Dinner	\$ 32.10

Is there a motion to approve payment of these statements? Motion made by Gwen Christensen. Seconded by Sue Burkhard. All in favor.

We will have a separate meeting to discuss the budget on December 16 at 4pm at Sue Burkhard's office (prior to the December Chapter Meeting). Also, Jennifer has a template that she will forward to the Board to use for budgeting/planning events and meetings. This form should be completed and forwarded to the Board for approval prior to the event.

Communications:

EWI Corporate Connect for 11-18-09
- "No Dirty Dishes" Fundraiser Idea

Take a look at the LCAM photos on the corporate website. Omaha is featured in some of them.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Sue Burkhard – Some suggestions were to show the EWI video to new members for orientation purposes. Also, ask firm executives for leaders at other firms that may be good prospects. The Membership Committee will have a meeting the week of January 11.

Program – Alecia Hartwig – Focus this year will be on Community, Careers and Connections. Some feedback from the membership survey was to have more educational programs, chapter meetings over lunch, firms hosting chapter meetings. The committee will discuss this feedback as they work on the schedule for the year.

Publication – Gwen Christensen – working on publication this week. Will be distributed by Friday. Incorporating some new sections to the newsletter. Will submit the "We Saw It Here" section to Corporate as a Best Practice for our chapter. Will also be adding a Committee News section and a monthly trivia question to the newsletter.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Janet Schawang – attendance report from November has been given to Gwen for the newsletter.

Ways & Means/Philanthropy - Connie Davis – items discussed included Party with a Purpose, Make & Take in November, more exciting monthly raffle items (get donations from firms or Omaha businesses), war care packages for women (publicize in December/January and do the packages in February).

Long Range Planning/ Marketing – article was published in the Midlands Business Journal of 2009-2010 Board members. Also looking for any connections to news anchors to help publicize our chapter events.

B/C/DP - Darlis Vauble – Darlis and Connie met with DREAM since our last Board meeting to discuss possible fundraiser for next year. Other fundraising ideas were discussed at today's meeting. Focus is on Community and getting our name out there while at the same time raising funds for B/C/DP.

Investment Committee – Jennifer Chleboun – nothing new to report.

Nominating – Jane Allamong will be the chair of this committee.

Unfinished Business:

- Records Retention Guidelines and Disaster Recovery Plan – Lori to contact Corporate to get clarification on what needs to be saved to CD and sent to Corporate. Will work with Board on this requirement.
- Programs for the Year – committee will meet and discuss feedback from the survey and today's meeting.
- Budget – will have separate Board meeting to discuss budget.
- On-line chapter roster – will need to have this updated.

New Business:

- EWI Survey – spent considerable time going through the results of the survey and discussing ideas.
- Annual Renewals – dues statements to be sent out soon. Dues are due on January 15.
- Form 29 Filing – B/C/DP Projects Participation Form (for coming year) – did not have time for this discussion
- Form 30 Filing – Chapter Final Report on Reading Rally and Philanthropic Projects – did not have time for this discussion.

Announcements:


Publication Deadline: Tuesday, December 1.
 Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 5 at 4pm at Ameristar.
 Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, Spirit World

Adjournment:

Time: 6:06pm

Approved:

Submitted:

 Darlis Vauble, President

Lori Mitera, Secretary

**EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL
OMAHA CHAPTER**

**TREASURER'S REPORT - GENERAL ACCOUNT
Board Meeting
January 5, 2010**

Period: December 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

CASH ON HAND: November 1, 2009		\$ 2,039.99
 INCOME & RECEIPTS		
Interest Earned for year	\$ 0.24	
	<hr/>	
Total Income & Receipts	\$ 0.24	
 EXPENSES		
	<hr/>	
Total Expenses	\$ -	
 Net Increase in Funds for Period Ended December 31, 2009		 <u>0.24</u>
 CASH ON HAND: December 31, 2009		 <u><u>\$ 2,040.23</u></u>
 INVESTMENTS ON HAND: December 31, 2009		
Clipper Fund	\$ 14,119.24	
Vanguard Intermediate Bond Fund	15,600.29	
Vanguard Balanced Index Fund	18,009.24	
Vanguard Morgan Growth Fund	<u>3,037.30</u>	
 Total Investments		 \$ 50,766.07
Total Cash		<u>2,040.23</u>
 TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS ON HAND: December 31, 2009		 <u><u>\$ 52,806.30</u></u>

**EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL
OMAHA CHAPTER****TREASURER'S REPORT - B/C/DP ACCOUNT
Board Meeting
January 5, 2010****Period: December 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009****CASH ON HAND: DECEMBER 1, 2009** **\$ 2,292.78****INCOME & RECEIPTS**

November Dinner Meeting	\$ 120.00
December Dinner Meeting	575.00
December Raffle	59.00
Interest	0.23

Bank Interest

Total Income & Receipts	\$ 754.23
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EXPENSES

Spirit World	\$ 598.00
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Total Expenses	\$ 598.00
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Net Increase in Funds for Period Ended December 31, 2009	<u>156.23</u>
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CASH ON HAND: DECEMBER 31, 2009	<u>\$ 2,449.01</u>
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**EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL
OMAHA CHAPTER**

ATTENDANCE REPORT

December 2009 Dinner Attendance

Member Firms:	18
Representatives:	23
Life Members:	0
ASIST:	0
Guests:	<u>2</u>
Total Attendance:	25

*Percent of Total Firms: 55.5%

*Percent of Total Representatives: 69.0%

Submitted by:

**Janet Schawang
EWI Sergeant-at-Arms**

November 2009 Dinner Attendance

Member Firms:	20
Representatives:	26
Life Members:	1
ASIST:	0
Guests:	<u>0</u>
Total Attendance:	27

*Percent of Total Firms: 68.9%

*Percent of Total Representatives: 67.5%

Submitted by:

**Janet Schawang
EWI Sergeant-at-Arms**

***Based from Membership Report (29 firms, 40 reps, 8 Life Members)**

EWI – Omaha Chapter Membership List

AAA Rents & Event Services – Sheryl Martin
Alegent Health – Linda Franco
Ameristar – Jennifer Chleboun, Misty Sessions
AOI Corporation – Janet Schawang
Baird Holm LLP – Linda Hammond, Connie Davis
Bland & Associates, P.C. – Hilary Allen
Brandeis Catering – Michelle Mueller
Bridges Investment Counsel – Margaret “Sam”
Rutherford
Burlington Capitol Group, LLC – Ruth Utman
College of Saint Mary – Shirley Gunderson, Gail
Thompson, Carolyn Ziemann
ConAgra Foods – Michele Graham, Kathy Fry
Daugherty Foundation – Brianne Wilde
Doubletree Hotel Downtown – replacement rep to be
determined
Embassy Suites Hotel – Gina Tielebein
Girls Incorporated of Omaha – Jane Allamong
Goodwill Industries, Inc. – Bobbie Tvrdik

Greater Omaha Chamber – Alecia Hartwig
Kelly Services – Mindy Begley
Lincoln Financial Group – Patty McElderry, Jo Anne
Drefs
McCarthy Group Advisors, LLC – Sue Burkhard
Methodist Health System – Sue Beem
Northern Natural Gas Company – Carol Armstrong
OPPD – Cathy Bodammer, Linda Hutchens, Carolyn
McClean
SilverStone Group, Inc. – Jeannie Aldredge
Tero International- Becky Rupiper-Greene
Travel and Transport – Barb Ewer
West Asset Management – Lori Mitera, Gwen
Christensen, Stacie Robertson
Woodman of the World Life Insurance Society – Darlis
Vauble, Cheryl Hahn
Transitional Members – Patty Bain, Linda Smith
Life Members- Sharon Sacha, Sally Komrofske, Loy
Flanagan, Sally Rose Burns, Patricia Leonard,
Lenore Honke, Marlene Johnson, Ellie Morrow

EWI® Mission and Vision

Mission

Executive Women International® is an organization which brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:

- ❑ Promoting member firms
- ❑ Enhancing personal and professional development, and
- ❑ Encouraging community involvement

Vision

To be the Leading Connection for Business Professionals

SHARE THE NEWS!

Send submissions for the Chapter Newsletter to:

Contact: Gwen Christensen

Phone: 402-384-5157

Fax: 402-384-6651

E-mail: gchristensen@west.com

EXECUTIVE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL® Corporate Office

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