



My Fellow EWI Members,

We are into the wonderful season of change – the leaves are turning, the mornings and evenings are getting cooler, pumpkins and mums are everywhere and in EWI Chapter and Corporate Board leadership is changing – a very exciting time!

I am very pleased to share that you, the membership, have chosen Tulsa, Oklahoma for LCAM 2015. I am also thrilled that EWI of Spokane has offered to host the 2014 Spring Conference. No dates have yet been determined but once they are confirmed we will share that information.

I know many of you were unable to attend LCAM, you were missed, and so I would like to share my message with all of you.

“Where to begin, how about 75 years ago with one very remarkable woman, Lucille Johnson Perkins. Lucille had a passion and a dream - to create an organization that would build connections, develop future leaders and make a difference in our communities. She worked tirelessly to make that happen and today we can celebrate EWI. But she did not do this alone, she passed along her dream and she ignited a passion in others. Those others have passed along the dream and those passions. That is what makes EWI different, it’s also what makes us great.

Many things make us great; our generous spirit to not only give to others, but also to one another, to come alongside one another, reach out our hand and travel down the path together, to share willingly and openly with one another the successes and challenges, to be there to offer encouragement and support, to know that when we face adversity or even make mistakes - which we will as human beings - that we have forgiveness and understanding from one another to learn, grow and continue to move forward. And move forward we must, but before we do that I would like to ask all the Past Corporate Presidents and also any current and past Chapter Presidents to please stand. Please look around the room...we are surrounded by great leaders who have passed along the EWI dream.

We thank you for your commitment and dedication to EWI, but your work is not yet complete... WE NEED YOU! We need your passion, your wisdom and your spirit for the future of EWI. We are asking you once again to please come alongside us - reach out your hand and help us. Help us to keep Lucille’s dream alive, to grow this organization into a vibrant global organization that reaches beyond the boundaries of North America. I would invite all of you to watch the video “Half the Sky” – who we are, and what we can do, will be able to help so many in all parts of the world. This is my dream for EWI. But to do this we must restore our Chapters to their once thriving selves of the past.

I know you are thinking “I’m tired. I’ve done my part. How can I make a difference?”

- By being ambassadors who share and tell their EWI story with everyone.
- By being mentors who guide and encourage our future leaders.
- By trusting one another in that we are all here to do what is in the best interests of EWI.

Does the EWI that Lucille dreamed of look exactly like it did in 1938? No. Over the years it has changed, grown and developed. It has adapted and embraced change but the dream and the passion still burn in each of our hearts and the true spirit still lives on, of that I am certain. My Nashville chapter is a perfect example of this. When I joined they opened their hearts and their minds and totally embraced me, funny accent and all. No, they did not try to change me but instead accepted the diversity and the life experiences that make me who I am. They welcomed me into the family and for me, whose family lived many, many miles across the ocean, they became my family. From the bottom of my heart thank you for believing in me and for your unwavering support. I am truly fortunate to have each of you in my life.

And so, as we move forward we must not be afraid to change. Our rapidly changing world demands high levels of adaptability and new moves. To be effective in this new day and age – we have got to know when to surrender to change. Surrendering to change creates the opportunity for breakthrough rather than breakdown. Instead of

seeing change as adversity we should align with it, use it, rather than treat it as the enemy, we should make it our greatest ally.

Why are we changing? The organization is simply responding to stiffer competition, new technology, economic turns, shifts in the marketplace and changing customer expectations. We are not changing the mission, vision or values but only how we survive for the future.

The organization is going to change, it must if it is to survive and prosper. Instead of banging our heads against the wall and bruising our spirits, let's invest in making the adjustments. If the world is forcing our organization to do business differently, does it make sense to assume we can remain effective without changing ourselves? We must respect the fact that our rapidly changing world demands big changes in our behavior. Trying to play a new game by the old rules just won't work.

So now is not the time for fear but rather the time for serious commitment and dedication. Instead of worrying about the bad things that may happen, let's get busy building and creating the kind of future we want.

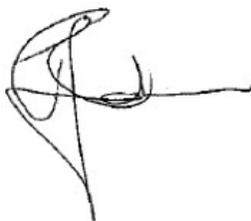
Stretch yourself today – reach for new assignments, broaden your experience base.

I had been searching for a book to share with the Corporate Board that would inspire the passion within them. A very dear friend suggested “How Stella Saved the Farm.” What an amazing story! Was Stella able to do this all alone? NO! And so we as the 2013-2014 Corporate Board and Corporate Office know we cannot do this all alone. We invite each of you to please come alongside us, as we reach out our hands to one another and embrace “One Future” for EWI together.

I would like to thank all of the Delegates for reaching out your hand to partner with the Corporate Board and Office by passing the proposed budget and the many bylaw amendments – we are well on our way to building “One Future” together.

Some new and exciting initiatives were announced during LCAM for the coming year and we will share more about those in upcoming *EWIConnects* – stay tuned!

Warmest regards,



Ronwyn Anderson
2013-2014 Corporate President
Soft-Lite Windows, LLC, EWI of Nashville