

**Chattanooga Edition** 

Chartered in 1987 September 2012

# **Message from the President**



Are you open to CHANGE? Change is inevitable in every aspect of your job and in life whether planned or unforeseen. You can make plans to have a productive day and yet a mass of interruptions can interfere with those plans. How we respond to change can affect our attitude, our organization, and our firm in a positive or a negative way. Well, it is both expected and inspiring - change is coming to EWI of Chattanooga!

In October, we install our 2012-2013 Chapter Board to start a new year with lots of memorable events and exciting guest speakers. We'll also have a new chapter website by the end of the year, be in a new meeting venue starting in January, and more new member firms, executives and representatives to welcome.

With our upcoming 15th Annual Barnyard Auction, we anticipate reaching this year's goal providing more scholarship money to single moms than previous years. It is such a blessing to be a member of an organization and a chapter that encourages one another, sincerely cares for others, embraces change, desires to learn how we can continue to grow and reach the next generation while maintaining the core values and heritage of EWI.

Thank you to each Member Firm Executive and Representative that faithfully dedicate your time, talent and support to EWI. It has been an honor to serve you over this last year as your Chapter President. What an amazing organization and amazing women you all are just in case I haven't told you lately. Please join me in supporting our new chapter board by continually staying involved to strengthen our organization for the future of EWI, our firms and Chattanooga.

Michelle Withorn, Chapter President EMJ Corporation

### 2011-2012 Officers and Directors

**Michelle Withorn**, President EMJ Corporation

Ani Yacoubian, Vice President/President Elect Yacoubian Tailors

**Lori Slatton**, Secretary Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce

Nena Powell, Treasurer Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain, PC

**Barbara Tawater**, Sgt-At-Arms Northgate Title Escrow, Inc.

### Sandy Saylors.

Retention and Recruitment Director Robert Half International

**Kate Pinson**, Professional Development Director CMC Publications

**Sharon Diegel**, Fundraising Director Miller & Martin PLLC

Melissa Gratias,

Communications Director MBG Organizing Solutions

**Margaret Browning**, Director-at-Large Coca Cola Bottling Co.

# **Upcoming Meeting**

www.ewichattanooga.org

## **Barnyard Auction**

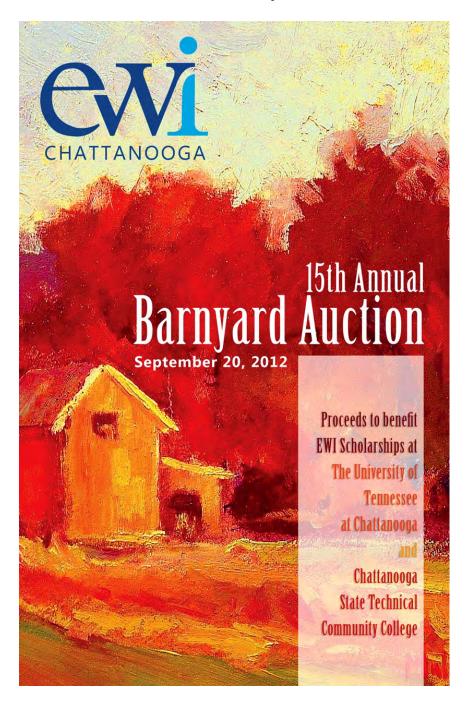
<u>Date</u>: Thursday, September 20

<u>Time</u>: Doors open at 5:30 pm

Dinner starts at 6:30 pm

<u>Location</u>: Chattanooga Choo Choo

3 C's Focus: Community



EWI To-Do List:
Contact Kay Low for tickets to the Barnyard Auction
Contact Catherine Cox if you can attend the Reading Rally on 9/21
Help us grow our membership. Check out Sandy's list on page 4 of this newsletter.
Update your profile on ewichattanooga.org

## Philanthropy:

The Reading Rally is on September 21st at the Soddy Daisy Head Start.

If you are interested in participating, please email Catherine Cox, Lyndhurst Foundation.

CCox@lyndhurstfoundation.org

Wear Teal Day! Friday, September 7, 2012

Show your support for women with ovarian cancer by wearing teal on 9/7.

More information about ovarian cancer is available at www.ovariancancer.org.

www.ewichattanooga.org

## Firm Spotlight

### Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC

Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC is a regional law firm with a national reputation. Founded in 1963, the Firm is committed to representing clients in civil litigation matters. From top to bottom, Spicer Rudstrom is instilled with an entrepreneurial spirit that drives us to be the premier litigation firm in the South.

While many things have changed since its founding, Spicer Rudstrom's practice for nearly five decades has remained focused on civil litigation and protecting our clients' interests both in and out of the courtroom. Our litigation services are among the strongest of any law firm in the region.

The Firm represents a wide array of clients from national corporations; national and regional insurance companies and their insured's; national, regional and local manufacturers; trucking companies; retail companies; grocery stores; construction companies; and individuals.

Spicer Rudstrom's attorneys provide representation in various practice areas including automobile liability, arson and fire litigation, alternative dispute resolution, business and commercial litigation, employment practices litigation, family and domestic law, governmental tort liability, insurance defense, insurance coverage analysis and litigation, pharmacy malpractice, products liability, premises liability, professional liability, personal injury, real estate and construction litigation, trucking and transportation litigation, and workers' compensation, among other practice areas.

### THE EXECUTIVE



Robert J. Uhorchuk has been with the firm since 1997. He was recognized as a 2012 Top Rated Lawyer for his work in Business & Commercial Litigation. He has also obtained an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating with Martindale-Hubbell, which is a significant accomplishment and testament because his peers have ranked him at the highest level of professional excellence.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts with academic distinction from Virginia Military Institute and Juris Doctor from University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. He also studied at Oxford University, St. Anne's College.

Rob coaches his four school-age boys' wrestling and little league teams and is the Vice President of Operations for the Hixson Youth Athletic Association. He's been married to Shannon for 10 years.

### THE REPRESENTATIVE

Nancy Harrison is a paralegal and holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Business Management.

She's been an EWI member since 1999 and is a past president of EWI of Chattanooga. She has served three years on the EWI Corporate Board. Nancy enjoys travelling – especially to the beach or Disney. She also likes to quilt and go caving and camping. She grew up in Alaska and has three grown children.



www.ewichattanooga.org



CM CONNECT Sept 2012

## Fundraising: Sharon Diegel, Miller & Martin, PLLC

We are well on our way to selling out our Barnyard Auction! Many, many thanks to all of you who have bought tickets and donated items or cash. We still have a BIG need for CASH donations and AUCTION items in order to make our largest fundraiser of the year a success! If you have donations, please email Sharon at sdiegel@millermartin.com.

We need all donations by August 31 in order to get them listed in the Barnyard Auction program and give proper credit to the donating party. All member firms are asked to donate three new items. If your firm cannot donate an item, please ask them to consider a cash donation. Cash donations so far have purchased a 50" Plasma HDTV, iPad2, iPod Touch, KitchenAid stand mixer and a wireless BluRay player. Cash donations will allow us to purchase more popular electronics that people are excited to bid on.

Please continue to sell the tickets for the handmade guilt crafted by Catherine Cox. We will continue to sell tickets through the night of the Barnyard Auction but if you have collected money for the tickets at this time, please get it to Catherine Cox at your earliest convenience.



## Sergeant-at-Arms: Barbara Tawater, **Northgate Title Escrow, Inc**

August Meeting Attendance: Members Present: 46 **Guests Present:** 



# Retention and Recruitment: Sandy Saylors, Robert Half International

Help us grow our membership! It is our goal to reach 75 member firms by June of 2013. Do you know any outstanding women in any of these industries?

**Associations** - Country Club, Historic Foundation, and Youth Activities

Invite them to our next meeting! Or, send their contact info to sandy.saylors@rhi.com and I'll extend the invitation. Thanks for your help making EWI of Chattanooga even stronger!

## Website Committee: Kristina Smith, First Tennessee Bank

We are very excited to be moving forward with our new web hosting site, Wild Apricot. Please make sure your information is up-to-date and correct in your profile. Let me know if you have any questions or problems accessing the current site at www.ewichattanooga.org.

www.ewichattanooga.org



### **Announcements**

### **EWI Care Corner**

Please keep the following requests in your thoughts and prayers:

**Barbara Verhine** (Memorial Hospital) Baby Alley Kate and her family (from Lori Slatton) Bill Slatton (Lori Slatton's father-in-law) **Sheila Thompson** (home repairs from the storms)

Autumn Duggan (Fighting Cancer at Age 8, from Sheila Thompson)

Wilma Bramble (Dottie Jones mother at Memorial Northpark Hospital)

Joyce Harlin (diagnosed with cancer)

Bertha Lloyd & Betty Doss (Delores Lewis' sister)

Thanks for your support of EWI members and families. If you have a request to add this list, please send it to Heather Burrell (hburrell@mcollins.com) by the Friday following our monthly meeting.



PHOTO: **Answered Prayers!** Joyce Harlin finishing her scheduled radiation treatments and ringing the celebration bell with the team from radiation.

## **EWI Corporate: Webinar**

The 4 E's of an Excellent Leader



Date: Thursday, October 11, 2012 Time: 3:00 PM (ET) Presenter: Diane Windingland

Leaders do not command excellence. They build excellence. In this presentation, The 4 Es of an Excellent Leader, integrity is the base upon which excellence is built and communicated through 4 approaches:

Expectations--Get results with positive expectations.

Encouragement-Build your business/organization by building up people.

Empathy-Conquer apathy with empathy.

Empowerment--Release the power within people.

Register at <u>www.ewiconnect.com</u>



All announcements need to be sent to Melissa Gratias of MBG Organizing Solutions (melissa@mbgorganizing.com) by close of business on the Friday following our monthly chapter meeting.



### **About EWI of Chattanooga**



Executive Women International® brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:

- Connections Promoting member firms
- Careers Enhancing personal and professional development
- Community Encouraging community involvement







"Like" our Facebook page to view meeting photos and receive updates about our chapter.



Follow us on Twitter @EWIChattanooga

### **Quick Links:**

- Member Firm Listing
   http://www.ewichattanooga.org/index.php?mode=directorybrowse&sortby=alpha&toshow=999
- EWI Corporate
   http://www.ewiconnect.com/