



Chartered June 1967

Richmond ewiConnect

March 2022
Special Literacy Edition



Letter from the President

March: Our Richmond Chapter continues to Re-excite, Re-elevate, Re-envision! What chapter can continue to be successful with their President out of commission for two months on FMLA? Well, it is the Richmond Chapter along with their great VP Renee Gaines, fabulous board members and dedicated member firms! I am so proud of each one of you for your leadership roles and volunteerism! Thank you for carrying out the EWI mission without me!

As March blew into our area with high winds and even SNOW, our chapter enjoyed a strong March program, with speaker Lauren Moore, CEO, of the Children's Hospital Foundation. We were enlightened by her presentation of the newest, state-of-the-art children's hospital being built in Richmond, VA, and scheduled to open in 2023! Ms. Moore was so impressed with EWI and our Chapter, that she has asked their firm to be posted as a potential new member, and we are hoping to have them as a member firm soon, and host a grand tour of the new pediatric hospital in 2023. We also had three other guests that evening as potential new member firms – our R&R Director, Sandy Naumann of Marsh McLennan Agency, keeps encouraging ALL of us to grow our chapter, and it is working!

March also featured our Literacy Events Program, in which Donna Thornburg (Virginia Commonwealth University) and her committee spearheaded the whole event at Bellwood Elementary School in Chesterfield County, through a partnership already established by one of our chapter member firms TowneBank. The literacy program is Virginia Reads One Book, and the chosen book was *Dog Days* by Karen English, and our Chapter volunteered the whole morning and touched the lives of over 500 kids, as well as teachers, staff and parents. The EWI organization usually encourages reading rally programs for literacy in October each year; however, this project presented itself in March, and EWI of Richmond took charge and sponsored a stellar literacy event! Please check out our website for more featured articles and photos of this event. All of the students received an individual book, teachers and staff received resource materials, and our volunteers distributed food, backpacks provided by VCU and door prizes, as well as a welcomed visit from the VCU Therapy Dogs (which were of course the favorites). It was an educational and great bonding day for our whole community!

As we continue to post for new member firms, we welcome guests each month to our chapter meetings. Our next meeting is April 14, 2022, at 5:30 pm at The New Market Pavilion. Thank you Christy McCurdy, of ChamberRVA, our Programs Director, for providing strong programs each month, so please mark your calendars for the 2nd Thursday of each month for EWI of Richmond!

Debbie Clark
Universal Corporation

2021-2022 Board of Directors

President
Debbie Clark
Universal Corporation

Vice President
Renee Gaines
Venture Richmond

Secretary
Amanda Foos
Federal Reserve Bank of
Richmond

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Marsh & McLennan Agency,
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**ASIST Scholarship
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Richmond Region Tourism

EWISP & Literacy Director
Donna Thornburg
Virginia Commonwealth
University

Advisor
Tanya Johnson
Community Foundation for a
greater Richmond

Follow Us!



CHAPTER BUSINESS

2021-2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

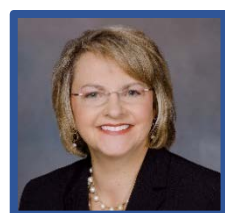


President

Debbie Clark
Universal Corporation
Clarkd01@universalleaf.com

Hats off to our Chapter and a great big thank you to the Board, especially Renee, for taking the helm while I was out in January and February.

You all rocked it for EWI of Richmond!



Treasurer

Christine Slate
Closet Factory
christine.slate@closetfactory.com

Balances as of March 1, 2022

Truist Operating	\$ 39,501.09
Truist B/C/DP	42,188.91
VACU Operating	31,613.64
VACU B/C/DP	113,534.35
TowneBank Operating	5,000.00
TowneBank B/C/DP	5,000.00
Total	\$236,837.99



Programs Director

Christy McCurdy
ChamberRVA
christy.mccurdy@chamberuva.com

Big thank you to Lauren Zaller Moore, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation at VCU. Lauren provided us with an update on the Wonder Tower – an entirely new facility at VCU that will bring children's inpatient, emergency/trauma and outpatient care under one roof, while still being connected to an academic research medical center.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Programs Committee! We will pull together a meeting in the coming weeks, and I'd like to do it in person. Stay tuned for a doodle poll to pick a date/time/location. We will be focusing on the fall programming – August through December.



Vice President/Chapter Champion

Renee Gaines
Venture Richmond
rgaines@venturerichmond.com

Celebrate women all over during Women's History Month. Here is a list of 41 women-owned businesses to check out in Richmond - <https://venturerichmond.com/news/women-owned-businesses-to-check-out-in-richmond/>.

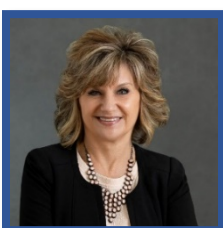


Communications Director

Michele Rundstrom
Altria Client Services LLC
Michele.rundstrom@altria.com

Are you social media savvy? Do you love to take pictures? Do you love designing newsletters or writing articles? If so, I really need your help. Please consider joining the Communications Committee to put your skills to use by helping our Chapter!

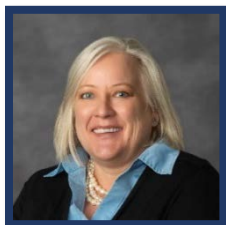
The monthly Connect newsletter is scheduled to be published two weeks prior to each monthly membership meeting. Please send me monthly articles, firm news, photographs, member firm advertisements and any suggestions you have to improve our monthly Newsletter, website and social media.



Retention & Recruitment

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

Welcome Melanie Roupas with Joyner Fine Properties! We are delighted to have you as our first new member firm of 2022! Big shout out to Angela Roisten for the introduction and great job in recruiting! Remember ladies, keep your EWI Sales Cap on wherever you may travel and spread the word of our great Chapter.



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

In celebration of Women's History Month

"Women and girls can do whatever they want. There is no limit to what we as women can accomplish." — [Michelle Obama](#).



Sergeant-at-Arms

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

Meeting RSVPs: Our current RSVP system on our chapter website doesn't allow representatives to decline the monthly membership meeting invitation. Please contact me (susan.lawton@rich.frb.org) if you are unable to attend a chapter meeting. This will save you from getting a follow-up call or email from me. Thank you!



LCAM ²⁰²² ewi
Excite, Elevate, Envision



February

- ❖ 11 - Karen Huffman

March

- ❖ 11 Tanya Johnson
- ❖ 20 Debbie Clark
- ❖ 25 Melanie Roupas
- ❖ 29 Cherryll Ellis

April

- ❖ 5 Ashley Abplanalp
- ❖ 14 Dee Tunstall
- ❖ 20 Christy McCurdy
- ❖ 23 Kit Hull

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.

Literacy Event

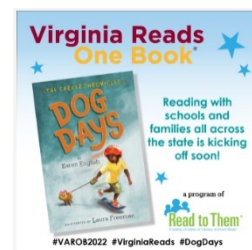


EWI of Richmond partnered with member firm, TowneBank (represented by Michelle Mogel), and Communities in Schools of North Chesterfield to support Virginia Reads One Book at Bellwood Elementary School on March 7, 2022.

Literacy Director Donna Thornburg (VCU), Karen Huffman (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), and Michelle Mogel (TowneBank) worked tirelessly to put together an amazing literacy program for the children, parents and staff of Bellwood Elementary School in Chesterfield, Virginia. The kickoff event was a huge success!

[Executive Woman International \(EWI\)](#) and [Communities in Schools](#) proudly sponsored [Bellwood Elementary School](#) for the 2022 Virginia Reads One Book program for the month of March. Everyone – students, parents, teachers, and even administrative staff - read this year's financial literacy themed book, "Dog Days". Students and their families followed the same schedule during the month of March. It's all part of Virginia Reads One Book — a statewide family literacy program designed to strengthen the educational connection between home and school from Richmond-based Read to Them. EWI and Communities in Schools proudly sponsored Bellwood Elementary where more than 500 students and staff participated.

VIRGINIA READS ONE BOOK KICKED OFF ON MARCH 7, 2022. Richmond EWI and Communities in Schools along with the VCU Health System Therapy Dogs, Elsa and Keegan, joined the students of Bellwood Elementary School in North Chesterfield, VA. Richmond EWI representatives handed each student a copy of the same book, "Dog Days" by Karen English, along with a free backpack stuffed with dog-themed goodies such as dog tags, a small stuffed dog, pencils, notepads, etc. Each student also enjoyed a designer cake pop treat. The statewide reading schedule encouraged about 15 minutes each night, putting the entire community literally on the same page. Their reading was augmented with classroom activities, trivia contests, prizes and fun opportunities for family engagement. Parents of students were also provided access to a book detailing the benefits of children reading to pets.



Communities In Schools of Richmond is connected to a [national network](#) of over 200 affiliates to form the nation's largest and most effective organization dedicated to keeping kids in school. By bringing community resources inside public schools, where they are accessible, coordinated and accountable, CIS Founder Bill Milliken changed the picture for millions of kids across the country.



Executive Women International brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement. For more information, visit www.ewirichmond.org.

Read to Them is a Richmond based non-profit promoting family literacy, with programs that have reached over 2 million families in over 3000 schools in all 50 states. When children become successful readers at an early age, academic success follows —increasing high school graduation rates and building the basis for a lifetime of learning and productivity. For more information, visit www.readtothem.org.

When a whole state reads a book, there's a lot to talk about
#VAROB2022, #VirginiaReads, #DogsDays

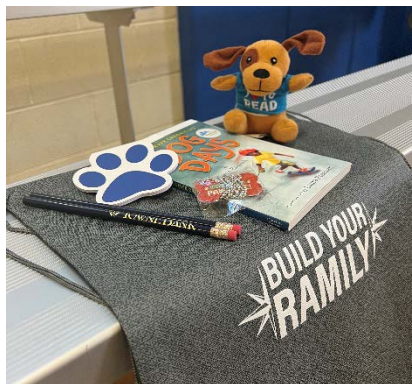
Enjoy some photos from the Kickoff Event and on social media!





Top: Left to right: Tanya Johnson (Community Foundation for a greater Richmond), Michelle Mogel (TowneBank), Donna Thornburg (VCU), Cherryll Ellis (Keiter) and Elizabeth Stowers ((CIS Site Coordinator at Bellwood Elementary School).

Bottom: Student showing off her stuffed dog toy from her book back goodies.



Top: Build your Family book bag containing Dog Days book, pencils, notepads, stuffed dog toy and other goodies were given to each child that attends Bellwood Elementary School

Bottom: VCU Therapy dogs and handlers put on a show for the students.



Teacher and Staff gifts and prizes



VCU Therapy Dogs greet the students; infectious smiles from the students enjoying the event, Volunteers Tanya Johnson (Community Foundation for a greater Richmond), Christine Slate (Closet Factory), Elizabeth Stowers (CIS Site Coordinator at Bellwood Elementary School), and Susan Lawton (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) kickoff the event; and Felicia reads to VCU therapy dog Jarvis.



Buddies Kline, Cox and Nolte reading *Dog Days* together
Photo credit: McKenzie Melton (CCPS) and others.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



How many times have you said, "how am I supposed to get my job done when I'm always in meetings?"

Well, you're not alone! Many of my clients and friends have said those exact words. They are exasperated from the amount of workload that seems to be adding up because they are constantly attending meetings.

Now, I'm not saying meetings are bad and you shouldn't have them. Rather, it's important to be strategic as it relates to who needs to attend the meeting and if a meeting is really necessary. Ask yourself, could a phone call or email get the job done? As you're acutely aware, spending time in too many meetings kills your productivity.

So, I thought I would help you become more strategic when deciding if a meeting is really needed by sharing how you can get back control of your calendar.

Check out the **latest YouTube video** [Are Meetings Consuming Your Day?](#) In this video, I'm sharing 4 tips that you can implement TODAY to gain back your workday and not spend it in meetings.

Remember that participating in a meeting doesn't take one hour. If that's the case, I probably wouldn't be sending this newsletter to you!

Instead, if you want to be proactive and effective, you are probably spending time:

- prepping for the meeting (so you can look smart)
- attending the meeting that can last 1 to 2 hours or more
- following-up on what's been delegated to ensure everyone is clear on expectations
- attending meetings set by others that think you should be there



If you want to become better at organizing your day so it's not spent in meetings, check out the video! Are you ready to add to your leadership skills so you can be more productive and yes... effective? If you're answering YES, this is exactly the reason why I created the Transformational Leader Mastermind.

If this sounds like you, learn more about the [Transformational Leader Mastermind](#) that's coming soon! You can get a game plan on how to get the most out of yourself and your team. This 6 month program will be led by Dr. Heather Williamson, with participants meeting virtually each month for a 2 hour session with 1:1 coaching as well.

Two programs will be offered based on whether or not you're an entrepreneur or executive in a large organization and the curriculum is customized based on the needs of the group. We believe that the focus of any coaching/advising program is always YOU! I'm excited to share in your success as a leader.

Registration **launched on our website and closes on April 30, 2022**. Contact us at drheather@transformationgroupllc.com for more information or [click here](#)



Much Success,
Dr. Heather

P.S. Know of other leaders who are focused on becoming the best version of themselves as a leader? Please feel free to share, I am only opening up a max of 10 spots for each group so reserve yours today for the [Transformational Leader Mastermind](#)

P.P.S. If you want to learn how to be a more confident and effective boss, check out my [Youtube channel where I share](#) weekly leadership tips and strategies.

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Transformation-Group-LLC/115938085147841>
<https://twitter.com/DrHeatherVA>

Leadership * Strategy * Performance

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

Funding Your Child's Post-High School Education

Presenter: Kathy Knecht

College Prep Consultant
Keystone Capital Management Group

Tuesday, April 12, 2022
1:00 PM CT



Join the Meeting



5 Methods for Thinking Like a Genius

Presenter: Roseann Freitas

College Prep Consultant
Keystone Capital Management Group

Tuesday, May 10, 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.

Remote 101: The Secret to Engaging Virtual Workers

Presenter: Jill Christensen

Employee Engagement Expert & Best Selling Author
Jill Christensen International LLC

Tuesday, June 14, 2022
1:00 PM CT



**"LEADERSHIP CAN,
AND MUST,
BE TAUGHT."**

LORI GIOVANNONI, DEAN OF EWI'S ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP

Tissues & Hardhats: Returning to the Pandemic Workplace

Presenter: Lyndee Champion Ivey

The Mint Museum of Art
Executive Assistant to the President & CEO

Tuesday, July 12, 2022
1:00 PM CT



Inspiration Station

February invocation by Amanda Foos

February is the month of love and Valentines... February is also host to the modern-day tradition of "Galentine's Day." Some may know Galentine's Day as the single female's rebuttal to Valentine's day, assuming all single ladies out there are bitter, salty cat ladies, pining for attention from a man. Personally, I can attest to men being the reason I am a salty cat lady, not the lack of men, but that's a whole speech for a different time. Galentine's Day is a day to celebrate all the gals in our lives, all of our ride or dies, the ones who support us through our worst ideas... before AND after we've executed on them. The real ones, the ones who don't leave you hanging, who don't let you weather your storms alone. The ones that usually show up mid-storm with a bottle of wine and a shoulder to cry on, and maybe a pizza or something. The ones that we laugh with, cry with, and turn the music up full blast and dance it out with. The real ones, the ones who love us unconditionally. The ones we celebrate our victories with, and our failures. I personally celebrate both with wine. But most importantly the ones who pick us back up from those failures.

I'm lucky enough to be part of two womens' groups, EWI and a group for administrative professionals at the Fed. One of the wonderful women on the Fed group's planning team said something in a meeting the other day that really stuck with me. "You're not a real woman unless you build up other women." The women in that group are REAL, they build up each other and other females across the Federal Reserve. And I am so thankful for them, just like I'm thankful for each of you. We had one of our fellow female administrative professionals comment recently about how refreshing it is to see women sharing information with each other, instead of using it to form some illusion of power. I responded to my fellow administrator that we are a new era of administrative professionals, a new era of women. Women have this stigma, this perception of cattiness and tearing each other down, especially in the workplace. Like there's a scarcity of opportunities, or some quota of women not to be exceeded. And while I have experienced these creatures in the wild from time to time, to generalize them with all women is just in accurate. Whenever I hear someone say something like that I have to ask, what women are you hanging out with? Because those are not my ladies, not my gals. My gals build each other up, support each other, and are rock solid. Celebrity hair stylist Jen Adkins says so eloquently in her memoir "Success takes a village, and there is no better village to inspire success than a community of strong women." EWI is just that, a community of strong women, and that's what makes this group so special. The women in this group inspire. In the short time that I have been a member of this group, and attended the board calls, I have heard nothing but positivity. Our President, Debbie, is constantly bragging about how her ladies are brilliant, reminding how each and every one is important, and spreading love and light. This group welcomed me in from the moment I joined my first zoom call a little over a year ago. I have never been treated like a stranger here.

So for this Galentine's Day, I challenge you to go the extra mile, say something nice to one of your gals, or even just a female acquaintance, be their gal. Jen Adkins also talks a lot about investing in and supporting your girl gang, and the importance of bringing other women up with you. Offer help or support to someone at work who may be struggling or who asks for your help. We all need a gal or two in our pocket for a rainy day. I'm lucky enough to have an army of them. So to my gals, sincerely, happy Galentines Day, my EWI sisters.

March invocation provided by Tanya Johnson

Ladies! Ladies! Ladies! It is our day. It is our month! It is our time! And there is no better time than right now to celebrate us. As the saying goes "We've come a long way baby! And we're still thriving, we are still adjusting, we are still pivoting. We are still pushing to improve ourselves and improve others in our Connections, growing in our Careers and making positive changes in our Communities.

I believe that Lucille Johnson Perkins would be proud of this organization and the women serving all over these United States to keep the vision of bringing key women together to promote their firms and improve communities.

I would like for some of us to be reminded and for our newly joined member firms as well as our esteemed guests in the room to know just how EWI was founded by this forward-thinking dynamic women. EWI was founded in San Francisco in 1938 by Lucille Johnson Perkins. Ms. Perkins recognized the importance and potential of an association bringing key women together to promote their firms and improve their communities. On April 29th of that same year, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California under the name of Executive Secretaries, Inc.

Since then, additional cities throughout the United States and Canada have created chapters and joined the organization forming a prestigious and divers networking organization of growing businesses and individual members.

During the 30th Annual Meeting of the corporation (May 1977), the organization's name was changed to Executive Women International. This change reflects the international expansion of the organization and recognizes the changing roles of women in business and the diverse careers held by our representatives.

More than 1,000 member companies and 1,130 representatives continue to thrive in EWI today. We continue to grow in nearly 45 Chapters located in major cities in the United States and Canada. EWI is a premier organization for connecting, building community and developing both professionally and personally for today's business professionals and their firms.

So today we not only celebrate Ms. Perkins for her courage and commitment to professional women but we celebrate each other for the tremendous amount of change because of her vision that we have made in our careers, within our firms within our connections, within our communities and really within ourselves.

Happy Women's Month EWI!

Galentine

[gal-uhn-tahyn] • noun

1. one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow

[William Shakespeare]



EWI CORPORATE NEWS

Events

[Chattanooga - All Chapter Board Forum - April 8-9, 2022](#)

[Texoma - Board Forum - July 15-16, 2022](#)

[Leadership Caucus 2022 & LCAM 2022 - September 14-17, 2022](#)

Chapter Leadership Calls

April 22, 2022

May 27, 2022

June 24, 2022

July 22, 2022



Message to Scholarship Chairs and Chapter Presidents From Corporate Scholarship Committee and Corporate Office

How to Prepare for judging of scholarships:

Demo video for Chapter Scholarship Chairs (Client Portal access)

<https://loom.com/share/f5959cdfed2644de96dd471a078c2c9a>

- Chapter Scholarship Chairs have been set up as 'CLIENTS'. You will see a dashboard with draft and submitted applicants for EWISP or ASIST scholarships. There is a field "Chapter Name" on the dashboard – CLIENTS will need to filter the list to just look at their Chapter. Once you have just your Chapter applicants selected, you will be able to create an ACQ report and export into an Excel report (see link below).
- CLIENTS will be able to see anyone who has started (draft) and submitted applicants. You will not be able to make edits to an application but will have visibility to view an applicant's entire application (in draft or submitted status). However, you can update an applicant's application status (example updating an application from draft to submitted, or submitted to draft, or ineligible, etc.)
- Chapters can choose to contact or not contact applicants that have not finished their applications or have missing documents.
- CLIENTS will also be able to click on an application and see the scores the judges have given by clicking on each application. There will not be any scores populated until the review period opens.
- The ACQ report is referenced in the video above. Here is a how-to guide on how to export the report: <https://help.mykaleidoscope.com/article/44-how-to-export-an-acq-report-application-customized-questions>
- Support: If you are experiencing problems, please click on the blue HELP button at the lower right hand corner of each page first, or contact Cortney Ihde at the Corporate Office, or Cheryl Holmes Director of B/C/DP.

Thank you for all you do for your EWI Chapter and organization. This information and so much more is available to you in Groups: [Chapter Board Members: 2022 B/C/DP & Scholarship Chairs/ Pages / Scholarship Tool Kit](#).



2022 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

September 15-17, 2022

Corpus Christi, TX

We Need You! We need donations for the silent auction and door prizes. Help us create an epic LCAM! Please contact Jennifer Clark, EWI Dallas Chapter to donate items. Please email jennifer.clark@dallashearingfoundation.org.

EWI OF RICHMOND FIRM NEWS

It is with a heavy heart that we share this news. Our 1983 Chapter President, Diane Griffin, died on March 26, 2022. During her presidency, Diane represented Dick Strauss Ford-Isuzu-Suzuki, Inc. Diane also served on several EWI Corporate Committees, and she was a great leader and mentor to many of us. Below is her obituary:



FUNERAL HOME

Morrisett Funeral and Cremation Service
6500 Iron Bridge Rd, Richmond, VA

UPCOMING SERVICE

Visitation - April, 2 2022 - 12:00p.m. - 1:00p.m.
Church Of The Epiphany

GRIFFIN, Diane Marie Churi, 80, peacefully left this world on March 26, 2022. She is preceded in death by her husband, James Griffin. She is survived by daughter, Elizabeth Wyatt (David); grandson, Preston Joseph; and many cousins. Diane was born December 19, 1941, in Northampton, PA. She attended Temple University and Franklin School of Science and Arts. She was employed at Dick Strauss Ford for 27.5 years and Sheehy Ford for 6 years as Administrative Assistant. Diane loved her family and church; her hobbies included reading, history, and water aerobics. She enjoyed having Yorkshire Terriers: Aspacia, Mariah, and Portia. She was a lifetime member of the Richmond Chapter of Executive Women International and a member of Church of the Epiphany where she served as a Eucharistic and

Hospitality Minister. Diane volunteered at The Crossings at Ironbridge for 10 years and enjoyed calling bingo there. She also enjoyed playing buncos with her ladies' group in the neighborhood. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service where a Mass of the Resurrection to celebrate Diane's life will be held at Church of the Epiphany, 11000 Smoketree Drive, North Chesterfield, VA 23236 on Saturday, April 2nd at 1:00 PM. A reception will follow after the mass. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Church of the Epiphany. She was the "shining star" in our family and we will love and cherish her forever. Nana, we love you, Beth, David and Preston.



Congratulations to Dr. Heather Williamson (Transformation Group, LLC) for being selected as a speaker at the 2022 HR Virginia Annual Conference, *Create A Better Workplace Avoid The Catch 2022*, running Sunday, April 24 to Wednesday, April 27



IT'S TAX TIME: Member firm Keiter specializes in serving high net worth families and privately-held businesses and their owners with tax, audit, business consulting, and valuation needs in a variety of industries. Their advisors closely monitor the tax and accounting changes that impact their clients. Reach out to them for valuable resources as well as sound advice and strategies to move your business forward. Taxes Due on April 18, 2022.

Closing out Women's History Month by celebrating Lucille Perkins Johnson, founder of EWI! Check out the Lucille Johnson Perkins Memorial Video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7aR38W1Fb8>.



Join VCU on April 28 for the inaugural VCU Giving Day. Your gift, no matter the amount, will help transform the lives of our students, patients, faculty members and the communities VCU serves. https://givingday.vcu.edu/o/virginia-commonwealth-university/i/giving-day?utm_source=fbig&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=givingday2022-vcualumni&fbclid=IwAR2E5yivHhxdzicM5zDDkJOlWB6iVaWDORqcCbdf23O6MmeVemZfFR1497E



With the release of his first studio album, country artist Zach Bryan Music will be coming to Virginia Credit Union LIVE on Thursday, June 16th. If you're a member, you can buy tickets now! <https://www.vaculive.com/>.



Norah Jones is coming to Virginia Credit Union LIVE on Friday, July 22nd! If you're a member, you can buy tickets at <https://www.vaculive.com/>. Not a member yet? What are you waiting for? Did you know as a member of EWI of Richmond, you qualify for accounts at Virginia Credit Union and can reap all of the member benefits. See all the benefits of membership [here](#).



Join Reynolds Community College In-person on the Parham Road Campus or Virtually on Zoom for their Open House on April 13, 2022 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Whether you are thinking about 2022 summer or fall classes or beyond, join them for their Spring Open House, where you have a chance to connect your passion with a career path and learn how to get started! Their knowledgeable faculty and staff will be available in-person and online to guide you and answer your questions. Visit <https://www.reynolds.edu/open-house> to register and learn more.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

In the temporary absence of our president, Debbie Clark, I am honored to share about our February meeting and exciting things to come for our Richmond Chapter. The February meeting was all about US, EWI Richmond! Susan Lawton – **Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond** graciously accepted the Sergeant-at-Arms Director position. She was installed by Past President, Tanya Johnson, representing **Community Foundation for a greater Richmond**, providing an overview of Susan's career and EWI contributions. Susan, thank you for your dedication to EWI Richmond!

Past President, Tanya Johnson, Advisor representing Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, installs Susan Lawton, representing Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as 2022 Sergeant-at-Arms.



PHOTO ABOVE: Left to right: Susan Lawton (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), Melanie Roupas (Joyner Fine Properties), Dr. Heather Williamson (Transformation Group LLC), Christine Slate (The Closet Factory), Whitney Worrell (Westminster Canterbury), Donna Thornburg (VCU) and Joan Dyer (Legal Resources) labeling the books for the literacy kickoff event.

Donna Thornburg - **VCU**, Michelle Mogel - **TowneBank** and Karen Huffman - **Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond** presented the EWI Richmond Literacy Project. The *Virginia Reads One Book*, organized by *Read to Them* that kicked-off on March 7 at Bellwood Elementary School in Chesterfield County. EWI of Richmond donated 600 copies of *Dog Days* by Karen English along with lots of other goodies to fill the bags donated by VCU. Our members used this meeting to label the books with stickers branded for Virginia Reads One Book, EWI and other partners in preparation for the kickoff event.

Many of our representatives volunteered to make the kickoff a success. Donna, Michelle, and Karen put forth tremendous effort to make this an event to remember touching more than 500 children's hearts and minds! We can't thank everyone enough for their partnership, dedication and enthusiasm.

We have a new member firm! Melanie Roupas – **Joyner Fine Properties** was installed at the February chapter meeting. We welcome Melanie and look forward to working with her in the days to come.

March is Women's History Month. The theme for 2022 is Providing Healing, Promoting Hope. This is "both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history." This is a great month to begin to learn about women of other cultures, ethnicities, and races. Read about the previous and on-going contributions that have been made to our world. To tie the theme together, Secretary Amanda Foos (**Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond**) delivered the evening's invocation, encouraging women to support and build up other women. Great job Amanda!

Remember, we are stronger together than we are apart.

Submitted by: Renee Gaines, 2022 VP and President-Elect
Venture Richmond (edited by Michele Rundstrom (**Altria Client Services LLC**)).



Amanda Foos (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) giving the February invocation – Galentine's Day!



R&R Director Sandy Naumann (Marsh & McLennan Agency) installs Melanie Roupas, representing Joyner Fine Properties.

Pictured left to right: Ashley Abplanalp (Transitional Member); guest Danielle Fitz-Hugh (Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce), Michelle Lovatt (Richmond Region Tourism) and Dee Dee VanBuren (T.A.C. Solutions).

Pictured left to right: Michelle Mogel (TowneBank), Tanya Johnson (Community Foundation for a greater Richmond), Donna Rominiecki (Cater Nation), and Joan Dyer (Legal Resources)

Photo credit: Michele Rundstrom, Communications Director (Altria Client Services LLC)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH MEETING



Debbie Clark, 2021-2022 Chapter President representing Universal Corporation calls the meeting to order.

President Debbie Clark (Universal Corporation) returned to the podium at our March meeting after having knee surgery. She thanked the Board and Vice President/President-Elect Renee Gaines for taking such good care of our Chapter in her absence during January and February. Debbie then called upon Susan Lawton (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond), Sergeant-at-Arms, who established a quorum.

Tanya Johnson, Advisor representing Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, gave an inspiring invocation wishing all a Happy Women's Month. A delicious spread of various wraps and sandwiches, desserts and homemade chips were enjoyed by all. Kudos to the caterers at New Market Pavilion Dining Room.

Christy McCurdy, Programs Director representing ChamberRVA, introduced and welcomed guest speaker Lauren Zaller-Moore, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation at VCU. Ms. Moore enlightened us with her presentation of the newest, state-of-the-art children's hospital being built in Richmond, VA, scheduled to open in 2023! Ms. Moore was so impressed with EWI and our Chapter, that she has asked their firm to be posted as a

potential new member, and we are hoping to have them as a member firm soon and have her host a grand tour of the new pediatric hospital in 2023. We also welcomed three other guests that evening as potential new member firms.



TOP: Fabulous spread of sandwiches, homemade chips and a variety of desserts was served for dinner.

BOTTOM: Lauren Zaller-Moore, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation at VCU presenting details on the Wonder Tower



Left to Right: Michelle Mogel (TowneBank), Donna Thornburg (VCU) and Karen Huffman (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond) provide details on the Literacy Event.

Donna Thornburg (Virginia Commonwealth University), EWISP and Literacy Director, together with her committee provided details of the successful Literacy Event at Bellwood Elementary School in Chesterfield County held on March 7th. The literacy program was a partnership for Virginia Reads One Book, and the chosen book was *Dog Days* by Karen English. Our Chapter representatives volunteered the whole morning and touched the lives of over 500 kids, as well as teachers, staff and parents. The EWI organization usually encourages reading rally programs for literacy in October each year; however, this project presented itself in March, and EWI of Richmond took charge and sponsored a stellar literacy event! Please check out our website for more featured articles and photos of this event. All of the students received an individual book, teachers and staff received resource materials, and our volunteers distributed food,

backpacks provided by VCU and door prizes, as well as a welcomed visit from the VCU Therapy Dogs (which were of course the favorites). It was an educational and great bonding day for our whole community!



Left to Right: Dr. Heather Williamson (Transformation Group LLC), Joan Dyer (Legal Resources), Dee Dee VanBuren (T.A.C. Solutions), Honorary Member Kit Hull and other representatives and guests enjoying the program.



A great turnout for our March meeting. Representatives and guests enjoying the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>April 14</p> <p>5:30-7:00 pm – Program</p> <p>7:00-7:30 pm Chapter Business</p> <p>Program sponsored by Venture Richmond</p>	<p>Unconscious Bias <i>Reception and Program (cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres during program)</i></p> <p><i>Presented by: Charm Bullard, Senior Advisor to the CEO Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities</i></p>  <p><i>Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219</i></p>	<p>May 12</p> <p>5:30-6:00 pm Networking</p> <p>6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting</p>	 <p>AWARDS DINNER</p> <p><i>Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219</i></p>
<p>June 9</p> <p>8:00 – 9:15 am</p>	<p><i>Executive Appreciation Breakfast</i></p> <p><i>Location: TBA</i></p>	<p>July 14</p> <p>5:30-6:00 pm Networking</p> <p>6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting</p>	<p><i>Speaker: Dr. Paul Pando, President</i></p> <p><i>Location: Reynolds Community College, Parham Road Campus</i></p>  <p>AWARDS DINNER</p>
<p>August 11</p> <p>5:30-6:00 pm Networking</p> <p>6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting</p>	<p><i>Firm Night with the Closet Factory</i></p> <p><i>Location: 10520 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland VA 23005</i></p>	<p>September 8</p> <p>5:30-6:00 pm Networking</p> <p>6:00-7:30 pm Chapter Meeting</p>	<p><i>LCAM Business Meeting</i></p> <p><i>Location: New Market Dining Pavilion, 330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, VA 23219</i></p> 

If you would like to host a “Firm Night,” or recommend a speaker,
please contact Christy McCurdy at christy.mccurdy@chamber RVA.com

OUR MISSION

Executive Women International (EWI) brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:
• promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

OUR VISION

To enhance professional growth and development within a diverse group of women while empowering them to make a difference as they inspire others.

OUR VALUES

Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Collaboration

EWI of Richmond Member Firms

**23 Member Firms
30 Representatives**

Altria Client Services LLC	Richmond Raceway
Cater Nation	Richmond Region Tourism
ChamberRVA	T.A.C.-Solutions
Closet Factory (Mueller & Mueller Inc.)	Topgolf
Community Foundation for a greater Richmond	Towne Bank
Dominion Energy, Inc.	Transformation Group, LLC
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond	Universal Corporation
Joyner Fine Properties	Venture Richmond, Inc.
Keiter Certified Public Accountants & Consultants	Virginia Commonwealth University
Legal Resources	Virginia Credit Union, Inc.
Marsh & McLennan Agency	Westminster Canterbury Richmond
Reynolds Community College	

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.	Chapter President, 1996
Brenda Long, Dominion Energy	Chapter President, 2012
Karen Kuhn, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond	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	Chapter President, 1987
Jo Anne Cole, Retail Merchants Assoc. of Greater Richmond	Chapter President, 1973
Kit Hull, Bill's Barbecue	Representative 1993-2012
Liz M. Perry, Trigon Healthcare, Inc.	Chapter President, 1995
Carolyn Raskind, Westminster Canterbury Richmond	Chapter President, 2000
Pat Sims, Robert L. Figg & Sons, Inc.	Chapter President, 1972
Lillie Stratton, Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc.	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](#).

