

# Richmond Connect

Chartered June 1967



## Letter from the President

August Recap: Our Richmond Chapter continues to Re-excite, Re-elevate, Reenvision!

On August 11, 2022, our chapter meeting was hosted by our member firm, Closet Factory, and their owners Teresa Mueller, Bryan Mueller and their daughter Megan Underwood. Christine Slate is their EWI representative and Megan Underwood is their

firm executive. Together, this dynamic team put together a great firm might including providing our membership with a great buffet and tours of their showroom and their production warehouse. Thank you Closet Factory for your gift of hospitality and for furnishing the meal! Closet Factory gave full disclosure of their product (from top to bottom - from the ordering of their product to the manufacturing, to the final product). It was interesting to hear the history of this family business and how they are connected to their employees and the whole community. Closet Factory also offers a EWI discount of 5% (up to \$500), and we had several interested customers that evening. Thank you Closet Factory for collaborating with EWI and giving back to EWI and our community. This firm and executive support is what makes EWI of Richmond so strong and successful. Any member firm interested in hosting a firm night, please contact Christy McCurdy our Program Director (of ChamberRVA) for the upcoming year! EWI is about promoting our member firms and personal and professional development!

Our upcoming September 8th chapter meeting is our Annual Business Meeting. We are hoping to have all representatives in attendance as we present our new year (which runs from October to October). We will be presenting our proposed 2022-2023 General Operating Budget and BCDP Budget. Christine Slate, Treasurer (Closet Factory) and her Budget Committee have worked diligently to balance these two budgets, and she will be presenting these budgets and offering a time of Q&A before calling for a chapter vote. Our Nominating Committee and Chair Dr. Heather Williamson (of Transformation Group) will be proposing our 2022-2023 board, in which the chapter will be voting on that evening. There will also be a presentation of EWI Corporate's proposed bylaws for the upcoming 2022 LCAM on September 17, 2022, in Corpus Christi, TX. Michele Rundstrom, board member and Director of Communications (of Altria Client Services LLC) will be presenting and explaining the proposed bylaws and how they will affect our chapter bylaws, and the chapter will have discussion and vote on how they wish the chapter's delegates to vote at LCAM. We will be celebrating our EWI Corporate awards: our successful and dynamic Literacy Program (spearheaded by Donna Thornburg, VCU, in March 2022) won our chapter \$500 towards our BCDP budget. Congratulations and thank you Donna and your Literacy Committee. We are also proud to celebrate that EWI Corporate has awarded our chapter the Chapter of Excellent Award again this year, and thank you to Recruitment & Retention Director Sandy Naumann (Marsh McLennan Agency) for growing our membership, maintaining retention, and also keeping a balance in the size of members firms (small, medium and large size firms). We are hoping to receive another award at LCAM and that is the Communications Award, and thank you Michele Rundstrom (Altria Client Services LLC) for making our Connect (our chapter's newsletter) each month so spectacular and full of pertinent information for our executives and representatives!

Upcoming events for your calendar:

- September 14-17, 2022, EWI Leadership Conference & Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX
- October 13, 2022, installation of our 2022-2023 Chapter Board and speaker Lisa Sims, Chief Executive Officer, Venture Richmond, Inc.

Please continue to promote your firm news in our monthly Connect, by sending articles and pictures to Michele Rundstrom, our Communications Director, representing Altria Client Services LLC, at michele.rundstrom@altria.com.

Debbie Clark (Universal Corporation)

## Follow Us! 📫 🖂













#### 2021-2022 **Board of Directors**

#### **President** Debbie Clark

**Universal Corporation** 

#### **Vice President** Renee Gaines

Venture Richmond

#### **Secretary** Amanda Foos Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

#### **Treasurer Christine Slate Closet Factory**

#### Sergeant-at-Arms Susan Lawton Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

#### **Communications Director** Michele Rundstrom Altria Client Services LLC

#### Retention & Recruitment Sandy Naumann Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC

#### **Programs Director** Christy McCurdy ChamberRVA

#### ASIST Scholarship Director Michelle Lovatt Richmond Region Tourism

#### **EWISP & Literacy Director** Donna Thornburg Virginia Commonwealth University

#### Advisor Tanya Johnson Community Foundation for a greater Richmond



## HAPTER BUSINESS

#### 2021-2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



**President** Debbie Clark **Universal Corporation** Clarkd01@universalleaf.com



**Champion** Renee Gaines Venture Richmond rgaines@venturerichmond.com

**Communications Director** 

Michele Rundstrom

Altria Client Services LLC

Michele.rundstrom@altria.com

Please send me monthly articles, firm news, photographs, member firm advertisements

**Vice President/Chapter** 



**Treasurer** Christine Slate Closet Factory christine.slate@closetfactory.com

Balances as of September 1, 2022		
VACU Operating	\$31,412.27	
VACU B/C/DP	\$110,637.84	
TowneBank Operating	\$43,543.41	
TowneBank B/C/DP	\$39,290.39	
Total	\$224.883.91	

Richmond Connect with your Firm Executive. **Programs Director** Christy McCurdy ChamberRVA christy.mccurdy@chamberrva.com



LCAM.

September 8 will be our annual business meeting. We will cover the budget for next year, nominations, and other business related to the Annual Meeting at



**Retention & Recruitment** Sandy Naumann

Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC Sandy.Naumann@MarshMMA.com

You all have been great this year and let's make the last quarter of 2022 the best in building back our Chapter! I would like to

encourage everyone to consider chatting with a prospect company about EWI and ask them to come as your quest to an upcoming meeting! Thank you!

and any suggestions you have to improve our monthly Newsletter, website and social media. PLEASE SHARE copies of the EWI



**EWISP & Literacy Director** 

Donna Thornburg Virginia Commonwealth University dwthornb@vcu.edu



#### **ASIST Scholarship Director**

Michelle Lovatt Richmond Region Tourism mlovatt@visitrichmondva.com



**Secretary** 

Amanda Foos Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Amanda.Foos@rich.frb.org

Looking for a committee? Why not consider the Secretary Committee? Taking notes at our

membership meetings help keep our membership connected with what's happening at the Chapter and Corporate levels. If you would like to know more about the Secretary Committee, please contact me.



**Advisor** 

Tanya Johnson Community Foundation for a greater Richmond tjohnson@cfrichmond.org





#### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

Susan Lawton
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
Susan.Lawton@rich.frb.org

#### **Paying Guests**

On occasion, EWI representatives ask to bring a "paying guest" – a guest who wants to pay to attend an EWI meeting because of the topic, or possibly because they'd like to explore membership.

While this is perfectly acceptable, there are a few guidelines:

- 1. The paying guest must be accompanied by an EWI representative.
- 2. The paying guest is expected to pay the \$35 meeting fee at the meeting.
- 3. If the guest is interested in joining EWI, they must pursue membership through the Retention & Recruitment Director, who will follow the proper protocols (recommendation from a member firm or representative; use of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify the code of the prospective firm, since the chapter is non-competitive; a minimum of one year in business; approval by the chapter board; and posting the information of the prospective firm as outlined in the EWI Chapter Resource Guide).
- 4. A general rule is that a paying guest should not attend more than two consecutive meetings. If the guest would like to pursue membership, he/she should work through the Retention & Recruitment Director as noted above.
- 5. While one of the tenets of EWI is to promote your member firm, a paying guest is not an EWI member, so it would be inappropriate for him/her to openly promote their business at an EWI meeting.

#### Celebrating September Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following representatives who were born in September:

Carol Person (September 30) Angela Roisten (September 30)

May all your birthday wishes come true!



#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cracking the Success Code: Tips for Personal and Professional Development

Presenter: Lewana Harris

Korn Ferry Consultant

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 1:00 PM CT







Did you know? These corporate webinars are open to everyone in your member firm. Share them with your colleagues. All of the corporate webinars are also posted on MyEWI for you to view at any time. Take advantage of these webinars for your professional development.

#### **EWI of Richmond Chapter Boundaries:**

Cities of Richmond, Ashland, Williamsburg, Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights, and Counties of Amelia, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, New Kent, Powhatan and Prince George.





Heather H. Williamson Ph.D., President (Office) 804-598-9175 (Cell) 804-543-3333 www.TransformationGroupLLC.com

drheather@transformationgroupllc.com
http://www.linkedin.com/in/drheatherwilliamson
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Transformation
-Group-LLC/115938085147841
https://twitter.com/DrHeatherVA



Leadership \* Strategy \* Performance

#### Is Quiet Quitting Hurting Your Business?

Are your employees quietly quitting?

The Gallup finds that more than 50% of U.S. employees are "quietly quitting."

According to Gallup, the U.S. employee engagement dropped during the second quarter of 2022, with the proportion of engaged workers remaining at 32% but the proportion of actively disengaged increasing to 18%. The ratio of engaged to actively disengaged employees is now 1.8 to 1, the lowest in almost a decade.

So, what is "quietly quitting"? Quietly quitting occurs when your emplyoyees no longer put forth extra effort but rather do the minimum to just meet their job description. Employees are disengaged from their work because they are burned out or unsatisfied with their job. Consequently, employees are putting boundaries around job effort, working long hours and weekends.

If you're unsure this is happening in your organization, here are some signs to look out for so you can take immediate action. Your employee is:

- 1. Chronically disengaged
- 2. Self-isolating from teammates
- 3. Lacking participation in meetings
- 4. Doing the minimum in workload, just to keep a paycheck
- 5. Complaining by teammates due to their workload increasing because they are picking up the slack

As a leader, recognizing when your employees are less engaged is paramount! Taking steps to re-engage your workforce is a must!

If you want to learn what strategies you need to implement, I'm here to help.

Much Success, Dr. Heather

P.S. Don't forget to take me up on my offer *to be a guest on my radio show*, email me at <a href="mailto:drheather@transformationgroupllc.com">drheather@transformationgroupllc.com</a>.





### PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Please review the Corporate Bylaws Committee proposed bylaw amendments that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on September 17, 2022. Our chapter will review these and our Standing Rules at our meeting on September 8, 2022:

Amendment #1 - Corporate Bylaws:

## ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP Section 6. Suspension and Termination of Membership

#### **Bylaw Currently Reads:**

The Corporate Board may suspend or terminate the membership of a Chapter, Satellite Chapter, or Member-at-Large on the following grounds: (1) Failure to pay Corporate dues and assessments; (2) Any violation of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws; or (3) Any action disruptive to or inconsistent with the activities and conduct of the business and mission of the Corporation or any Chapter. If the Chapter, Satellite Chapter, or Member-at-Large has not corrected any violation(s) and has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the Corporate Board, the charter of a Chapter or the membership rights of a Satellite Chapter or Member-at-Large may be revoked.

The Corporate Board may suspend or terminate the membership of a Chapter, Satellite Chapter, or Member at Large Virtual Member on the following grounds: (1) Failure to pay Corporate dues and assessments; (2) Any violation of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws; or (3) Any action disruptive to or inconsistent with the activities and conduct of the business and mission of the Corporation or any Chapter. If the Chapter, Satellite Chapter, or Member at Large Virtual Member has not corrected any violation(s) and has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the Corporate Board, the charter of a Chapter or the membership rights of a Satellite Chapter or Member at Large Virtual Member may be revoked.

Rationale:

This update in verbiage is needed to align with Article III Membership; Section 4 Virtual Member. The title of Member-at-Large was changed to Virtual Member during the Annual Meeting on September 18, 2021. This Bylaw amendment was recommended, reviewed and approved by the Bylaws Committee, Legal Counsel and Parliamentarian.

Amendment #2 - Corporate Bylaws:

#### ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS Section 4. Voting

<u>Bylaw Currently Reads</u>: A. Number of Delegates and Votes per Chapter. At any meeting of the membership of the Corporation, the voting rights held by the chartered Chapters of the Corporation shall be based on the Chapter's number of Member Firm representatives and Individual Members as follows:

No. of Members	No. of Delegates and Votes Allowed
Up to 25 Representatives/Individual Members	1
26 to 50 Representatives/Individual Members	2
51 to 75 Representatives/Individual Members	3
76 to 100 Representatives/Individual Members	4
101 + Representatives/Individual Members	5



No. of Members	Delegates and Votes Allowed
Up to 15 Representatives/Individual Members	1
16 to 30 Representatives/Individual Members	2
31 to 45 Representatives/Individual Members	3
46 to 60 Representatives/Individual Members	4
61 + Representatives/Individual Members	5

#### Rationale:

This Bylaw amendment is being suggested to allow Chapters to have more of a voice at our Annual Meeting and encourage more participation in the business of the organization. Understanding that the demographics of our membership have changed, the Corporate Board is recommending this change so that Chapters may send more members to the Annual Meeting where Chapter voices may be heard. This Bylaw amendment needs to align with the number of representatives/individual members active in the organization. This Bylaw amendment was recommended by the Corporate Board, and reviewed and approved by the Bylaws Committee, Legal Counsel and Parliamentarian.



#### Amendment #3 - Chapter Bylaws:

## Article IV CHAPTER OFFICERS Section 3. Vacancy

#### **Bylaw Currently Reads:**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the President-Elect automatically ascends to the office of President. If the President-Elect cannot ascend then the Nominating Committee shall present a nominee and an election shall be held at a special meeting called for that purpose. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Chapter Board.

#### Amend to Read:

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the President-Elect automatically ascends to the office of President to serve the remainder of the term. If the President Elect cannot ascend then If the President-Elect is unable to assume the presidency, the Nominating Committee shall present a nominee to serve the remainder of the term and an election shall be held at a special meeting called for that purpose. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Chapter Board.

#### Rationale:

This verbiage clarifies the guidelines with regards to a vacancy in the office of President. This Bylaw amendment was recommended by EWI of Omaha, and reviewed and approved by the Bylaws Committee, Legal Counsel and Parliamentarian.

#### Amendment #4 - Chapter Bylaws:

## ARTICLE VIII ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION

#### **Bylaw Currently Reads:**

- A. Meetings. The Chapter, the Board of Directors and committees shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media, as long as all members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. Notice of meetings may be sent by email.
- B. Mailings. Mailings may be sent by email, except where the Bylaws require the use of postal mail or where a member does not have email access. PROPOSED: Add the following Paragraph C and edit the Title of Article VIII to read ELECTRONIC MEETINGS, COMMUNICATION AND ACTION BY CONSENT
- C. Action by Consent. The Chapter, the Board of Directors and committees may take action permitted under these Bylaws or by law by written consent without a meeting if such action is approved by a majority of:
  - (i) Representatives in the case of the Chapter,
  - (ii) Members of the Board of Directors in the case of the Board of Directors, or
  - (iii) Committee members for any committee.

Consent may be given in writing in any manner determined by the Board of Directors or as set forth in Standing Rules for the Chapter. Rationale:

This additional paragraph aligns with the Corporate Bylaw allowing for Action By Consent when voting is needed outside of a meeting. The proposed title change incorporates the additional subject of Action by Consent. This Bylaw amendment was recommended, reviewed and approved by the Bylaws Committee, Legal Counsel and Parliamentarian.

(Additional Information: The Corporate Board of Directors has reviewed the nature of business being conducted through electronic means and would like to recommend additional flexibility in our Bylaws for holding meetings to conduct business. The addition of this Bylaw clarification allows the business of a Chapter to be conducted in any environment deemed necessary by the Chapter.)

#### Richmond Chapter Standing Rules Amendment Proposed Language:

Proposed New Paragraph for Standing Rules:

**ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION –** In accordance with Chapter Bylaws, Article VIII, EWI of Richmond adopts electronic communications and consents with the following rules:

- When a motion is electronically mailed to the members for a vote, the times when the poll opens and closes shall be included. The result of the electronic voting shall be communicated to the membership within five (5) days of the closing of voting and included in the minutes.
- Notice of an electronic vote by consent shall be given at a preceding meeting or at least five (5) days in advance of the closing of voting.
   The motion under consideration shall be included in the notice.
- Procedures shall be established to allow for secret balloting upon request.



## **EWI CORPORATE NEWS**

#### Calendar of Events:

<u>EWI - Annual Meeting - Delegates/Alternate Delegates Training Call: September 9, 2022</u> Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting (LCAM): September 15-17, 2022



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT EWI ON AMAZON!





## EWI OF RICHMOND CHAPTER AND FIRM NEWS

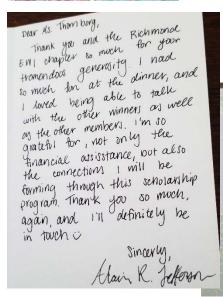


Congratulations to the Richmond Chapter for attaining Chapter of Excellence again in 2022! Our Chapter met the criteria to be designated as a 2022 Chapter of Excellence. This has been accomplished with our Board's leadership, tenacity, and belief that so evidently permeated throughout your membership to realize this prestigious achievement.



Congratulations to Donna Thornburg on her retirement from member firm VCU! While Donna was only with our Chapter for a short few years, she made a tremendous impact. Donna spearheaded our successful and dynamic Literacy Program earning our Chapter the EWI Corporate Literacy Award of \$500 towards our BCDP budget. We wish her the absolute best in her next chapter of life, and welcome Modestine Carter as the replacement representative for VCU.





Please enjoy this lovely note from one of our EWISP Scholarship Winners, Alaina Jefferson.



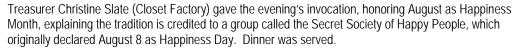
# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST MEETING AND FIRM NIGHT AT THE CLOSET FACTORY

President Debbie Clark (Universal Corporation) called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm welcoming members and guests, as well as thanking Closet Factory for hosting. Sergeant-at-Arms, Susan Lawton (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), conducted roll call and established a quorum.



Secretary Amanda Foos (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) requested membership to vote on minutes from the July 14th meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Recruitment and Retention Director Sandy Naumann (March & McLennan Agency) installed Lesley Rowland of Cobb Technologies, marking the eighth new firm to join the Chapter this year.





Christine introduced her executives and owners of the Ashland, Virginia Closet Factory: Megan Underwood, Teresa Mueller, and Bryan Mueller. Megan provided both a history of the franchise and an overview of Closet Factory's offerings and business model, citing the importance of the company being family owned and operated, and staffed with Closet Factory employees as opposed to contractors. Megan explained the importance of community and customer service. She discussed the family's business values and dedication to detail and quality, as well as challenges they face. Teresa also shared the family's dedication to service by sharing "It's not the problems you face, it's how you face the problems."





Next, Dr. Heather Williamson (Transformation Group, LLC), Nominating Chair, announced that straw ballets for the 2022-2023 board of directors had been placed at each table and requested members to fill them out prior to leaving. Sergeant-at-Arms, Susan Lawton (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), recognized August birthdays. The meeting was adjourned.



Need a murphy bed? Closet Factory has you covered! How cool is that?

Our representatives and guests enjoying the program.



Who wouldn't want this dog food and gardening center in their garage or she shed? Call Closet Factory today!







## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 8 5:30-6:00 pm Networking 6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting	Chapter Annual Business Meeting  Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219  ANNUAL MEETING	September 15-17, 2022  ICAN 2022  Excile, Elevale, Envision	2022 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING Corpus Christi, TX
October 13 5:30-6:00 pm Networking 6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting	2022-2023 EWI of Richmond Chapter Board Installation  Speaker: Lisa Sims, Chief Executive Officer, Venture Richmond, Inc.  Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219	November 10 5:30-6:00 pm Networking 6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting	Speaker: TBD Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219
December 8 5:30-7:30 pm	Save the Date for the Holiday Social	January 12, 2023 5:30-6:00 pm Networking 6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting	Speaker: TBD Location: TBD

If you would like to host a "Firm Night," or recommend a speaker, please contact Christy McCurdy at <a href="mailto:christy.mccurdy@chamberrva.com">christy.mccurdy@chamberrva.com</a>





#### **EWI of Richmond Member Firms**

## 31 Member Firms 36 Representatives

Altria Group, Inc.

Altria Client Services LLC

Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia

The Cardiac Connection

Cater Nation

ChamberRVA

Children's Hospital of Richmond

Closet Factory (Mueller & Mueller Inc.)

**Cobb Technologies** 

Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

Dignity Memorial Woody Funeral Home

Dominion Energy, Inc.

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

JMI

Joyner Fine Properties

Keiter Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

Legal Resources

Marsh & McLennan Agency

Reynolds Community College

Richmond Raceway

Richmond Region Tourism

RMT Construction & Development Group

T.A.C.-Solutions

Topgolf

TowneBank

Transformation Group, LLC

**Universal Corporation** 

Venture Richmond, Inc.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Credit Union, Inc.

Westminster Canterbury Richmond

#### **EWI of Richmond Chapter Life Members**

These women are chapter life members due to their special meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty to the Chapter.

Debora Honodel, Southern States Cooperative, Inc. Brenda Long, Dominion Energy Karen Kuhn, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Chapter President, 1996 Chapter President, 2012 Chapter President, 2015

#### **EWI of Richmond Chapter Honorary Members**

These women are chapter honorary members due to their service as chapter president and/or special service to the community while active in EWI.

Bev Beadles, Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of VA Jo Anne Cole, Retail Merchants Assoc. of Greater Richmond

Kit Hull, Bill's Barbecue

Liz M. Perry, Trigon Healthcare, Inc.

Carolyn Raskind, Westminster Canterbury Richmond

Pat Sims, Robert L. Figg & Sons, Inc.

Lillie Stratton, Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc.

Chapter President, 1987 Chapter President, 1973

Representative 1993-2012

Chapter President, 1995 Chapter President, 2000

Chapter President, 1972

Chapter President, 1993

#### THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SERVICE TO EWI!

#### Looking for ways to stay connected?

Follow us on social media, email us or visit our website.











