

# President's Corner

## EWTG Over the Years



I attended my first EWTG Annual Professional Development Conference in 2006. The theme was “Taking the Lead—Developing Leaders.” At that time, Health and Human Services had just gone through one of its initial reorganizations, leaving many employees uncertain about their future job positions. My supervisor could not attend and asked me to go in her place. As an administrative assistant, the agency did not fund my attendance at a leadership conference, so I felt very fortunate.

This was my first professional conference focused on leadership, and I was thrilled. I tried to attend as many workshops as possible because I knew it was a unique opportunity. There were so many women attending, and despite feeling terrified, I was eager to connect with others. I didn’t have business cards to hand out, and I lacked networking skills at that time.

That conference marked the beginning of my leadership journey. I committed to attending every subsequent conference, even if it meant paying out of my own pocket. I wanted to become actively involved, so I started volunteering on the registration committee for several years before eventually becoming chair. I also chaired the exhibits committee and served as a moderator for a few years.

EWTG has been instrumental in developing my leadership skills and enhancing my ability to communicate with others. I don’t know of any other forum where you can be yourself and learn so much.

Being chosen to serve as president of the wonderful organization has certainly taken my leadership skills to new heights. Being selected as Woman of the Year will forever warm my heart. The skills I have learned and the relationships that I have made will be with me always. I can now sit in rooms with people from all educational backgrounds and make hard decisions as I am now responsible for an entire city. Unleash your leadership potential by joining EWTG today.

**Submitted by Theresa McShan**  
EWTG President, 2023-2024