

# FWIT East Texas

Sept, 2021 to Dec, 2021

## 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

The 2021-2022 year started out with a fantastic conference held at the Marriott Marquis in Houston on September 9-10. The East Texas Group had ten in attendance and I know everyone agrees it was a great time and a fantastic conference. Hats off to Tammy Gibbons for pushing our group to excellence. The group won the "Support of FWIT" Award, tying with the Houston Group. We were excited to hear the conference next year will be in San Antonio at the historic Menger Hotel.



## FWIT East Texas Officers

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### *Heartisan's Work Day*

On Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, about five of us met up at Heartisans Marketplace to help in the kitchen bagging goodies to sell in the retail store. We bagged and sealed Mexican Cornbread, Texas Trash, Chicken and Dressing, Spiced Tea Mix and we bottled bath salts. It was a lot of fun and hope we can do it again soon.

## October



### *Pinning of New Member Dorrie DeLand*

Our meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> was held at Tele's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. Guest speakers were Brooke Davis from East Texas CASA, Tina Rushing with One Love Longview and our own Dorrie DeLand with Longview Child Development Center. Each speaker shared what their agencies are doing in our community. We had two visitors, Kristy Nevill from Spring Hill State Bank and Krystal English from Texas Bank and Trust. New member, Dorrie DeLand, received her FWIT pin.

## November



November was a busy busy month with our Annual CEO Night and Dessert Auction which was held November 16<sup>th</sup> at Pine Crest Country Club in Longview. Guest speaker Christopher Williston, CEO IBAT, changed his topic at the very last minute and it was so perfect for our group and the occasion. His presentation “Leadership in the Void” was very moving and insightful. He encouraged all of us to find a way to be a gift to those around us every day.



We had so many yummy desserts and Blake Cammack did a phenomenal job auctioning them. Blake also offered his limo and a \$200 gift card for dinner for 4 as an auction item. With this item, we raised over \$3500 but Blake generously offered to donate enough to make it an even \$4000! Incredible! That will provide many scholarships to deserving young women graduating high school and planning to pursue the field of finance.

The evening was perfect. Dorrie DeLand and Bonnie Beadles did such a wonderful job with the arrangements, everything was beautiful. These two are gifted and are great party planners. Thank you, ladies. Also, I want to thank everyone for bringing desserts and for helping during the event. This could not have been pulled off as well as it was without each and every one of you. We have such a great group!

*Beautiful Dessert Model Sonya Lawrence*

## December



A fun time was had by all at our Christmas party held at the beautiful home of Janet Sledge. We had more food than we could possibly eat and a little wine to go with it. Left Right Center was a hit with the big winner being Janet Sledge! If there had been a prize for the Christmas Trivia game, Lynn Ford would be the winner!

Check out this great photo of Janet showing off her dazzling silver boots and all her dollar bills!

The Grinch was a huge hit! Thanks Jolee for bringing it all the way from Sulphur Springs.



## Community Outreach

The East Texas Group is a very generous and giving group. We raised over \$300 for Christmas gifts for a teenage boy we chose from the East Texas CASA tree.

## Membership

We have some new members, Kristy Nevill from Spring Hill State Bank, Andrea Carrion from Texas Bank and Trust, and Paul Nunn with Pinnacle Financial Services who is a joint member with the Houston Group. Also, we have another joint member with the Houston Group – Katelyn Miller. I hope you all got to meet Katelyn at the dessert auction.

Welcome to FWIT East Texas! We are happy you have joined us.

## Concerns

Some of you may already know, but Lesa Story has had shoulder surgery. I was not aware until right before the dessert auction. We hope you recovery completely and quickly Lesa!

Brittany Bessonett had a run in with a deer in December. She hit a deer going 75 mph and messed up her car pretty bad. The air bags did a number on knees but she says she is on the mend. So glad to hear Brittany!

Janet Sledge also had a little mishap while decorating for Christmas. She was hit in the head with a board which sent her to the ER for some staples. Yikes! She sported those stylish staples in her coif for about 10 days. We are so happy you are OK Janet!

## Blessings

Member Pam Mitchell from Texas Bank and Trust retired after many years in banking. Congratulations Pam and enjoy your retirement!

## Upcoming Events

- January 18<sup>th</sup> - CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**  
**Dr. Christine Merritt, Women's Health Issues**  
**And FWIT President, Hazel Davis**  
**Cotton Patch Café', Longview**  
**Outreach Project – Zonta Prom Boutique**
- February 15<sup>th</sup> - POSTPONED**  
**Wine and Cheese Membership Event**  
**First Federal Community Bank, Mt. Pleasant**
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - Active Shooter Presentation**  
**Officer Brandon Thornton, Longview PD**