

## FROM EWI/ KNOXVILLE PRESIDENT



*Season's Greetings!*



My favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 1, verses 1-8:

*"To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away; a time to rend and a time to sew; a time to keep silence and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace."*

During this holiday season, let's remember why we celebrate and try to limit the busy-ness and frustration that causes us too much stress. Our families, friends, and co-workers will thank us and we will congratulate ourselves for making this a wonderful Christmas.

**HO! HO! HO!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!**



*Sherry Ellis  
Home Federal Bank of Tennessee*

## 2012 EXECUTIVE WOMEN OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### President

Sherry Ellis, Home Federal Bank

### Vice President

Susan Arnold, Bush Brothers & Co.

### Secretary

Samantha Chittum  
Knox County Government

### Treasurer

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Lou Ann Hamilton, Marsh USA, Inc.

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### Publications Director

Rachel Mobley, Knoxville Marriott

### Scholarship Director

Sandy Richards  
Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain

### Past President's Chair

Connie Leggett, LBMC

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Sheri Lockett  
Bertelkamp Automation

## READING RALLY UPDATE



In November, the Board voted to donate \$500 to Pond Gap Elementary School to buy portable CD players and books on CD for listening centers geared toward students in kindergarten, first, second and third grades (ages 5-9). The Assistant Principal, Ms. Shawnda Ernst, says that if kids aren't reading on grade level by third grade, research shows they may never catch up, so the earlier we can help them be successful readers, the better.

Pond Gap is a small school of about 350 students, with roughly 90% receiving free or reduced-price lunches. They typically have 18 - 20 different countries represented at the school and 30 - 40 families who receive Second Harvest food backpacks on Fridays so we are pleased to be able to offer this support.

As in previous years, funds have also been allocated to the Weekend Academy. Plans for that program have not yet been finalized but Director Lisa McClain has requested the expertise of EWI representatives to assist their tutors with tips on preparing resumes, professionalism in the workplace, effective communication, dressing for success, etc. We hope to schedule an event in the first quarter of 2013 and will let you know the date as soon as possible so you can get it on your calendar. Your experience will be invaluable to these young leaders.



### January 15, 2013

EWI – Luncheon at 11:30 am

Gettysvue Country Club  
 Guest Speaker: Vickie Swartz -  
 TVA Federal Credit Union  
 Speakers Bureau  
 To start off the New Year the  
 topic will be Project  
 Management.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

## 2012 - 2013 KNOXVILLE CALENDAR

### December 11, 2012

EWI – Luncheon  
 at 11:30 am  
 Ornament Exchange  
 Gettysvue Country Club

### January 8, 2013

EWI Board Meeting

### January 15, 2013

EWI – Luncheon  
 at 11:30 am  
 Gettysvue Country Club

## New Member Posting

### Our Newest Member

Salvation Army  
 Maria Haun, Rep  
 Classification:

Major – Associations – Other  
 Minor – Non-Profit

Contact Terrie Arp,  
 865-544-4691,

[tarp@coke-cola.com](mailto:tarp@coke-cola.com)

with any potential new member / guest you would like to invite to a future meeting. She needs to make sure there is no conflict with another firm's Minor Classification.

## FIRM NIGHT RECAP

## November's Meeting at Pellissippi



Many thanks to EWI representative Peggy Wilson, Vice President of College Advancement at Pellissippi State Community College, for hosting our November Board meeting and subsequent monthly meeting at their beautiful Hardin Valley campus.

We were welcomed by Peggy and President Anthony Wise after which we enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by the Pellissippi

cafeteria staff. Mr. Donnell King, Associate Professor of Communication, informed and entertained us with his tips for effective communication in stressful situations. After the meeting officially closed, Ms. Ella Ruggles, Video Production Technology Program Coordinator, treated us to a tour of their impressive Bagwell Center for Media and Art.

As you may know, EWI of Knoxville donated \$10,000 to Pellissippi State several years ago to establish an endowment for scholarships. Those funds were matched by a grant from the U. S. Department of Education. The earnings from these combined funds have provided an annual \$500 scholarship to a deserving adult student for our ASIST program (Adult Students in Scholastic Transition) for a number of years.

Last year the 2011-12 EWI Board voted to donate an additional \$2,500 to Pellissippi so that three \$1,000 scholarships could be awarded. You will find Peggy's thank you letter and letters from the scholarship recipients along with this newsletter. We are pleased to report that the 2012-13 Board has voted to donate \$2,500 to Pellissippi again this year in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EWI of Knoxville.





# The Gift of Giving

The other day I was looking through different posts on Facebook. One of my friends (whom you could call a “tree hugger”) is always posting things about organic food and tie dye. She posted the below photo which really made me stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas. How did we get from Christ’s birth to this???



Well, oddly enough, it was Saint Nick...

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

Today, we give to show love for our children, family and friends. Although this is wonderful, there are still less fortunate people. The needy, the sick and the suffering are spending this Christmas without the bare necessities.

I want to share a personal experience of the gift from giving...

Around Christmas last year, I was shopping at the grocery store. I just happened to walk in the same time as a mom with her two young boys. We went up and down each aisle the same time. The boys would bring one junky toy after another begging for their mother to purchase it for them. After the mom repeatedly said “no”, she turned to the older son and said “I don’t have money for anything extra”. Just then the younger son came up with yet another item. The older son yelled very loud “MOM DOESN’T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, STOP!” The woman looked at me with embarrassment. I just smiled and continued my shopping.

We ended up checking out at the same time and a heavy burden came over me. I purchased my groceries and as I was loading my car, I saw the woman drive across the street to the gas station. I remember praying – Lord, please let me get there in time. I jumped in my car and followed her. I parked my car right behind her at the pump. I grabbed some cash and walked up to her driver side window. I tapped on the glass with my heart beating out of my chest and said “I don’t know why, but God has really put it on my heart to purchase gas for you today.” Her eyes filled with tears and she didn’t speak. I started to cry, leaned into her car, hugged her, and gave her the cash then walked back to my car. I cried all the way home and called my husband to tell him about my recent experience. Although she received the gift, I received something much greater. She didn’t say a word but I could feel her appreciation and it was better than any Christmas present I have ever received.

By: Rachel Mobley

## Resources:

<http://www.stnicholascenter.org>

## EWI’s Gift of Time for the Salvation Army



# EWI CORPORATE

## 2013 Spring Conference

**April 18-20, 2013  
Chattanooga, TN (Chapter City)**

We are pleased to announce that Executive Women International's 2013 Spring Conference will be hosted by EWI of Chattanooga. This sure-to-amaze event is scheduled for April 18-20, 2013. The theme is "Leaders with Vision - All Aboard to a Positive Future." April 20th is EWI's 75th anniversary date, so this is sure to be an extra-special day. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information!

### EWI<sup>®</sup> Mission & Vision

#### MISSION

EWI is an organization which brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

#### VISION

To be a professional organization that creates value for its member firms and their representatives through career development, business connectivity, and involvement in local communities.

### MEMBER FIRMS

- Appalachia Business Communications
- Bailey International, LLC
- Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon
- BEH Group
- Bertelkamp Automation, Inc.
- Bush Brothers & Company
- Coca Cola Refreshments
- Covenant Health
- Dermatology Associates
- Employbridge/Staffing Solutions
- Holbrook Peterson & Smith, PLLC
- Home Federal Bank of TN
- Humana
- In10sity Interactive
- Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership
- Knoxville Catering & Special Events
- Knoxville County Government
- Knoxville Marriott
- Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation
- Lattimore, Black, Morgan & Cain, PC
- Marsh USA
- McKibbin Hotel Management, Inc.
- Pellissippi State Community College
- Pilot Travel Centers LLC
- PSI Packaging Services
- Riverstone Rentals, LLC
- Salvation Army
- Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure
- SunTrust Bank
- Travis Meats, Inc. /Travis Marine
- UBS Financial
- Visit Knoxville
- WBIR TV 10
- Xinergy Corp

## The Spotlight is on...

**Sandy Richards**  
**Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain**



What do you think you'll be doing five years from now?  
 Still working, traveling, and enjoying grandchildren.

What are your hobbies? Reading, walking, exercising and planting flowers.

What is your greatest accomplishment? My Children!!

Do you have kids? How old are they and what are their names?

Chad – 30 years old, Married to Stephanie

Hallie – 26 years old, Married to Zane

\*When they married we gained two more children!\*

Are you in a relationship? How long have you been together and what is his occupation? Married to Steve for 33 years. He is a Marketing Associate at Knoxville Sysco Foods.

How long have you been a member of EWI? What does EWI mean to you?

Nine years. Professional Development with AMAZING women, great mentors, and good friends.

What are you most proud of regarding your career? Why?

After working 5 years, I advanced to office manager and have been with the same company for 28 years!

How did you spend your last vacation?

In Las Vegas with family for our niece's wedding.

If you were given a random day off, what would you do with your day?

Enjoy a spa treatment, have lunch with my daughter, and relax at home – DO NO CHORES.

What is your motto in life?

Each day is a Gift – Look at it as a chance to make a difference.

Who is one of your heroes and why do they inspire you?

My Mother. She is 78 years old and still has a great work ethic; cares and does for others ALWAYS above herself.

When you were a little kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A nurse.

Most people have a favorite story or experience that they love to share with other people. Here's your chance: what's your story?

I was one of the first 50 employees hired 2 years before the 1982 World's Fair opened. An amazing experience and opportunity with none of the technology we have today. It made a great impact on my life.

## Reminders

Please turn in your  
 Spotlight forms to  
 Rachel Mobley

[rachel.mobley@marriottsales.com](mailto:rachel.mobley@marriottsales.com)

## Stay Connected

“Like” us on Facebook!!!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/EWI-Knoxville>

Follow us on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/EWIKnoxvilleCha>

Check out our Website

<http://www.ewiknoxville.com>

Read the Newsletter on our  
 Blog

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