

Minutes of the Chapter Meeting

EWI® of Memphis

June 21, 2018

**Call to Order**

The EWI of Memphis Chapter meeting was held on Thursday, June 21, at The Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis (Dianne Westphal, rep). The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Deborah Vaughn (Staples).

**Roll Call**

Sergeant-At-Arms Janet Samples (Staples Advantage) called the roll. In attendance were 23 active reps; 4 sustainers; 0 life members; 9 ASIST winners with their guests; and 16 additional guests, for a total of 52.

**Invocation**

Jackie Chandler (Hicks Convention Services) gave the invocation. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Peabody chefs.

**Memorials to former members**

Judy Baird, former member of EWI of Memphis, gave a stirring and emotional tribute to the late **Nadine Lakey**, a former chapter president (1976). Nadine had been a member of the chapter for 52 years, representing at least three different firms during her long tenure. She was also involved with Quota Club, Make-A-Wish, Salvation Army, her neighborhood association and her church. Nadine was known for her deep faith in God, loyalty, leadership skills, directness and competitive spirit. She enjoyed travel, good jewelry, good wine, and the first cup of coffee in her day. She loved and was loved by her church, her family and many friends. Both her daughters were in attendance at the meeting.

Krissie Heuer (representing Business Equipment Center) paid homage to the late **Nancy Jarratt**, also a former chapter president (1990). Nancy was born in middle Tennessee in the middle of World War II and was married with three sons by her 20th birthday. She was known for her energy, her giving spirit, and her zeal for life. With her great sense of style, she organized fashion shows for Sears and was involved with the Miss Teen USA Pageant. Although her career included many jobs, she was best known to EWI as the Catering Manager at The Peabody. Nancy supported numerous EWI initiatives and worked tirelessly with her ready smile. She had a great love for her family, especially her grandson, who at age 8, was the recipient of a wish granted through Make-A-Wish: receiving a cap from former President George Bush aboard Air Force One.

Several former chapter presidents, who were friends with both Nadine and Nancy attended the meeting in their memory: Martye Slayton, president 2 different times, 20 years apart;

Nan Rountree in 1995; Sherri Fields in 1998; Mary Wheeler in 1999; Miriam Leffler in 2002.

**Installation of new members**

Latrice McLin (Shoemaker Financial), Recruitment and Retention Director, installed and welcomed two new members:

**Dawn Mokros** graduated from Mississippi State University. She grew up in Whitehaven and previously worked as a tour guide at Graceland. She also worked for Mednikow Jewelers for 13 years. In EWI, Dawn is representing LimeLight by Alcone.

**Monica Smith** is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has been married 20 years and enjoys inspirational music. She received a BA degree from Bethel University and a JD from Tulane Law School. In EWI, Monica is representing Navigating Business Solutions where she is CEO.

**Staples Presidential Scholarship (ASIST) Awards**

Linda Grissom (Medtronic) explained the ASIST program and introduced the winners. ASIST scholarships are awarded to non-traditional students who typically are facing various challenges in life, especially financial needs.

**Marisol Garcia** is the first place winner and her application has been forwarded to EWI corporate office for consideration of an additional award to be announced later in the year. Marisol came to The States from Mexico in 1994 and is raising two sons. She has moved from a temporary to a permanent position at FedEx. Marisol is on the Dean’s List at Belhaven University and has been positively impacted by the Christian values at Belhaven.

**Kimberly Villasenor** describes herself as unshakeable. She followed the examples of two older sisters in pursuing a degree after lack of motivation early in her life. Even though she is raising two small children, she was a 2016 Honor Society Member. Kimberly works at Baptist Memorial Healthcare and anticipates completing her degree from Belhaven University in 2019. She is dedicating her award to her late Mother who strongly encouraged her to finish her degree.

**Reverend Michelle Nolen Bird** is enjoying the “autumn” of her life. Older than most of the chapter’s scholarship recipients, she is determined to finish her Master’s Degree at Belhaven University, after which, she plans to teach at the community college level. Michelle also plans to work with underserved youth groups. She has a real passion to do what she can to change the situation of thousands of homeless children in Shelby County and help them to become self-sustaining.

**Phyllis Booth** describes herself as a product of schools moving kids along whether they were ready to advance to next grade or not. Throughout her life, she has battled poverty, shyness, failure, broken relationships, and a stillborn child. Yet, through enrollment in Memphis Job Corps, she experienced a taste of success. Then, things began to change. With the support of her Mother and a friend who guided her to Belhaven, she now has a desire to receive a degree and someday open her own restaurant. Having progressed from a “C” student in high school to having a 4.0 GPA at Belhaven University, Phyllis is on her way!

**Congratulations** to all the ASIST winners.

**Minutes**

Secretary Mary Judson (Kemmons Wilson Companies) was absent from the meeting for her annual military service obligations. Therefore, approval of Chapter and Board minutes for May 2018 was postponed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The May 2018 financials have been posted to the website and will be filed for audit.

**July Chapter Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the annual golf tournament, at approximately 1 pm on Monday, July 9, at TPC Southwind Clubhouse; 3325 Club at Southwind; Memphis 38125. All members are encouraged to attend; a quorum is needed.

**Stacy Carwile, Communications Director**, has posted the *EWI Connect* to the chapter website. Members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter to Stacy.

**Golf Tournament**

Linda Grissom provided updates on the upcoming annual golf tournament.

* 18 teams are committed; the goal is 25; members are encouraged to solicit additional teams.
* There are items in an online auction posted on the chapter website.
* Items are needed for goody bags for the golfers. Members are encouraged to donate to this effort.
* Birdie Sponsorships at $1,000 are still available. Tee Signs at $100 are also available for purchase.

**Straw Ballots**

Members are encouraged to submit straw ballots with names of members to be nominated for officers and directors for next year. Members are allowed (and encouraged) to submit their own names for the position where they would like to serve.

**July Board Meeting** will be held Thursday, June 28, at 6 pm at Janice Toshach’s office; BancorpSouth; 6363 Poplar Avenue. Any member may attend and should notify President Deborah Vaughn in advance if they plan to do so.

EWI Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting (**LCAM**) will be held September 20-22 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Members are encouraged to attend; information is on the website.

**June Birthdays**

Krissie Heuer recognized members with June birthdays, by presenting them with gifts:

Angel Halpern (Regions Bank)

Annetta Vick (Sustainer)

Janice Toshach (BancorpSouth)

**Fundraising**

Angel Halpern announced the top bidders in the Purse Auction and thanked all who participated.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

/s /s

Deborah Vaughn, President Jane Bratton, acting Secretary

on behalf of Mary Judson