

Letter from our President

March 2022



March has arrived...another step closer to Spring! I can already feel more of a “spring” in my step. I get a little restless about this time of year. I want to really “spring clean”, start another renovation project...I always have so many ideas rolling around in my head! As my last boarder leaves at the end of February, I will have another room to renovate and some ideas for change. But isn't that what spring is all about?

I am excited to listen to our March dinner speaker – Chad Mireau. You don't want to miss this. (He was rescheduled from January). March will also be “*Bring a Friend Night*”. There will be draws for prizes for those who bring guests!! Let's fill the room!

We are excited about the next 7 months of EWI. We are planning to bring some excitement and membership fun to our members and guests. We will be renewing some past ideas and implementing some new ones. Our plan is to keep everyone engaged. Please reach out to myself or any board member with any feedback you might have. We need to know what works and what doesn't to make this group work for you and to be successful for one another. If you are missing something or want some particular information, please ask! Sometimes we can get caught up in what we are doing that we miss the most simple things. *To err is human!*

If you would consider a position on the board or a committee, let us know. You all have hidden talents and skills that we have maybe not yet discovered – so don't be shy. NOW is the time to show your interest.

You will notice more content and some different pieces in this month's CONNECT. Please be sure to take the time to read it. Show it to friends and colleagues who may be interested in checking out our group.

DID YOU KNOW...

1. We offer scholarships (both at a local level and a corporate level). The ASIST Scholarship is available to adults facing economic, social, or physical challenges, who are looking to improve their situation through educational opportunities. The EWISP scholarship is an annual competition based program which awards more than \$200,000 in college scholarship money each year to qualifying high school seniors.
2. Corporate provides monthly professional development webinars. Every member may and is encouraged to participate.

We are always looking for new and fresh ideas for both our meetings and our CONNECT. Let us know how we are doing. Do you have something you would like to contribute? Talk to a board member. We'd LOVE to hear from you!



Warm Hugs,
Fran

“...Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered.” Michelle Obama



My EWI

When Fran asked me to write something about my experience with EWI, I found myself looking back on the 19+ years I have been a member. What I can say now that I have grey hair is that membership has meant very different things to me since joining.

An EWI of Calgary member, once said to me, “You bleed blue!” True enough, I did indeed for quite a long time. Hemorrhaged that lovely Navy and Teal in fact!

The first feeling I had about EWI was a sense of belonging and being sincerely welcomed by the Calgary Chapter President in 2002, **Danine Birkholm**. I felt like I had found a “safe place” to meet exceptional women and learn from them; not only as EWI mentors but as guides in business and life.

Calgary encouraged and supported me to grow and develop my leadership skills through chapter board service in pretty much every role there is. The only role I have never held in a Chapter or at the Corporate level has been Secretary/Treasurer, and I want to keep it that way, please and thank you.

Normally, a member’s first exposure to Corporate is when they are Vice President of their own Chapter and get to travel to our annual Leadership Convention & Annual Meeting (LCAM). For me, it was a bit different as earlier that year our Corporate President at the time, **Debbie Taylor** travelled to Calgary. Something I said resonated with her and she asked me to conduct a session at LCAM that all on the ROI of Membership. I was touched and a little thrilled!

When I got back from LCAM I said to my sister, “Give me 5 years, and I will be Corporate President.” Truth. It happened after three years of corporate board service. I was honored and still get am very proud to have served as Corporate President in EWI’s 75th Anniversary year, 2012 – 2013.

The travel, laughter and experiences are one thing. A blessing! The friendships made though have been life-altering regardless of where or how I was serving.

Has it made me crazy at times? Absolutely. Have I given and given and given my time and effort to this organization? Absolutely. Why you ask? Because of this my friends...

“She who serves best, profits most.”

- Lucille Johnson Perkins, Founder of EWI

Servant Leadership is not about having time. No one “has” the time. It’s about MAKING the time.

At my Board retreat when I was the Calgary Chapter President, we landed on this phrase and I know they still use it today:

Learn, Lead, Mentor!

First you learn a role in EWI (serving on a committee or assisting the current Director when needed). Then you lead in the role as the Director and then, most importantly, you mentor the person coming behind you. Then you pick a different role to learn.

Chapter and Corporate Board service is a five-year commitment. Serve as a Director for two years (in different positions), then become the VP, then a year as President and year as Past President.

I still get thrilled when I see a Chapter using one of the tablecloths or pop up stands that I created as Marketing Director on the Corporate Board. I get a warm feeling whenever I see the logos that I helped create for all of our scholarship programs that are still used today. I am moved beyond belief and reassured that the VALUES of this organization are ones that I helped create at a board retreat one year in Aspen, CO.

Integrity/Excellence/Respect/Collaboration

I am proud of what I have accomplished as a member of this organization but not because it was me, it is because it was all done in collaboration with other women who shared the same vision and passion for EWI that I have. One thing EWI has taught me is that there is nothing a group of women cannot accomplish if they come together with a shared purpose and vision. It astounds me still what we collectively donate annually in scholarships. Last time I checked it was over \$600K USD each year! And that is just with 35 chapters now. When I joined way back when, we were almost 70 Chapter strong by the way. Amsterdam was just exiting.

It has been sad to see so many vibrant and healthy chapters fail over the years. Heart-breaking really. A Chapter cannot survive without new blood. Recruitment is everyone’s responsibility.

In my Corporate Presidency I challenged each Chapter to just grow by 20% each year for five years. Easy, right? Can we gain two new members this year? I KNOW SO!

The pandemic has been devastating but I give full kudos to the members of the board that have remained calm and positive through it all!

If you were to ask any past leader in EWI, they would probably agree that board service is the most unappreciated role they have ever done. We need to always acknowledge and thank those who serve each and every day! And those that laid the groundwork too.

While you don't do it for recognition and praise, it is always nice to receive. Make board service the honor that it is. Treat those leading with respect and lend them your support as a member at large whenever called upon. It is all being done for the greater good of all.

I have pretty much achieved all you can achieve in EWI from Chapter Board service to Corporate Board service and back again and then founding our beloved EWI of Saskatoon five years ago! The only thing I have not done is close a chapter and I never want to see that happen...please!

EWI is what YOU make of it for your own journey. The most rewards though come through engagement with the organization at ALL levels but most important is to engage here at home first.

I feel so removed from you all right now but please know that I am your biggest champion and I cannot wait until I can attend a Chapter meeting in person again soon with all of you!

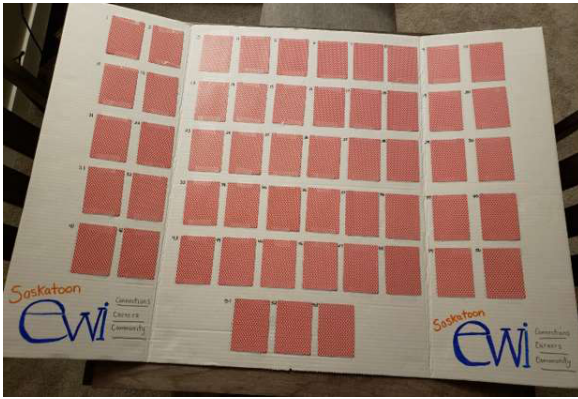
Yours truly,

Karen Skirten



IT'S LOTTERY TIME AGAIN!!

EWI is having a controlled 50/50 raffle to raise money for our Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST) scholarship. EWI donates annually through its ASIST scholarship for non-traditional students facing economic, social, or physical challenges, wanting to advance their education. Tickets will be on sale starting Wednesday March 30/2022. Draw to be made on Sunday April 10/2022.



How the controlled raffle works:

- A deck of cards, including one Joker, has been arranged face down on a raffle board
- Each card will be assigned a number (numbered 1-53)
- Only 53 raffle tickets will be sold
- Each raffle ticket is \$20 to purchase
- The winner will be the person who's raffle ticket number matches the Joker's assigned number on the raffle board
- When all raffle tickets have been sold, you have a chance to win \$530
- Cards on raffle board will be unveiled on April 10/2022 to find the Joker
- Unveiling will be done by video on EWI of Saskatoon Facebook page
- Winner will be contacted by Phone

How to Purchase tickets:

- Contact an EWI member and make payment to them
- Once payment is received, a ticket will be purchased and automatically assigned to you (numbered 1-53)
- Provide name and Phone Number

EWI Member:

- Generate ticket sales March 30th – April 9th
- If you sell a ticket, collect payment, and advise Jennelle Wignes Haaland (jwigneshaaland@cleartech.ca) of the sale
 - Provide Jennelle with contact Name and Phone Number
 - Jennelle will have the ticket book (numbered 1-53) and will complete the ticket automatically assigning the next ticket number in the book
 - Jennelle will reply to email with picture of purchased ticket
- On April 10th, make one etransfer payment to EWI (ewiofsaskatoon@gmail.com) for all tickets sold

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

Anne Marie Howie	<i>Essential Power Inc</i>	2 years
Sandra Miller	<i>Atlific Hotels</i>	3.5 years (<i>due to change in membership</i>)
Nhu Gaudet	<i>O'Reilly Insurance Financial</i>	2 years

FEBRUARY

Sherry Buziak	<i>MOBO Promotional</i>	3 years
Char Weightman	<i>The Financial Vault</i>	4 years

MARCH

Susan Mowat	<i>Clartech Industries</i>	5 years
Cara Mazurk	<i>Tocara Jewellery</i>	4 years



EWI reaches out to a worthy cause each month and supports those in need locally. In March we are supporting The Lighthouse which offers affordable housing, supportive living, and emergency shelter for adults in Saskatoon. The Lighthouse has been helping people find home since 1992. As at January 2nd these were the items they were looking for: (You can always check their website for a daily update)

- Winter Jackets
- Winter boots
- A 5XL winter jacket
- M+W Underwear (Bras, briefs, boxers)
- M/W pants (size 38 or smaller)
- Sweats (pants, hoodies, t shirts)
- Socks
- Shoes
- Towels
- All hygiene items-toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, hand cream, soap, feminine hygiene products

We accept open hygiene items that are clean on the outside and at least half full



BRING A FRIEND NIGHT

Wednesday, March 16th



For each friend/guest you bring, you will be entered into a prize draw for you and your friend! The more guests - the more chances to win!!!

And...an awesome speaker that night as well - Chad Mireau!



CONNECTIONS | CAREERS | COMMUNITY

JOIN US!

Wednesday, March 16th



The Program:

In early January 2016, Chad received THE phone call in the middle of the night that no one wants to receive. The police officer on the other end of the line shared the heart-shattering news, he had just lost his most precious family in a tragic car accident...

Chad shares his journey through grief, losing four family members to a drunk driver and the effect it took on everyone in his life. There were many dark days and there were times that he felt things may never get better. Remarkably, he was able to find inner peace and strength after first doing the work to truly forgive the driver of the other car.

As he came through the grief fog, he started to share his thoughts and feelings with others who had been through similar tragedies in their lives. Change started to happen. Those who listened started to transform their lives. Chad then felt an overwhelming sense that people worldwide needed to hear his story and understand his journey.

What could have been a lifelong spiral out of control in complete and utter devastation has turned out to be an amazing journey of growth and personal development.

If you have struggled with grief and/or forgiveness in any way,
Join us March 16th for an evening with
Chad Mierau

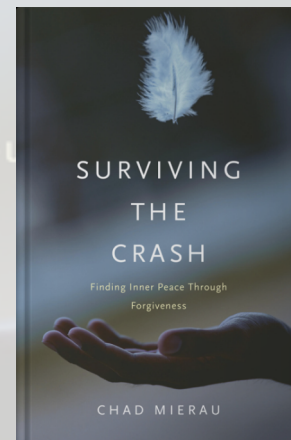
DINNER MEETING

@ Hillcrest Memorial

5:00—Drinks & Networking
6:00—Dinner
6:45—Program
7:30pm— Adjourn Dinner meeting

Cost:
\$45/Members
\$50/Guest
\$15/via Zoom

Register by March 14th on
ewiofsaskatoon.ca/events



Guests welcome!

** for up to 3 visits*

Empower. Engage. Inspire

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <p>Speaker: Chad Mireau "Surviving the Crash" Donations to: The Lighthouse Hybrid Meeting: Hillcrest Funeral Home & Zoom</p> <p>Bring A Friend Night</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>Speaker: Tara Lesson "Transforming Health"? Donations to: The Food Bank Hybrid Meeting: Hillcrest Funeral Home & Zoom</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">MAY</p>  <p>Speaker: Jennifer Nunes from "Sweet Sensations" Donations to: YWCA Crisis Shelter Hybrid Meeting: Hillcrest Funeral Home & Zoom</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE</p> <p>Speaker: Rebecca Bassett "Back 40 Training" Donations to: The Bridge on 20th Hybrid Meeting: Hillcrest Funeral Home & Zoom EWI Business Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JULY HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>EWI's FUN SUMMER EVENT! Watch for more details...</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Speaker: TBA Donations to: Dress for Success Hybrid Meeting: Hillcrest Funeral Home & Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p> <p>Speaker: Jana Dutton "Work / Life Balance" Donations to: Saskatoon Friendship Inn NEW BOARD INSTALLATION</p> 

Check out these websites for Donation information on a current list of needs:

The Food Bank <https://saskatoonfoodbank.org/>

YWCA Crisis Shelter <https://www.ywcaskatoon.com/crisis-shelter-residence/how-you-can-help/>

The Bridge on 20th <https://www.thebridgesaskatoon.com/donate.html>

Dress for Success <https://saskatoon.dressforsuccess.org/get-involved/donate/>

Saskatoon Friendship Inn <https://friendshipinn.ca/donations/wish-list/>