

FWIT East Texas

September 2022 to
July 2023

Mission

- FWIT strives to bring together women in finance for the exchange of ideas, experiences and interest.
- FWIT wants to further the meaningful professions or careers of our members and women in general
- FWIT encourages women to choose finance as a career and work to advance the career opportunities for all women in finance
- FWIT serves as an advocate of and to promote improvements in the professional development leadership skills, education and training of women in finance.



FINANCIAL WOMEN
IN TEXAS

helping women succeed

East Texas Group

What have we been up to?

September, 2022

The FWIT new year was off to a great start with the Annual Conference held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, September 8-9, 2022. Our group was represented well with 9 in attendance. Laura Rodgers, Tammy Gibbons, Kristin Graham, Janet Sledge, Bonnie Beadles, Stacy Cammack, Sonya Lawrence, Shirley Coe and Lurn Montgomery were all there to help invite everyone to Longview for the 14th Annual FWIT Conference!



Call to Conference





Heartisans

Also in September, several of us had the opportunity to volunteer in the kitchen at Heartisans helping to prepare items for the resale shop. We always enjoy our time at Heartisans.



Brittany Bessonett, Allison Benton, Janet Sledge, Lesa Story, Kristy Nevill



Pam Mitchell, Lurn Montgomery, Dorrie DeLand, Kristy Nevill, Laura Rodgers

October, 2022

In October of each year, we invite representatives from three non-profit agencies to share with us what their agencies are doing in our communities. We heard from The Hearts and Hands of East Texas, Rahab's Ranch and Retreat and Finn's Friends. What a great group of ladies!



November, 2022

November is Dessert Auction Month! We had a great time and turnout for our Annual CEO Night and Dessert Auction with guest speaker Celeste Embrey, TBA, General Counsel. Celeste gave a legislative update and shared a few fun banking history facts. FWIT Association President, Melody Hess, was able to join in on the fun. Auctioneer, Judge Tim Bryan, did a fantastic job getting those bids! There was a record 28 desserts up for auction plus some extras that came in! Our members did an outstanding job providing these yummys. We raised \$3710.00 which helped us provide high school scholarships and conference scholarships.



Judge Tim Bryan, Celeste Embrey, TBA General Counsel

FWIT East Texas Officers

Laura Rodgers, President
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*Tammy Gibbons, FWIT Assoc Pres
 Melody Hess, Laura Rodgers*





December, 2022

Our December Community Project was to collect money to donate to The Hearts and Hands of East Texas. The agency was very grateful for the donation.

We also had a great time at our annual Christmas Party! For the past couple of years, we have played Left Right Center. The big winner this year was Pam Mitchell!!!



January, 2023



Donations to Zonta Prom Boutique

The new year started off with speaker Gregg County Sheriff Chief Deputy Crag Harrington. Chief Deputy Harrington shared with the group the crime statistics in the area. He gave some interesting tips on staying safe and keeping our property safe.

Every January, we collect formal wear and accessories for the Zonta Prom Boutique. All of our member banks and employees are so generous when donating to the prom boutique. Together we collected over 75 items.

Some of our members were honored to be able to attend the Annual Fundraiser for Rahab's Retreat. This was a Red Carpet Event with great entertainment and heartfelt testimonies from residents of the Retreat. It was fun to get all dressed up and walk the red carpet for this wonderful organization.



*Stacy Cammack,
Brittany
Bessonett, Pam
Mitchell, Krystal
English, Laura
Rodgers, friend,
Bonnie Beadles,
Kristin Graham*

March, 2023



Chris Parker, elder law attorney gave us some very useful information on elder abuse and scams involving elders. He told us the importance of our front-line folks being cognizant of our customer's habits and actions.

New member, Tina Scott, was presented her FWIT pin by Membership Chair, Janet Sledge.

Our community project for March was Rahab's Ranch and Retreat. We donated two SUVs full of paper towels and cleaning supplies. Kristin Graham and Krystal English delivered the items to some very grateful ladies and children at Rahab's. While there, Kristin and Krystal were treated to a tour of the facilities.



New Member Tina Scott and Janet Sledge



May, 2023

The East Texas Group awarded \$500 scholarships to three very deserving young ladies, all were from Paris High School. Members Lisa Butler and Sonya Lawrence had the honors of presenting these awards at the high school's award ceremony



Lisa Butler and Sonya Lawrence with scholarship winners

Guest speaker Karen Partee, Executive VP/Chief Marketing Officer at Texas Bank and Trust gave an insightful presentation on brand integrity. We learned that not only is our institution's brand important, our personal brands and the brands of the organizations we are involved in are just as important.

Janet Sledge presented new member Lisa Cook, Texas Bank in Henderson, with her FWIT pin.

Our community project for the month was Finn's Friends. A few of us had the opportunity to volunteer at the Annual Finn's Friends Paddle Battle along with fellow FWIT member and Finn's Friends board member, Stacy Cammack.



Karen Partee



New Member Lisa Cook and Janet Sledge



Bonnie Beadles and Stacy Cammack



Kristin Graham and Stacy Cammack



Laura Rodgers and Stacy Cammack

June, 2023

The East Texas Group had great representation at the Annual Forum held in June at the Lone Star Court in Austin. Tammy Gibbons, Kristin Graham, Janet Sledge, Stacy Cammack, Pam Mitchell, Shirley Coe, Krystal English and Bonnie Beadles enjoyed the venue, the speaker, Debbie Peterson, the game learning more about our FWIT Association Board members and the networking. Two of our own have been elected as 2023-2024 Board members - Stacy Cammack, Treasurer and Kristin Graham Director-At-Large. Congratulations ladies!



Krystal English, Shirley Coe, Bonnie Beadles, Stacy Cammack, Pam Mitchell, Janet Sledge, Tammy Gibbons and Kristin Graham

A special welcome to all of our new members in the 2022-2023 year!

Allison Benton, Texas Bank and Trust – returning member

Lisa Cook, Texas Bank

Brandi Freeman, Alliance Bank

Penney Hemby, City National Bank Sulphur Springs

Elise Hensman, Hensman Financial

Rebecca Jack, Texas Bank and Trust

Michelle Lowe, VeraBank

Kristal Martin, Texas Bank and Trust

Tina Scott, Texas Bank and Trust

We also have new babies to celebrate!

Emma Bothwell and Katelyn Miller both welcomed their first babies! Emma welcomed baby girl Lola Joy in November and Katelyn welcomed baby girl Scottie Nell in June. Congratulations!

More to celebrate!

Grandbabies!

Dorrie DeLand, Lisa Butler, Pam Mitchell, Shirley Coe, and Laura Rodgers all welcomed new grandbabies! Lisa has double joy with two grandbabies being born within a few months of each other! Congratulations!

Promotions!

Rebecca Jack has been promoted to Administrative Officer and Bank Cards Operations Manager at Texas Bank and Trust

Emma Bothwell has been promoted to Assistant Vice President – Real Estate Risk Manager at Texas Bank and Trust

Allison Benton has been promoted to Vice President and Enterprise Project Manager at Texas Bank and Trust

Brittany Bessonett has been promoted to Branch Manager of Mineola Community Bank in Grand Saline

We are so proud of all of you! Congratulations!

Prayers and Concerns

Michelle Lamond had neck surgery in the spring and back surgery in June. Long recovery ahead of her so your prayers are appreciated.

Disclosure – I apologize if I missed any news to report. Please send any blessings or concerns you may have so I can keep track of everything. Send to lrodgers@springhillbank.com Thank you

Don't forget to find us and follow us on FB, LinkedIn and Instagram at FWIT East Texas

***2023 14th Annual FWIT Conference
Sept 6-8, 2023
Holiday Inn Infinity Event Center
Longview, TX***



Planning Meeting in February at the Holiday Inn

We have been hard at work planning this year's conference to be held in Longview. This is a great group of ladies and I know this conference is going to be great! Thank you all for everything you have done to make this happen!

