

January 2011



### A Word from our Chapter President

There's always something exciting about a new year; new challenges, new opportunities, and new experiences that await each of us. I'm confident this year will be a wonderful one for the EWI Tampa Bay Chapter. We have amazing members, full of life and ambition.

Personally, I'm looking forward to our new programs along with our exploration of the ASIST program. I am excited about this month's program at the Alpha House. Their mission statement of "empowering pregnant and parenting women in crisis to realize their ability to break the cycles of poverty and abuse and create promising lives" is one that as a chapter we feel drawn to. Helping women get back on their feet and create a safe and prosperous life for their children and themselves is something we are proud to do.

However, with all of the talk of the New Year, we must not forget the past and the lessons that have come from it. More importantly, we must not forget our friends. As many of you all know, Trish, one of our Life Members passed away at the end of December. Her spunk and her kindness will be missed greatly. I have enjoyed reading everyone's emails about Trish and their experiences with her. She was the first person I met in the chapter and I just remember thinking that I hope I have that much energy and life someday. She possessed so many wonderful qualities and will never be forgotten.

I hope that everyone is off to a good start in 2011 and will continue to embrace the opportunities that present themselves this year.

*Happy New Year!*  
*Dana McDonald*

**Don't forget  
to pay your  
renewal dues.  
We need you!**

### 2010-2011 Officers & Directors

#### President

Dana McDonald, Busch Gardens  
Tampa

#### Vice President

Bonnie Smith, Helmuth, Obata &  
Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK)

#### Secretary

Marla Mancini, The University of Tampa

#### Treasurer

Patti Jako, Humana, Inc.

#### Membership Director

Melissa Gross, Sheraton Tampa  
Riverwalk

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Sharon Hewitt, KPMG

#### Publications Director

Terry Lundquist, Syniverse  
Technologies, Inc.

#### Advisor, Past President

Linda Helton, Carey Limousine of  
Tampa Bay

## In Remembrance

On Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> we lost our dear friend, Trish Gray.

Trish epitomized the EWI woman. She embraced the EWI mission statement and brought it to life in every way.

Beginning in 1979, as a representative for Jim Walter Corporation / Walter Industries, she promoted her firm at every turn and encouraged all Tampa Bay Chapter representatives to promote their firms. For several years, Trish organized trade shows (expos) to showcase our chapter firms. In addition to providing a venue for firms to promote their products and services to fellow members and outside guests, she also wrote, produced, directed and performed in skits using representatives and their spouses to provide an entertaining look at our member firms. Trish used her theatrical skills to promote not only Jim Walter Corporation/Walter Industries, but all Tampa Bay Chapter firms.

She also put those skills to good use to help raise funds for chapter operations, producing skits that were performed at several chapter ways and means meetings over the years. These mini-productions not only provided an evening of entertainment, but helped to bond chapter members who participated either as performers or assistants in the productions. No one who was there could forget Trish's hilarious spoof of "Gone with the Wind" at a fun fashion show where she entered the room wearing a curtain rod on her shoulders with drapes hanging down.

Providing personal and professional development was also very important to Trish. She encouraged all representatives to be active members of the chapter and to challenge themselves to take on leadership roles, either by serving as active committee members, committee chairs or as members of the chapter board. Trish served in probably every role, culminating with chapter president in 1988. During her year leading the chapter, she was instrumental in organizing a task force to bid on hosting EWI's annual meeting in Tampa. At that time, chapters took on the responsibility for all aspects of organizing and hosting EWI's annual convention, from determining theme, selecting and negotiating with speakers, coordinating meeting and room space with hotels, setting menus and presenting entertainment. While many were skeptical of the Tampa Bay Chapter's ability to carry out such a massive undertaking, Trish never doubted that our chapter representatives had the skill and passion necessary to succeed.

Trish was the ultimate EWI ambassador. Following her retirement from Jim Walter Corporation/Walter Industries, she continued her participation as a life member of the Tampa Bay Chapter. At every meeting she attended, she reached out to new and prospective members to share her passion for the organization. She was always ready to share her warm heart and brilliant smile with each of us. Her

legacy will live on in our chapter's Executive Women International Trust Fund that was established under her leadership. She was passionate about providing scholarships to our community's youth and they will continue to be served in good stead as a result of her efforts.

All of us who had the pleasure to know Trish have benefited from her friendship, counsel and leadership. We will miss her presence, but will continue to hold her memory in our hearts.

[story written by Vicki Boyle]

Chapter Board experience:

1980 – Publication Director  
 1986 – Program Director  
 1987 – Ways & Means Director  
 1988 – President  
 1989 – Advisor  
 Chairman of BCDP



Busch Gardens after the Park Closed - 2009

[Click here for obituary.](#)



## January Chapter Meeting

NOTE: The meeting will be on **THURSDAY**, Jan. 13 instead of the usual Wednesday.

Our meeting this month is at Alpha House located in South Tampa. Alpha House serves pregnant women and their families in crisis. They offer both maternity and post-birth transitional housing facilities. Their mission is to empower pregnant and parenting women in crisis to realize their ability to break the cycle of poverty and abuse to create promising lives for themselves and their children.

Member firm HOK has been active on the board of Alpha House as well as hands-on activities with their employees.

Please RSVP to [Bonnie Smith](#) now!

Our meeting will be held at the main building located at 201 S. Tampania Street, located off Howard Avenue.

Social time is 5:30 'til 6:00, then dinner, a facility tour and possibly a story from one of the residents.

Please consider donating something for their Alpha House Shop. Things needed are diapers, new jewelry, gift cards to grocery stores, perfume, body lotions and sprays, things that the ladies can purchase with their "Alpha Dollars". And of course, cash donations are also useful!

## December 2010 Holiday Meeting

Our December 8 our group gathered at Antonio's Pasta Grille located in Temple Terrace to wrap up the year together.

As our EWI Tampa Chapter has done in the past, we again collected new unwrapped toys for the "Toys for Tots" Christmas Drive. The Marines are very involved with the "Toys for Tots" and it has been an event we enjoy doing each December. Collecting the new toys and than having one or two Marines join us for our dinner and to receive the toys we have collected.

it was our pleasure to have Sergeant Skyler Howeth and his girlfriend, Kelsey, join us for the evening. After introducing Sergeant Howeth, he in turned asked each of us to introduce ourselves and tell where we were originally from. This was a great ice-breaker. It not only helped them feel welcome, it helped our group learn something about each other that we probably did not know previously. The meeting was a very nice evening with great food and great conversation. Sergeant Howeth and Kelsey's presence added a lot to make our evening and made it very entertaining and uplifting.

We were pleased to send them off with a huge amount of toys to help make less fortunate children's Christmas a little merrier this year.

Sergeant Howeth joined the Marines in October, 2005 after graduating from high school and then got into trouble for fighting. He said he had no sense of direction in his life so he considered the military for education and job stability. Sergeant Howeth has been on two combat deployments to Fallajuah, Iraq and to Ramadii, Iraq. At the young age of 24 he has received many awards and commendations of which he is proud, and is also enthusiastic about the Toys for Tots program.

*[story written by Bonnie Smith]*



Sergeant Howeth and Kelsey



Brenda Enfinger and Leah Brainard



Wendy Solmonson and Patti Jako

## 2011 Meeting Schedule:

December 2010

January 13 – Alpha House  
(confirmed)

February – suggested speaker  
and business meeting – to be  
determined. **Coordinator  
needed.**

March 9 – Dinner Done in  
Carrollwood.  
Coordinator: Bonnie Smith

April 13 – Annual Executive Luncheon with a speaker – to be  
determined. Coordinator: Linda Helton

May 11 – ASIST (Adult Students in Scholastic Transition) – to be  
determined. Coordinator: Sharon Hewitt

June 8 – Hope Lodge adjacent to Moffitt Cancer Center - to be  
determined. Coordinator: Terry Lundquist

July 13 – Winery/Raffle - to be determined.  
Coordinator: Phyllis Corr

August 10 – Nordstrom's/Speaker - to be determined. Coordinator:  
Patti Jako

September 14 – Business Meeting - to be determined. Coordinator:  
Phyllis Corr

October 12 – Installation of incoming President, Bonnie Smith  
- to be determined. Coordinator: Dana McDonald

November 9 – Speaker at MacDill AFB - to be determined.  
Coordinator: Tina Spinks

December 14 – Holiday Party - to be determined.  
Coordinators: Marla Mancini and Brenda Enfinger

*Program list “subject to change” and will be updated as details are  
provided by Coordinators.*

## Corporate development webinars:

**January 11, 2011** - 4:00 p.m. (ET) “Crave Your Goals” presented by Tricia Molloy, Hawaii Chapter.

**January 27, 2011** - Chapter Development Training Sessions for Scholarship Directors  
1:00 pm (ET) and 7:00 pm (ET)

Log-in here for some great professional development webinars offered by corporate - upcoming and past!  
[http://www.ewiconnect.com/ScriptContent/careers/car\\_teleseminars.cfm#Recent](http://www.ewiconnect.com/ScriptContent/careers/car_teleseminars.cfm#Recent)



## Honorable Mention

Congratulations to **Brenda Enfinger!** In Brenda's spare time she entered Riceland Rice's Cook-Off Contest and won for her entry of "Riceland Rice Natilla" in the dessert category! So that's what retired people do?!!

Give **Carla Pirez** a "thank you" for sharing her annual magnet football schedules and the latest gift of a magnetic 2011 mini calendar.

## CHAPTER DATES

### January 13, 2011

Chapter Meeting  
5:30 Social Networking  
6:00 Dinner / Tour of Alpha House

### January Board Meeting

To be confirmed via email

### January Birthdays:

3 Ena Justo  
22 Leah Brainard

### February Birthdays:

9 Wanda Champion