

Erlanger's New CEO Prescription

Veteran Hospital Manager
Kevin Spiegel Takes the Helm

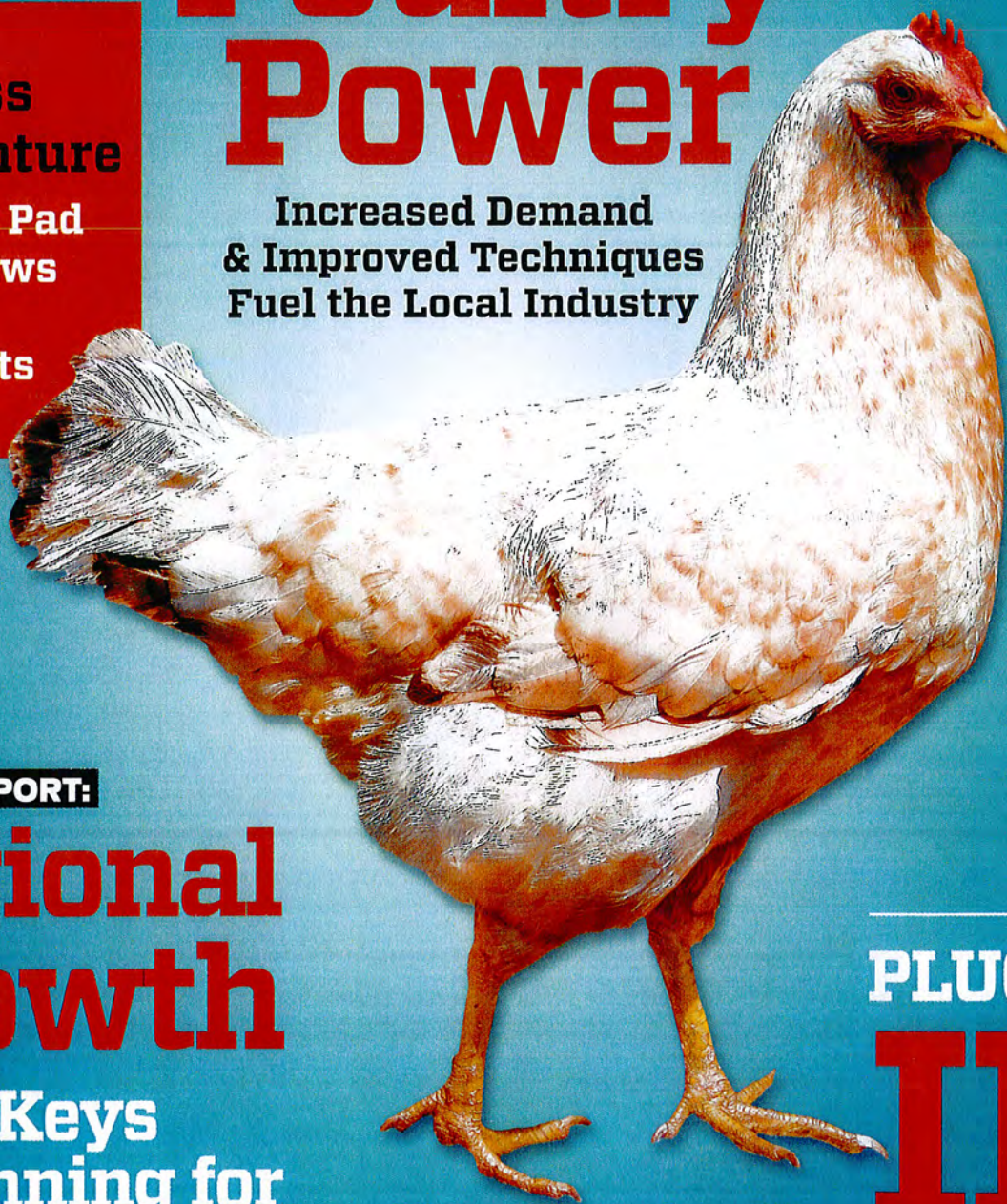
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Women, Leadership Is Focus of Forum April 18-20

BY SHELLY BRADBURY

JUNE SCOBEE RODGERS visualizes her path to leadership as an upward spiral.

“Rising from the depths of poverty, searching for a way, believing, having faith that I could overcome some obstacles, then moving along with some wonderful opportunities and some tragedies,” explains the local author and speaker, who founded the Challenger Center for Space Science Education after her husband, Dick Scobee, died in the Challenger Space Shuttle tragedy in 1986.

Rodgers will expound on her path to leadership when she gives the keynote address at the Executive Women International spring conference this month. Professionals from across the U.S. and Canada will converge on Chattanooga for the conference, which will feature several guests speakers, training sessions and discussions aimed at helping women move forward in their jobs, build connections and better understand the glass ceiling.

Women held just 16.6 percent of board seats at Fortune 500 companies in 2012, the 2012 Catalyst Census reports, and conference organizers want to help equip women to fill more high-level positions.

About 125 men and women are expected at the conference, one of two national events sponsored annually by Executive Women International. “I hope they walk out with a better understanding of what it means to be a woman in the work environment today,” spring confer-



June Scobee Rodgers

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Executive Women International Spring Conference
WHERE: Sheraton Read House Hotel, Chattanooga
WHEN: April 18-20
LEARN MORE: www.ewichattanooga.org

ence chairwoman Nancy Harrison says.

The main thrust of the event is open to the public and will feature author Lori Giovannoni. She'll discuss emotional intelligence in the workplace during the conference's Academy of Leadership sessions on Friday.

Ani Yacoubian, president of EWI Chattanooga, says she has attended three different Academy of Leader-

ship trainings and has found them to be invaluable. “It’s hard to put into words,” she says. “I can’t tell you how much you come away with in both your work life and your personal life that makes a difference.”

Besides giving the keynote, Rodgers will also moderate a panel of local leaders as they discuss various issues women face in the workplace. She said she's glad Chattanooga is hosting the Executive Women International spring conference.

“It’s fairly special that this organization is coming to our town for their international conference,” she says. “It’s impressive that young women are interested in learning from other women with experi-ence.”