

## Minneapolis Chapter 2005-2006 Highlights

***Executive Women International brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of:***

### **PROMOTING MEMBER FIRMS**

**MDA Leadership Consulting Firm Night:** Sandra Davis, CEO, shared the history behind her firm and its success. Since 1981, MDA Leadership Consulting has helped organizations find the right people, diagnose problems and manage change. We heard from the ASIST (Adult Students in Scholastic Transition) scholarship recipients from The Jeremiah Program. Their mission is *Changing Women's Lives For Their Children's Future*.

**GE Commercial Finance Fleet Services and ING co-sponsored Minnesota Science Museum:** Members were given time to do self-guided tours of the new Science Museum. This was a joint event with the St. Paul Chapter. The speaker for the event was the award-winning Mary Lahammer, political reporter for Twin Cities Public Television. Lahammer gave insight into her time spent with Governor Ventura, reporting about him from Japan, Cuba and China.

### **ENHANCING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Women In Leadership:** Cyndi Leshner, President & CEO of NSP MN, ND, and SD an Xcel Energy Company, spoke of women in leadership positions today. She cited examples of how far we have come and what it was like to be one of the few women in leadership in the past, and the positive changes for today and the future.

**Building Your Competitive Edge:** We brought together all Minnesota Chapters for a seminar focused on Powerful Persuasion. Lori Giovannoni has been presenting for over 20 years, coaching leaders in business and government. We learned new ideas on how to communicate more effectively, lead with confidence and conviction, and create new opportunities personally and professionally.

**Living Your Passion:** Elizabeth Wall Strohfus served in the Army Air Corps during World War II as a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). Through it all, it was her passion for flying that drove her success. She flew a B17 at the age of 82. She inspired us to dare to stretch, refuse to be intimidated by difficult circumstances and always remain focused on our passion.

**Entrepreneurial Women:** M. Nazi Eftekhari, founder and CEO of The Araz Group/Health EZ, inspired us all with her remarkable story. Born and raised in Iran, she left to study health care in Minnesota before the overthrow of the Shah. She went on to found the first PPO in Minnesota. She reminded us of how great our country is and the many opportunities we have open to us every day.

**Business and committee Planning Meetings:** There are two business meetings held each year at which representatives of member firms conduct business and vote on matters affecting the membership. The Chapter holds committee planning meetings in the fall after the Installation of Officers.

**Leadership Training Opportunities:** EWI's Leadership Conference and annual Meeting (LCAM) and spring conferences are open to all representatives and they are encouraged to attend, either on their own or with the support of their firm. Trainers of the highest caliber present on topics current to business. Academy of Leadership workshops and teleconference seminars are also offered throughout the year to EWI representatives.

### **ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST) Scholarships:** Scholarships were presented to three women from The Jeremiah Program. The Minneapolis Chapter renewed a three-year commitment to support The Jeremiah Program as well as committing to provide support to St. Anne's Place and Sojourner Program for one year. We also sent \$1,000 to support the New Orleans Chapter as they recover from Hurricane Katrina.

**Ways and Means Events:** The Annual Silent Auction and a spring fashion show generated nearly \$10,000 to be used for philanthropy projects and LCAM awards. Members also volunteered at The Bash, The Jeremiah Program's annual fundraiser.