

President's Corner

Board Retreat Recap: Embrace the Power of the Pivot



On January 25, 2025, the EWTG Board and Committee Chairs met for an in-person “retreat” in Leander, Texas. The day began with breakfast, a call to order, introductions, a reminder of the 2025 theme (*Unite, Empower, Elevate!*), and a recap of my goals for the next two years. The Board/Chairs spent the morning getting to know each other and working in groups for transition time with outgoing and incoming Board/Chairs. After lunch, the Board/Committee Chairs spent the afternoon reviewing EWTG processes and procedures including a thorough overview of the budget. It was a day full of learning, bonding, and pivoting.

A valuable lesson I learned from this retreat is that sometimes the best-laid plans can go awry, but it’s important to reevaluate the situation and pivot if needed. On the morning of the retreat, the agenda was set, the team was prepared, the food was ordered, and the initial plans were set in motion. And then, something happened that tested our plan and changed our direction. There was an unexpected situation that required us to think fast, adapt, and make a new plan.

As a leader, how prepared are you to pivot when change occurs or something unexpected happens? Because change and unexpected events are inevitable. Leadership isn’t about rigid adherence to plans or sticking to an agenda. It’s about being agile, adjusting, and changing course when needed.

Leadership agility is the ability to adapt, recalibrate, and respond purposefully. Being agile ensures survival and growth. Pivoting is about recalibrating your strategies to stay aligned with your vision and values. So go forth and embrace the power of the pivot!

Attendees included President Coleen McCarthy, President Elect Terri Peirce, Finance Director Jennifer Moussa, Communications Director Colleen Couch, Membership Director Poornima Siddapur, Engagement Director Chan McDermott, Education Director Jessica Hyde, Professional Development Director Sarah Melecki, Conference Director Alida Bennett, Scholarship Committee Chair Retha Youell, former President Theresa McShan, former Financial Officer Shannon Creekmur, and former Membership Director Tamala Fletcher.

Submitted by Coleen McCarthy
EWTG President, 2025-2026