

# Executive Women International®

## Our History

### Corporate Organization

The year was 1938:

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President
- Hitler's troops marched into Austria
- H. G. Well's War of the Worlds was broadcast
- Benny Goodman introduced "Swing"
- 40-hour work week was established
- 40 cents an hour was the minimum hourly wage
- Xerography was introduced
- Nylon was introduced

A 25-year-old lady in San Francisco, California, by the name of Lucille Johnson Perkins, an executive secretary with National Lead Company had an idea for an organization. On April 29, 1938, Executive Secretaries, Inc. was formed as an association of key women who would work with their executives to further the interests of their businesses and for civic betterment. In 1964, ESI became international when it chartered its first Canadian chapter, Calgary, Alberta. In 1977, ESI changed its name to Executive Women International (EWI) to more accurately reflect its membership base.

### The Dallas Chapter

The year was 1951:

- Harry S. Truman was President
- The Korean War was being fought
- "Cry" by Johnnie Ray and the Four Lads spent 11 weeks as #1 on the Billboard's chart
- Super Glue was introduced
- 75 cents an hour was the minimum hourly wage

Lou Ballou, Executive Secretary, Louis Egan Co., learned about ESI and took the initiative to contact other Dallas firms to organize the Dallas Chapter. On December 14, 1951, Dallas was chartered with 22 firms becoming the second chapter outside the state of California; the ninth chapter to be chartered; and the first Texas city to be chartered. In our 58 years of membership, Dallas has remained one of the strongest chapters in the international organization. Many of our proud moments are listed below:

1951	Chartered with 22 firms
1956	First Corporate board member – Dorothy Vaughan
1957	First Corporate President – Dorothy Vaughan
1972	Hosted our first Annual Meeting
1974	Began participation in the EWI scholarship program
1975	Second Corporate President – Jeanne Eddy
1977	Established local Joan Jackson scholarship
1979	First Texas Retreat at Lakeway near Austin held
1982	Hosted our first Area Conference Awarded Chapter of the Year of 1981
1983	Dallas Chapter awarded Co-Chapter of the Year, Division IV, at Annual Meeting
1984	Dallas Chapter awarded First Place, Division IV, Chapter Recognition Program
1985	Third Corporate President – Alice Snavely

- 1990 **Fourth Corporate President – Betty Fendley**  
Established local Catherine Haizlip Ragsdale scholarship
- 1991 Established local John M. Stemmons, Jr. scholarship
- 1993 Hosted first South Central Regional Conference in Dallas  
First place winner in national EWI Scholarship Program, Logan Ellis (\$10,000)
- 1994 Sponsored first golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships and philanthropic projects  
EWISP national first alternate, Lindsey Leininger
- 1995 First place winner in national EWI Scholarship Program, Nghiem Nguyen (\$10,000)
- 1996 Hosted our second Annual Meeting
- 1997 Presented first Dallas Chapter ASIST awards  
First Corporate ASIST scholarship winner, Tammy Wilson (\$500)  
Established local Reece Overcash Jr. Scholarship (awarded annually through 2005)
- 1998 Third place EWISP winner, Steven Reinemund (\$4,000)  
Corporate ASIST winner, Patti Bradley-Tristan (\$500)
- 1999 Regional Director appointed – Debbie Taylor  
Corporate EWISP finalist, Amy Kumari Jain (\$2,000)
- 2000 Presented the first Executives Excellence Award honoring an Executive of a member firm to Ebby Halliday  
Corporate ASIST winner (\$500) Rayshunda Griffin
- 2001 Fourth place Corporate EWISP winner (\$2,000) Nkem Okafor  
Celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Executives' Night
- 2002 First Annual Trade Show highlighted member firms  
Corporate ASIST scholarship winner (\$1,000) Bridget Riden  
EWISP scholarship finalist (\$2,000) Austin Kilaru  
Renamed the golf tournament in memory of 2000 Dallas chapter president Gayle Rose
- 2003 Dallas Chapter boundaries extended to include Dallas, Collin, and Tarrant Counties.
- 2003-04 Hosted Spring Conference in Dallas
- 2004-05 **Fifth Corporate President – Debbie Taylor for 2005**  
Established 5-year Deborah A. Taylor Corporate Fellows Scholarship (total \$25,000)  
EWISP corporate finalist (\$2,000) Anna Zhang
- 2005-06 Corporate ASIST scholarship winner (\$2,500) Sara Shakeri  
Corporate EWISP finalist (\$2,000) Erin Dexter  
Local Bill Mays Scholarship (honoring Pat Standlee) awarded to Omolayo Orekoya (\$3,000)  
Established LCAM Professional Development Award for first-time LCAM attendee
- 2006-07 Corporate ASIST scholarship winner (\$2,500) Doris Assemien
- 2008-09 Corporate ASIST scholarship winner (\$2,500) Michelle Patterson  
Corporate EWISP finalist (\$2,000) Brennan Alford

Our accomplishments are many and our scholarship programs continue to grow. EWI is truly an organization that lives up to its mission statement of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement.

For more information on our recent accomplishments, visit our Website ([www.ewidallas.com](http://www.ewidallas.com)) and click on Newsletters.

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Contributions from January 2000 *Chapter Pulse* article by Dorothy Vaughan, Dee Gravley, Betty Fendley, and Debbie Taylor and updated by Janie Sandoval.

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