



FINANCIAL WOMEN
IN TEXAS

helping women succeed

Leadership
Development
& Networking

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Now that the first day of spring is officially here, we can look forward to sunny days ahead. Spring is also the time for new plans and projects.

The tradition of spring cleaning is something that I enjoy each year. Not necessarily because I love to clean, but because I enjoy the feeling of a “fresh start”. By making the time to declutter and organize items in our lives, we consciously set ourselves up for success, personally and professionally.

Managing ourselves is important if we want to manage and guide others. Writer Margaret Wheatley noted, “Leadership is a series of behaviors rather than a role for heroes.”

So to commemorate Spring, whether by donating gently used items, cleaning out your email inbox, updating your LinkedIn profile, or reevaluating your goals, I hope you take a moment to actively choose your own “fresh start”.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message
Delegation is a Win-Win
FWIT visits Capitol Hill

Register Now:
Leadership Forum
Annual Conference

Gen. Ed. Scholarships
Website Update
Group News
All things Virtual



Delegation is a Win-Win!

by Zelda Morales, FWIT Director of Education

As a leader you can reduce your workload while increasing efficiency and team morale by putting your delegation ability into practice.

Assigning, entrusting, and transferring certain responsibilities to other people is what delegation ability is all about. But it's important to not only be able to assign people certain tasks, but to trust in their ability to accomplish them. Delegation and trust must go hand-in-hand.

Here are three main benefits that make delegation important for you as a leader:

- It takes things off your plate so that you can focus your efforts towards more pressing tasks.
- If you lack a certain skill set, you can offset that by letting someone more adept take over.
- You empower other people by rewarding them with responsibility.

Is it tough for you to let go of control and allow someone else to carry out tasks instead? Do you like things done a certain way, to a certain standard and feel like no one else can match your eye for detail? If that sounds like you – know that it will be very rewarding for you to learn how to delegate properly so you can let go of control.

Why waste time on tasks and duties that do nothing but take up your energy and time? When you learn to release control, you will be rewarded with more time to focus on things that are important, and more energy to spend time doing what you love.

Are you ready to “flex” your delegation ability? Complete the Delegation Exercise to help you get started: [Delegation Exercise](#)



Hazel Davis, Jessica Lovell, TD Winters.

Kudos to these strong women leaders who represent FWIT and our industry so well!



On International Women's Day, March 8, 2022, bankers from across Texas visited with policymakers on Capitol Hill to make their voice heard in support of the banking industry during the ABA Washington Summit. Three Financial Women in Texas were a part of the Texas Bankers Association delegation: Hazel Davis, Jessica Lovell, and T.D. Winters.

Jessica Lovell, a graduate of TBA's Management Development Program (MDP) attended as part of Class XIII. According to Jessica, "Being at the Capitol on International Women's Day, advocating for the banking industry, was an incredible experience. I felt powerful and confident, although I may not have understood every aspect of each legislation. My improved confidence is attributed to prior leadership training, MDP, as well as Financial Women In Texas."

T.D. Winters chose to attend as a way to get out of her comfort zone, and to be able to see and hear from congressional leaders and other bankers across the country. "The topics we all focus on within our organizations are important, but a bigger picture experience helps open our eyes and minds" T.D. added.

Hazel Davis, a first time attendee agreed, "It was a great opportunity to meet and learn from other bankers, and to hear policymaker opinions on our industry". As a first time attendee Hazel was eligible for a \$1,000 stipend from the Texas Bankers Association. Hazel was thankful for the experience, and said, "The ABA Emerging Leaders Forum was excellent and the stipend was a factor in my decision to attend."

These women were able to be a voice for women in the industry. T.D also shared that, "Being part of an organization like FWIT, we strengthen and encourage each other to speak up. Men are often the "head" of organizations, but the head can't turn without a neck. Women are the neck and backbone that support our positions."



Each summer, the Association hosts a one-day Leadership Forum consisting of a presentation on a timely topic, followed by lunch and a leadership transition planning workshop. This year, we are excited to be at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio. You won't want to miss this great opportunity for personal and professional development and engaging networking with FWIT peers.

AM Session – Facilitated by Zeldia Morales

Topic: Building a Personal Board of Directors

Personal Board of Directors are in place for perspective, guidance, support, feedback and accountability. Every woman needs (and deserves) a team of people who can provide that kind of strength and support for their career and life journey, yet many of us never put the time and energy it takes in to forming one and taking advantage of such a board. Through a bit of personal discovery, thinking, and planning, we'll learn how to build one together.

Working Lunch: Board Transition & Planning Meeting

PM Session – Facilitated by Tramelle D Jones

Topic: Staying Motivated Without a Blueprint

It's challenging to stay positive, and women are dealing with a multitude of additional obstacles, not to mention the fact that we are living through a pandemic. Women are not just working, but we are also caregivers, spousal supports, parents, and many of us are trying to navigate life with little to no support for ourselves. All this creates more difficulty in staying motivated. How do we normalize? We create new solutions and become empowered to move forward with them, even when we don't have a blueprint.

REGISTER NOW!

13th Annual Conference

September 7-9, 2022 in beautiful San Antonio!

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Host Hotel:

**The Historic Menger Hotel
204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX**

FWIT Group Room Rate: \$159.00/Night

- **Make your hotel reservations with the following link to receive the special rate of \$159: [Book Online!](#)**
- **No deposit is required if you use the link provided.**
- **Rate is valid for either King or Double.**
- **Complimentary Wi-Fi in your guest room is included**



2022 General Education Scholarship Winners!!

One of the benefits of FWIT membership is the opportunity to obtain scholarships for furthering your education, studying for an additional credential, or attending a professional conference – all ways to enhance and promote your career and help you succeed. After all applications were reviewed by an independent panel, two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each have been awarded. Congratulations to our 2021-2022 FWIT General Education Scholarship Winners: **Brandy Patterson**, Vice President, Fair Lending | The First State Bank, Sweeny, TX | Gulf Coast and **Brittany Bessonett**, Sr. Vice President, Marketing | Mineola Community Bank, Mineola, TX | East Texas



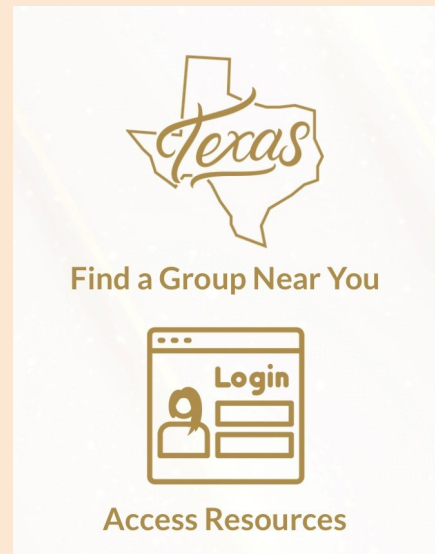
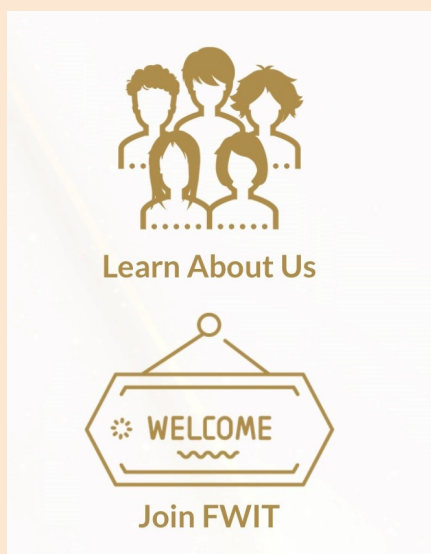
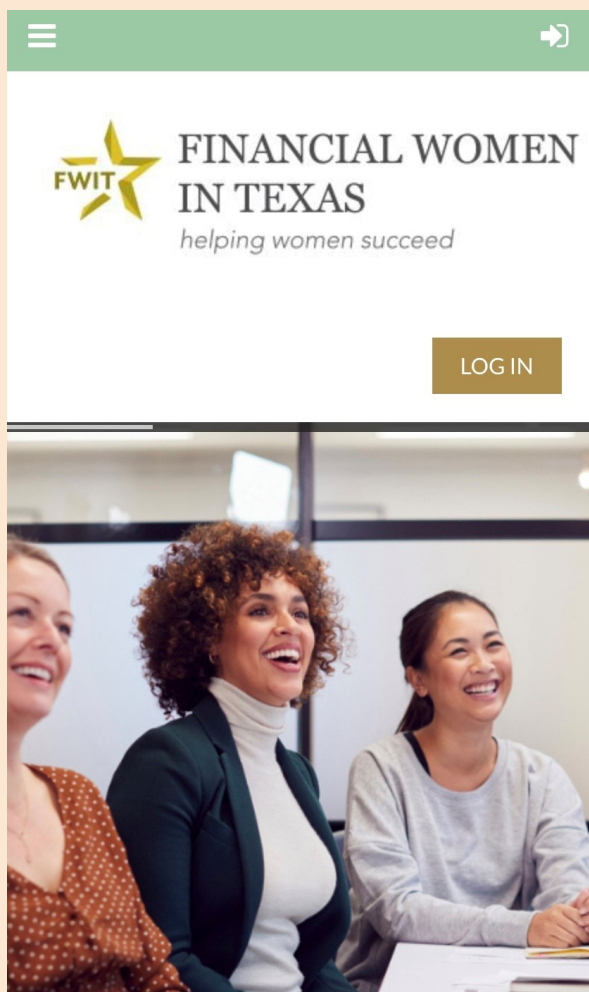
Brandy Patterson



Brittany Bessonett



It's here!! Be sure to check out our newly designed FWIT Website!!





Benefits of Membership:

- Professional Development
- Networking
- Mentoring
- Fun & Fellowship!

AUSTIN GROUP NEWS:

"Think about what you're thinking about" says Sherrie Wilson, the first female fire fighter-paramedic in the Dallas Fire Rescue Dept. and President of EMResources. Sherrie gave FWIT Austin a lot to think about with her inspirational leadership presentation. 12 attendees met for our first In Person meeting since February 2020. Wilson generously offered her book "Faith on Fire" as a door prize. Next Meeting is **April 21st** with guest speaker Crystal Estrada of Propeller Industries.



BIG COUNTRY GROUP NEWS:

Big Country also held a successful networking & membership drive on February 17th. The group added 16 new members as a result! AWESOME job Big Country ladies!!





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EAST TEXAS GROUP NEWS:

FWIT East Texas ladies collected 70 dresses for the Zonta Prom Boutique! This year's boutique provided over 400 dresses, shoes, and accessories to young ladies in and around Longview.

They also had a Zoom Meeting in February to discuss the number and amounts of scholarships being offered to young women graduating high school who will be pursuing the field of finance and the number of conference scholarships we will offer to our local members. Upcoming Meetings:

· **March 29, 2022** - Active Shooter Presentation by Officer Brandon Thornton of the Longview Police Department with special guest, Hazel Davis, FWIT Association President

· **Late April, 2022** - Wine and Chocolate Membership Event, Mt. Pleasant, TX.

· **May 17, 2022** - Paul Nunn, FWIT member and ICC Certified Coach and MBTI Certified Practitioner with Pinnacle Financial Strategies

GULF COAST GROUP NEWS:



Dorrie DeLand and Tammy Gibbons are pictured delivering dresses for the Zonta Prom Boutique



Gulf Coast's Annual CEO Night and Dessert Auction Fundraiser was well attended with 40 registrants, including Gulf Coast and Houston Group members, guests, executives and their spouses. Chis Furlow, President & CEO of TBA, provided a very informative presentation on the industries current 'hot topics'. Following the presentation was the live & lively Dessert Auction. The group raised over \$3,100, which will go back to the members in the form of conference scholarships!

MARCH 2022

SAN ANTONIO GROUP NEWS:

The January 13th meeting at La Fonda Alamo Heights had a great turnout of 25 including the speaker, 8 guests and 16 members. **Don Varney, President/CEO of Varney Speaks** presented **2022...I Will Thrive, Will You?** He shared how to accomplish goals by taking steps and included his personal experiences from triathlons to playing for the NFL! San Antonio keeps growing, and 6 new members were at the meeting and received their FWIT pins! The group is looking forward to helping their members succeed and for Conference 2022 in San Antonio.



Life's Simple 7 was the topic for the February 10th meeting. Members marked Heart Month as well as Valentine's with speaker Melina Quintanilla, Community Impact Director of the American Heart Association in San Antonio. It was a dynamic meeting with 34 attendees including 10 guests wearing red!



SAN ANTONIO GROUP (CONT.):

Stephanie Kerr-Ramirez of State Farm was the speaker for the March meeting in San Antonio. Stephanie is a member of FWIT and is passionate about knowledge of and planning for financial needs today and in the future. Her presentation was full of information and enjoyed by our 25 attendees, including 3 guests.



Pictured Left: Stephanie Kerr-Ramirez.

Pictured Right: Group membership chair Novie Allen with Michelle Harper and Kelly Kljajic Powers



Next Group Meetings:

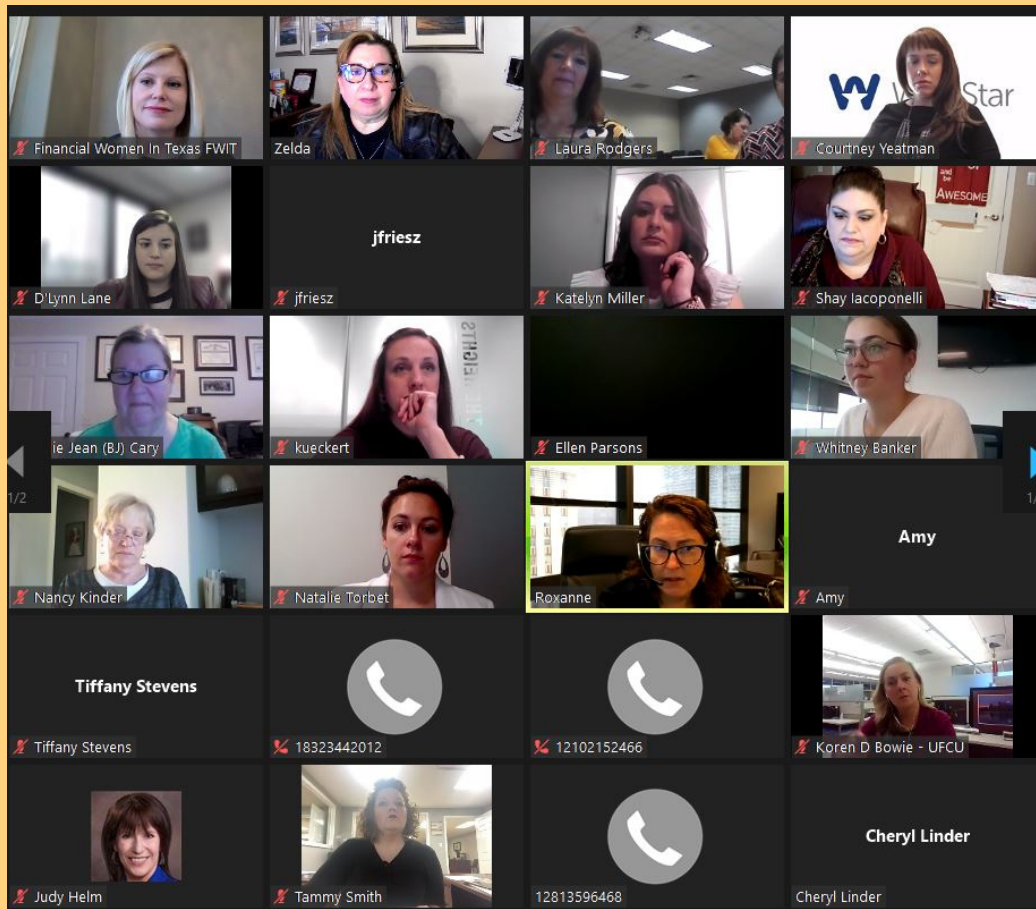
- **April 14, 2022** - Marcy Westcott, The Mindful Culture Curator on Embracing Mindfulness for the Workplace
- **May 12, 2022** - Susan Pamerleau, 33rd U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Texas and former Bexar County Sheriff on Opportunities and Directions - Unexpected!

Regan's Riches!

If you were not at the FWIT Conference in Houston, or you missed them, Regan Shaw has her FWIT earrings on sale on [Etsy](#)! The pricing is great and Regan is donating the funds to our conference next year in San Antonio! Check them out - you may need more than one pair!



MEMBERS ARE ENJOYING NEW VIRTUAL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM!



Please don't forget all members are encouraged to attend monthly board meeting calls!

Virtual Membership

Did you know that we offer VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP if there's No local Group in your area yet?

Lynda Huffaker is the Association's Virtual Member Liaison and will be glad to make sure you keep in touch with all the FWIT opportunities. Email Lynda with any questions.

We also encourage you to check out our LinkedIn Company page at Financial Women In Texas (FWIT) and our LinkedIn Group page at FWIT - Financial Women In Texas and our Facebook page at Financial Women In Texas.

