

## Letter from President



March is here, and most people associate with it the color green and St. Patrick's Day. However, for me, being of Italian descent, I associate it with the color red and St. Joseph's Day. Many people wear red to represent charity and strength. St. Joseph's day is celebrated on March 19th each year. For those of you that have never heard of this tradition, allow me to share. St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of Workers. His reverence in Sicily comes from a time of drought on the island back in the Middle Ages. The peasants prayed to God through St. Joseph asking for rain. They promised if the drought ended, they would dedicate a feast day in his name every year. In keeping their promise, they prepared a feast from their crops and would invite the less fortunate, homeless and sick to share the meal with them. So, people began building altars in their homes and churches to honor St. Joseph. The altars are three tiered as a symbol of the Divine Trinity. We refer to the altars today as St. Joseph Tables. The tables include seasonal fruits and vegetables, fava beans (the only crop that grew during the famine), sculpted breads in the shapes of crosses, shepherd's staff or bread stuffed with hard boiled eggs, wine, cookies, cannoli, sfinci, flowers, candles and a statue of St. Joseph. Because the feast falls during the Lenten season, meat dishes are not permitted, instead they have seafood, pasta and egg frittata's. The custom is to have a viewing of the altar for the public, a blessing by a priest and then serve the pasta con sarde (pasta with red or green sauce containing sardines). Then there are breadcrumbs to sprinkle on your pasta because they resemble sawdust in honor of St. Joseph's profession as a carpenter. Breadcrumbs are also used in the artichokes that are displayed on the altar.

Continued below.....

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#### Advisor

Sheryl White, The Fiddly Fig

Fava beans, which grow in poor, rocky soil and sustained the Sicilians during the drought, are available at St. Joseph tables. The fava beans are blessed by a priest which makes them lucky. It is said that if you carry three (representing the Divine Trinity) in your pocket or purse, you will be blessed with good fortune and never be broke. Small round bread loaves are blessed by a priest. People take the loaves home and store them in their freezer with the belief that if a storm hits it will pass over them. The feast continues today in exchange for prayers answered or because of a promise made to a relative or to St. Joseph to keep the tradition alive. St. Joseph altars/tables symbolize an offering to St. Joseph in gratitude and the meal served is free of charge. Most individuals or churches ask for donations of food, cookies or items displayed on the table. All monies collected are donated to local charities and food pantries. Whether it's a promise, a passion, or a sacred family tradition, the true mission behind St. Joseph's day remains unchanged . . . it is about showing gratitude for our blessings and helping the less fortunate.

Mary Jo Spino  
Chapter President  
Jackson County, MO

## Chapter Notes

**More from Mary Jo!** Wow, I really enjoyed our February general meeting held at the Spa on Penn! It was a great night to take time out for ourselves and work toward a healthier YOU. Everyone enjoyed services rendered and it was nice to speak with a professional trainer to get ideas on eating, moving and adequate sleep/relaxation. We also collected red yarn and red scarves for the Women's Heart Center. The Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center will distribute the scarves throughout their Health System during February and at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute throughout the year. Your red scarf becomes part of the woman's healing journey, offering comfort, support, and encouragement. The EWI T-shirts we ordered were delivered at the meeting also and they look fabulous, especially the ones with the bling! Many thanks to our Programs Committee, Kathy Scott and Rebecca Geracie for planning such a memorable evening with a delicious health conscious dinner; to the Spa on Penn for the generous certificates so we can plan our next visit; to Edie Marie Battaglia for taking our donations to the Women's Heart Center; and to Tracie Giron for designing, ordering and delivering our EWI shirts.

## Fundraiser Success!

Our latest fundraiser for EWI of Kansas City was a no brainer! Who does not like to shop and especially when everything is 75% off?!? We asked for a \$5 donation to shop at a private event at the Hallmark DD (Double Discount) venue that is normally reserved for employees only. Shoppers filled the room for a chance to purchase all types of seasonal and Hallmark items that were available. A great time was had by all and hoping we can do it again. Pictured below is Candace Spurny and her guest purchasing items, even a red scarf for the February meeting for Heart Health Month.



## February 2018 Membership Meeting



### ***Here are some comments from our members about the night....***

*Thank you, Rebecca and the organizing crew, for all your hard work putting together such a great evening at The Spa. All who did not attend, you missed a great time; I hope we can get more folks to participate in the future. Thank you again for all you do!*

**~Lisa**

*Yes-so much fun! It was great to be pampered :-)*

**~Kathy M.**

*I wish I could have been there. Sounds like a great time.*

**~Edie Marie**

*Great Time! I enjoyed – it was a different and exciting evening!!! Thanks for thinking outside the box!*

**~Kim**

*So sorry I couldn't be there...sounded fabulous. Will definitely make it work next time!!!*

**~Victoria**

*What a FANTASTIC evening. My facial was amazing. My skin felt like a baby this morning. Thank you, Rebecca for putting this together and Kathy for the healthy meal.*

**~Tracie**

### ***Here is a recap of the night.....***

EWI Spa Night, what a fun way to pamper ourselves!! We had 12 members who attended; 2 of which were Life Members. We started off with a light dinner, then we split up into 2 groups. The first group enjoyed their spa treatments while the other group had their lives changed by personal trainer Liz Kampschroeder. We played a little bracketology about our life values. What was your championship life value? Liz talked about how we do not know what real hunger is and how we tie food to our emotions. So, we eat when we are sad, bored, celebrating, or whatever emotion we are feeling. When our 30 minutes sessions were up, we switched places and group 2 went to their spa treatments and then the first group listened to Liz.

## Networking with your Chapter!

Know the power of your network!  
Call on and share your next experience with a fellow member  
who made a difference in your day!

### ~**Kim Stripling, WDAF-TV/FOX 4**

I wanted to share a true story of the Value of Networking in EWI of Kansas City.

One of our employees of 41 years was retiring, on February 14, 2018. Her birthday is on the 14th, the 14th is Valentine's Day and she wanted to have her retirement party on the 14th. So, I had planned out her party and was ready to roll.

On February 13, 2018, I was asked if I could get a bouquet of flowers to present to the retiree on the morning newscast (and of course, it needs to look wonderful on air). As we all know Valentine's Day is a huge day for florists.

I called my friend Sheryl White at the Fiddly Fig and told her my dilemma and said that if she was too busy that I totally understood. Sheryl's response was "We will make it happen".

The next morning, the flowers were delivered and were absolutely beautiful! We presented them on the air and everyone was extremely happy!

Thank you so much Sheryl, you went above and beyond, and I so appreciate it.

### ~**Mary Jo Spino, Jackson County, MO**

Sheryl is the best . . . I too used her for my daughter's wedding and she did a fabulous job! I too met Sheryl through EWI of Kansas City which is why I took my daughter to talk to Sheryl at Fiddly Fig when flower shopping. I also used my contact with Susan Murphy, a former member of EWI of Kansas City, who worked for the Marriott hotel. Networking really does have its benefits!

Thank you for sharing your experiences of how relationships are being built through connecting with others within the chapter!

## Hospitality

Please direct updates regarding birthdays, illness, sympathy, anniversaries, congratulations and announcements to:

Courtesy /Hospitality Chair: Kim Stripling  
 WDAF-TV/FOX 4  
 (816) 853-5946, [kim.stripling@wdaftv4.com](mailto:kim.stripling@wdaftv4.com)



### Happy Birthday Wishes

Tracie Giron	March 5
Judy Robinson	March 20

### EWI Rep Anniversaries

Edie Marie Battaglia AT&T	3/21/2001
Kathy Scott Ball's Food Stores	3/01/2013

### Firm Anniversaries

Perfect Output, LLC	3-01-2012
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## Get Connected

*EWI Corporate Website:*  
[www.ewiconnect.com](http://www.ewiconnect.com)

*EWI of Kansas City Website:*  
[www.ewikansascity.org](http://www.ewikansascity.org)

*EWI of Kansas City Email Address:*  
[ewikansascity@gmail.com](mailto:ewikansascity@gmail.com)

*Facebook:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/EWIKansasCity/>

### DATES TO NOTE

**March 21, 2018**  
Monthly Membership Meeting:

Affare  
1911 Main Street  
KCMO 64108

**March 29, 2018**  
Monthly Board Meeting:

Commerce Bank  
1000 Walnut Street  
KCMO 64106

## EWI of Kansas City 2018 Member Firms

AT&T  
Balls Food Stores  
Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate KC Homes  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City  
The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City  
Commerce Bancshares, Inc.  
The Fiddly Fig  
Financial Holding Corporation  
Hallmark Cards, Inc.  
Jackson County, Missouri  
iTalk Telecontracting Inc  
The Kansas City Star  
KC Deli Provisions  
KPMG LLP  
MRIGlobal  
New York Life  
Perfect Output, L.L.C.  
Smithfield Food Inc.  
Stinson Leonard Street LLP  
tracelette™  
Treat America Food Services  
WDAF-TV/FOX 4

21 Member Firms  
20 Representatives  
11 Life Members

## The Connect, Kansas City Edition Contributors - March 2018

Rebecca Geracie  
Tracy Jankowski  
Lisa Lopez  
Kathy Scott  
Mary Jo Spino  
Kim Stripling  
Kristen Williams

## About Our Chapter Meeting

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

**Reservation Policy:**

Each active representative shall RSVP to [ewikansascity@gmail.com](mailto:ewikansascity@gmail.com) by noon on Wednesday prior to the Wednesday meeting of the Chapter and indicate whether he/she will attend.

Sustaining, Life, Transitional and Honorary members shall notify on Wednesday prior to the Wednesday meeting of the Chapter; if no notification is received, they will not be expected to attend and will incur no liability.

**Meeting Notice:**

The monthly meeting notice will include details of the meeting.

**Attendance:**

All representatives must attend the program/business portion of any regularly scheduled meeting to constitute attendance. Please let the Sergeant-at-Arms or President know if you need to leave early.

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 may be requested in writing to the President.

### March Meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 2018



**5:30 Networking ~ 6:00pm Dinner**

**We will dine at the Affare located at [1911 Main St. Kansas City MO](https://www.affarekc.com)**

**Affare is a downtown restaurant with a modern German menu!**

**Chef Martin offers honestly crafted food and creates an adventure in seasonal dining!**

**Check out their website at [www.affarekc.com](https://www.affarekc.com)**

**Stay tune for more information to come!**