

Letter from President



Happy 2012! I am pumped up for the new year and see our Kansas City Chapter's future so bright I had to break out my shades!

Speaking of "shades"..... I would love it if everyone would join me and wear your favorite or funniest sunglasses to our January meeting. I have eye surgery that week prior to the meeting and will be wearing mine and you

know how I hate to party alone. This should be fun!

Our December meeting was a blast with our Toys for Tots collection and pick-up by a special Marine, Sergeant Miller, and our gift exchange. Oh yes, let's not forget our little business portion of the meeting with a big thank-you to Vernita Beck for pulling the budgets together and an additional thank-you to the membership, yes you, for approving our budget!

Treasurer Vernita Beck mailed the annual dues statements the first week of January, and everyone should have received them by now. If you have not, contact Vernita right away so that you can get your renewal in before the deadline. We hope all will renew and grow in our Kansas City Chapter.

Our board is working hard to come up with more great programs, venues to please everyone, and new ideas for how to raise funds for our chapter and grow our membership. We would love to hear from our members with any suggestions. We strive to build stronger relationships within our chapter and grow..... but as everyone knows, it is a T-E-A-M effort.

I'm excited to hear Jonah Yakel speak on Health, Healing and Motivation at our January meeting; I think we all need this to start the New Year off right. Let's hope the weather continues to be good and not like last year when we had a blizzard....oh my!

Remember: Success is focusing the full power of all you are on what you have a burning desire to achieve.

Renee Danforth-Mulka
KPMG LLP

Kansas City Chapter Board

President

Renee Danforth-Mulka, KPMG LLP

Vice President

Robin Alva, The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

Secretary

Robin Alva, The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

Treasurer

Vernita Beck,
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Mary Young, Hallmark Cards

Communications Director

Robin Alva, The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

Fundraising Director

Deanna Harden, HNTB

Program Director

Mary Jo Spino,
Jackson County, MO

Retention & Recruitment Director

Candace Spurny, The Kansas City Star

Director At Large

Janna Dillon, Black & Veatch Holding Company

Advisor

Janna Dillon, Black & Veatch Holding Company

Member Firm News

Commerce Bank was number seven on the Forbes 2011 list of best banks in the country, up from number eight in 2010. This is the third consecutive year that Commerce Bank is in the top ten.

Kansas City Business Journal's 29th Annual Book of Lists 2011

- **100 Top Area Private-Sector Employers**
 - #4 Cerner
 - #9 Hallmark
 - #12 Black & Veatch
 - #18 Commerce Bank
 - #50 HNTB Co's.
 - #65 Kansas City Marriott Downtown
 - #74 Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
- **Top Area Public-Sector Employers**
 - #19 Jackson County, MO
- **150 Top Area Private Companies**
 - #5 Hallmark
 - #12 HNTB Co's.
 - #41 Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
 - #52 Treat America Food Services
 -
- **Top Area Banks**
 - #2 Commerce Bank
- **Top Commercial Lending Banks (by total area commercial loans as of 12/31/10)**
 - #1 Commerce Bank
- **Top Commercial Lending Banks (by loan-to-deposit ratio as of 12/31/10)**
 - #20 Commerce Bank
- **Top Area SBA Lenders (by # of SBA-Guaranteed loans to businesses in the KC area during the 12 mo's. ending 9/30/11)**
 - #24 Commerce Brokerage Services Inc.
- **Fast-Growing Area Businesses**
 - #15 Treat America Food Services
 - #21 HNTB Co's.
- **Top Area Health Maintenance Organization Plans**
 - #1 Blue-Care HMO
- **Top Area General Commercial Printers**
 - #13 Burns Printing Co. Inc.
- **Top Area Accounting Firms (by size of KC metro-area professional staff)**
 - #1 KPMG LLP
- **Top Area Accounting Firms (by # of KC metro-area CPA's)**
 - #1 KPMG LLP
- **Top Area Law Firms (by # of lawyers in the KC area)**
 - #5 Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
- **Top Area Engineering Firms (by # of metro-area professional engineers area)**
 - #1 Black & Veatch
 - #3 HNTB Co's.
- **Top Area Engineering Firms (by # of registered local architects)**
 - #4 HNTB Co's.
- **Top Director Fees Paid By Area Public Companies**
 - #4 Cerner Corp.
 - #25 Commerce Bancshares Inc.
- **Top Public Companies**
 - #9 Cerner Corp.
 - #13 Commerce Bancshares Inc.
- **Top Area Hotels**
 - #1 Kansas City Marriott Downtown
- **Top Area Banquet Facilities**
 - #3 Kansas City Marriott Downtown

EWI 2012 Renewal Invoices

EWI 2012 Membership Renewal Invoices are being sent out the week of January 3. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Vernita Beck. The due date for payment is Jan 31 and it will be delinquent as of February 1. If you have questions, please contact Vernita at (816) 234-2325 or vernita.beck@commercebank.com.



Marine Sergeant Miller's son salutes EWI Kansas City representatives and member firms for their generous donations to the Marines Toys for Tots program (with Renee Danforth-Mulka and Mary Jo Spino) at our December 7 Membership meeting.

News from your Fundraising Committee

We want to introduce you to this year's Fundraising Committee members:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Deanna Harden (<i>Chair</i>) | Yolanda Branch |
| • Janet Deering | Pam Garrett |
| • Jeannette Mormino | Barb Ramsour |
| • Deborah Ross | Andy Staley |
| • Kim Stripling | |

We are excited to serve on this committee and we hope to bring you some new (and never done before) events this year. A few are listed below but we welcome any of your ideas and thoughts for other functions to raise money. You don't have to serve on this committee to have some great ideas. If you have any, you can email those ideas/suggestions to any of the above Committee Members.

Accessory Night, Texas Hold'em event, Bunko Night, Garage Sale, Swap Meet, Union Station, and New Theater Restaurant



Please mark your calendar and invite your executive to join us for EWI Kansas City's Scholarship/Executive Night on April 18 to be held at member firm Kansas City Downtown Marriott.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY EWI FRIENDS FOR YOUR CARDS, EMAILS, CALLS, ETC. TO SHARE YOUR SORROW AND SUPPORT FOR ME/US DURING THIS SAD TIME AT FOX 4. IT MEANS A LOT TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.

*KIM STRIPLING
WDAF-TV/FOX 4*

Next Professional Development Webinar
Leadership as it Relates to Change

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Time: 2:00 pm (CDT)
Presenter: Colette Carlson, Speak Your Truth,
 Academy of Leadership Faculty

It's often been said that the only people who truly embrace change are wet babies! It's also been said that the only constant in life is change. So where does this leave the leader who is ultimately responsible for guiding others through the changes necessary to survive and thrive in today's economy? This webinar will provide you with the tools, strategies and best practices to manage yourself and others to maximize results.

Poinsettia Preparation



Renee Danforth-Mulka, Margaret Gambill, Marcia Zanko, Janet Briscoe, and Rita Rios prepared the Poinsettias for delivery at the Helzberg warehouse on December 3.

RE-GIFTING THE GIFT CARD!

If you receive a gift card and don't think you will use it, the Fundraising Committee will be happy to take it off your hands to use in our Gift Card Tree!

Thank you!

SHARE THE NEWS!

The next EWI Connect deadline is February 1. Please send info to Robin Alva at robinalva@allegiance.tv

**Kansas City Chapter
 2011 Member Firms**

- AT&T
- Balls Food Stores
- Black & Veatch Holding Company
- Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas City
- Burns Printing
- Cerner Corporation
- The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
- Commerce Bancshares, Inc.
- Farmland Foods, Inc
- The Fiddly Fig
- Financial Holding Corporation
- Hallmark Cards, Inc.
- Halls
- Helzberg Diamonds
- HNTB
- Jackson County, Missouri
- Kansas City Marriott Downtown
- The Kansas City Star
- KPMG LLP
- Marriott ExecuStay
- Office Essentials, Inc.
- Siemens Energy, Inc.
- Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
- Treat America Food Services
- WDAF-TV/FOX 4

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

January Hospitality Update

Please direct updates regarding birthdays, illness, sympathy, anniversaries, congratulations and announcements to the Courtesy /Hospitality Chair: Linda McBroom

Happy Birthday Wishes

Mary Pace	January 12
Mary Young	January 29

EWI Rep Anniversaries

Vernita Beck Commerce Bancshares, Inc.	1/15/1992
---	-----------

Marcia Zanko Blue Cross Blue Shield of KC	1/17/1996
--	-----------

Kim Stripling WDAF-TV/FOX4	1/19/2000
-------------------------------	-----------

Life Member Anniversaries

Margaret Gambill Black & Veatch	1/21/1976
------------------------------------	-----------

Firm Anniversaries

Treat America Food Services	1/19/1983
-----------------------------	-----------

Courtesy and Hospitality Chair:
Linda McBroom, Ball's Food Stores
913.573.1259
linda.mcbroom@ballsfoods.com

DATES TO NOTE

KC Chapter Meetings

January 18, 2012
February 15, 2012
March 21, 2012

KC Chapter Board Meetings

January 23, 2012
February 27, 2012
March 26, 2012

About Our Chapter Meeting

Meeting Dates: The Kansas City Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise specified.

Standing Reservation: Each representative has an automatic reservation for all meetings. **If the Sergeant-at-Arms does not receive cancellation by 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the monthly membership meeting, your firm will be charged the dinner cost for that month.** Life, Sustaining, and Transitional Members DO NOT have an automatic reservation and therefore must rely to the Sergeant-at-Arms if they plan to attend by 12:00 noon the Friday prior to the monthly Membership meeting.

Meeting Notice: Each month a meeting notice will be in the newsletter giving the details of the next month's meeting. This needs to be filled out and faxed to the Sergeant-at-Arms before the deadline. Then it can be used to request a check from your company and sent along with the check for payment. You can also call or e-mail the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Attendance: Each representative is required to remain at the Chapter meeting until adjournment in order to be counted as present. Each representative must attend a minimum of six meetings a year. Each member firm must be represented by a Representative or an Executive at seven meetings a year. A firm's membership could be forfeited for noncompliance.

Leave of Absence: A leave of absence can be requested in writing to the President prior to any meeting.

EWI MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Kansas City Cafe
1532 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64108
(816) 471-7111

Networking: 5:30 P.M. – Networking

Dinner & Program: 6:15 P.M.

Jonah Yakel – Health, Healing and Motivation

Menu: Salad tossed in Orange Black Pepper Vinaigrette w/ raisins, walnuts and goat cheese.
Choice of entrée: Walnut crusted chicken breast, Cajun seared tilapia, or marinated pork tenderloin. Served with Chef’s choice of starch and vegetable.
Dessert: Strawberries with Zabaglione Sauce
Iced Tea or Soda

Directions: just past Truman Road on Grand.

Reservations: Active members have an automatic reservation for all monthly meetings (but we would still appreciate confirmation). Please complete this form for yourself and return it to Mary Young by one of the three options below, before noon, **Friday, January 13, 2012.** Thank you!
If you have specific dietary concerns, please contact Mary Jo Spino, Program Chair.

Mail: Mary Young, Hallmark Cards, Inc., P.O. Box 419580, Mail drop 547, Kansas City, MO 64141
Fax: (816) 274-7555
E-mail: myoung2@hallmark.com

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ (or give to Mary Young at the meeting)
\$35.00 per attendee
\$30.00 per Sustaining/Life Member

Name: _____ Member firm: _____

I will _____ will not _____ attend the January 13, 2012 meeting.

I will bring _____ guest(s). Guests/Names:

If you find it necessary to cancel, please call Mary Young at 816-274-8006.

Circle One: *Pork Tenderloin or Talapia or Chicken*