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## **OWIT History**

The Organization of Women in International Trade “OWIT” began in the mid-eighties as a few women in several locations across the U.S. formed local groups with similar goals to advance career and trade opportunities. International trade saw few women in upper management positions, presenting a growing need for women in trade to be able to connect to one another. Most of the organization’s founding chapters developed independently with minimal knowledge of each other. As awareness grew, a vision formed with the purpose of participating in international trade through an expanded network. OWIT was officially established in 1989 when the organization held what would become its inaugural board meeting in Los Angeles, CA. The following year, OWIT organized its first national conference in Washington, D.C. and published its first membership directory. The organization had 12 chapters at this time. Today, OWIT has 25 chapters and 3,000 members in over eight countries spanning the globe across the Americas, Western Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. It is recognized worldwide for building ongoing trade relationships within and between global communities. [www.owit.org](http://www.owit.org)

### **Current Chapters**

1. Alberta, Canada
2. Phoenix, Arizona, USA
3. Atlanta, Georgia, USA
4. Cairo, Egypt
5. Charleston, South Carolina, USA
6. Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, USA
7. Denmark
8. Detroit, Michigan, USA
9. Geneva, Switzerland
10. Hampton Roads, Virginia, USA
11. Houston, Texas, USA
12. Los Angeles, California, USA
13. Mexico City, Mexico
14. Monterrey, Mexico
15. Nairobi, Kenya
16. New York, New York, USA
17. Northeast Ohio, USA
18. Orange County (California) USA
19. Ottawa, Canada
20. Peru
21. South Florida, USA
22. Tampa, Florida, USA
23. Toronto, Canada
24. Washington, DC, USA
25. Virtual – membership/chapter

## **Founding Chapters**

Atlanta  
Boston  
Chicago  
Detroit  
Los Angeles  
New York  
Northern California  
Orange County  
San Diego  
Seattle  
Texas  
Washington, DC

## **Partnerships**

- TIAW—The International Alliance of Women
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Trade Facilitation Office of Canada (TFOC)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- FTA-Foreign Trade Association

## **Executive Board Officers**

### **2010**

*Advisory Chair* – Ania Jakubowski – Geneva

*President* – Angela Hofmann – Washington

*Executive Vice President* – Karen Bland – Hampton Roads

*Vice Presidents (Chapter Development)* - Gail Morris – Toronto & Mwikali Matu – Nairobi

*Vice President (Chapter Support)* – Andrea Ewart – Washington, D.C.

*Vice President (Marketing)* – Radhika Reddy – North East Ohio

*Vice President (Communications)* – Susan Baka – Toronto

*Vice President (Information Technology)* – Grace Montealegre, Charleston

*Vice President (Partnerships)* – Manda Shemirani, Hampton Roads

*Vice President (Strategy)* – Ana Guevera, Miami

*General Counsel/Secretary* – Margaret Heine, Orange County

*Treasurer* – Carolina Schneider, North East Ohio

*Assistant Treasurer* – Tamuna Gabilaia, Washington

### **2009**

*Advisory Chair* – Lilia Navarette – Los Angeles

*President* – Ania Jakubowski – Geneva

*Executive Vice President* – Vacant

*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Gail Morris – Toronto, Mwikali Matu – Nairobi

*Vice President (Chapter Support)* – Colleen Pound – Alberta, Andrea Ewart – Washington

*Vice President (Marketing)* – vacant

*Vice President (Communications)* – Susan Baka – Toronto

*Vice President (Information Technology)* – Pam Everitt, Charleston

*Vice President (Partnerships)* – Vacant

*Vice President (Strategy)* – Angela Hoffman, Washington

*Vice President (Conference)* – Monika Sandman – Northern California, Cami Mazard - Washington

*General Counsel/Secretary* – Margaret Heine, Orange County  
*Treasurer* – Lynn Selzer, North East Ohio  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Carolina Schneider, North East Ohio

## **2008**

*Advisory Chair* – Leann Hackman-Carty, Alberta  
*President* – Lilia Navarette, Los Angeles  
*Executive Vice President*- Ania Jakubowski, Geneva  
*Vice President* (Chapter Development) – Alma Farias & Gail Morris, Toronto  
*Vice President* (Chapter Support) – Carmen Romero, Peru  
*Vice President (Marketing)*- Helen Picard, Miami  
*Vice President (Communications)*- Susan Baka, Toronto  
*General Counsel/ Corporate Secretary* – Margaret Heine, Orange County  
*Treasurer* – Kollyn Kanz, LA  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Hana Hrabec-Snyder, LA  
*Webmaster* – Beth Peterson, NC

## **2007**

*Advisory Chair* – Leann Hackman-Carty, Alberta  
*President* – Lilia Navarette, Los Angeles  
*Executive Vice President*- Jennifer Wade, NC  
*Vice President* (Chapter Development) – Kim Holizna, NE Ohio  
*Vice President* (Chapter Support) – Eva Galfi, NC  
*Vice President (Marketing Communication)*- Grace Chiam-Hester, NE Ohio  
*General Counsel/ Corporate Secretary* – Marian Ladner, Houston  
*Treasurer* – Jennifer Bindhammer, Washington  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Hana Hrabec-Snyder, LA  
*Webmaster* – Beth Peterson, NC

## **2006**

*Advisory Chair* – Amy Johannesen, New York  
*President* – Leann Hackman-Carty, Calgary  
*Executive Vice President* – Lilia Navarette, Los Angeles  
*Vice President* (Chapter Development) – Kim Holizna, NE Ohio  
*Vice President* (Chapter Support) – Renie Bassin, Orange County  
*Vice President (Marketing Communication)* – Elizabeth Glynn, Los Angeles  
*General Counsel/ Corporate Secretary* – Marian Ladner, Houston  
*Treasurer* – Erin Crockett, Dallas  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Karin Simpson, Calgary  
*Webmaster* – Claudia Allen, San Diego

## **2005**

*Advisory Chair* – Amy Johannesen, New York  
*President* – Leann Hackman-Carty, Calgary  
*Executive Vice President* – Meg Jones, Geneva  
*Vice President* (Chapter Development) – Natalia Burianyk, Calgary  
*Vice President* (Chapter Support) – Cathline James, Geneva/ Renie Bassin, Orange County  
*Vice President (Marketing Communication)* – Gail Robinson, Calgary  
*General Counsel/ Corporate Secretary* – Marian Ladner, Houston  
*Treasurer* – Sharon Martin, New York

*Assistant Treasurer* – Erin Crockett, Dallas  
*Webmaster* – Claudia Allen, San Diego

#### **2004**

*Advisory Chair* – Monique Roske, Washington  
*President* – Amy Johannesen, New York  
*Executive Vice President* – Leann Hackman-Carty, Calgary  
*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Meg Jones, Geneva  
*Vice President (Chapter Support)* – Cathline James, Geneva  
*General Counsel/ Corporate Secretary* – Natalia Geren, Washington, D.C.  
*Treasury* – Jennifer Wade, Colorado  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Sharon Martin, New York  
*Webmaster* – Claudia Allen, San Diego

#### **2003**

*Advisory Chair* – Adrienne Braumiller, Dallas  
*President* – Monique Roske, Washington, D.C.  
*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Meg Jones, Geneva  
*Vice President (Chapter Support)* – Amy Johannessen, New York  
*Secretary* – Natalia Geren, Washington, D.C.  
*Treasury* – Jennifer Wade, Colorado  
*Assistant Treasurer* – Sharon Martin, New York  
*Webmaster* – Claudia Allen, San Diego

#### **2002**

*Advisory Chair* – Holly Vineyard, Washington DC  
*President* – Adrienne Braumiller, Dallas  
*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Esther Aristy, Dominican Republic  
*Vice President (Chapter Support)* – Marcia Brandstadt, Northeast Ohio  
*Vice President (Publications and Sponsorship)* – Mika Jennings, Atlanta  
*Secretary* – Sandra Anstey, Ontario, Canada  
*Treasury* – Amy Johannessen, New York City

#### **2001**

*Advisory Chair* – Lisa Landy, Miami  
*President* – Holly Vineyard, Washington DC  
*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Renie Bassin, Orange County  
*Vice President (Strategic Planning)* – Celia Matthews, New York  
*Vice President (Publications and Sponsorship)* – Mika Jennings, Atlanta  
*Secretary* – Victoria Stevens, Los Angeles  
*Treasury* – Maria Cameron, Washington DC

#### **2000**

*Advisory Chair* – Lisa Landy, Miami  
*President* – Holly Vineyard, Washington DC  
*Vice President (Chapter Development)* – Renie Bassin, Orange County  
*Vice President (Strategic Planning)* – Celia Matthews, New York  
*Vice President (Publications and Sponsorship)* – Mika Jennings, Atlanta  
*Secretary* – Fran Guyett, Orange County  
*Treasury* – Maria Cameron, Washington DC

**1999**

*Advisory Chair* – Donna Murray, Chicago

*President* – Lisa Landy, Miami

*Vice President (Strategic Planning)* – Celia Matthews, New York

*Vice President (International Development)* – Deborah Evans, NE Ohio

*Secretary* – Renie Bassin, Orange County

*Treasury* – Mika Jennings, Atlanta

**1998**

*Advisory Chair* – Laura Ipsen, Northern California

*President* – Donna Murray, Chicago

*Vice President (International Development)* – Lisa Landy, Atlanta

*Vice President* – Holly Vineyard, Washington DC

*Secretary* – Celia Matthews, Northern California

*Treasury* – Deb Evans, NE Ohio

**1997**

*Advisory Chair* – Cynthia Livingston, Boston

*President* – Laura Ipsen, Northern California

*Vice President (Administration)* – Donna Murray, Chicago

*Vice President (International)* – Lisa Landy, Miami

*Secretary* – Holly Vineyard, Washington DC

*Treasury* – Deborah Temples, Atlanta

**1996**

*Advisory Chair* – Ellen Federman, New York

*President* – Cynthia Livingston, Boston

*Vice President* – Laura Ipsen, Northern California

*Secretary* – Donna Murray, Chicago

*Treasury* – Deborah Temples, Atlanta

**1995**

*President* – Ellen Federman, New York

*Vice President* – Cynthia Livingston, Boston

*Secretary* – Karen Hennequin, San Diego

*Treasury* – Laura Ipsen, Northern California

**1994**

*President* – Ellen Federman, New York

*Vice President* – Cynthia Livingston, Boston

*Secretary* – Karen Hennequin, San Diego

*Treasury* – Harriet Adams, Orange County

**1992-3**

*Advisory Chair* – Lynne Wendt, Atlanta

*President* – Dorothy Schumacher, Chicago

*Vice President* – Ellen Federman, New York

*Secretary* – Vivian Liu, Los Angeles

*Treasury* – Lamont Peterson, Texas

**1991-2***President* – Lynne Wendt*Vice President* – Paula Polizzi, Orange County*Secretary* – Laura Jones, New York*Treasury* – Dorothy Schumacher, Chicago**1990-1***Advisory Chair* – Julia Hughes, Washington DC*President* – Michelle Rodenborn, Los Angeles*Vice President* – Lynne Sprugel, Texas*Secretary* – Laura Jones, New York*Treasury* – Dorothy Schumacher, Chicago**1989-90***President* – Julia Hughes, Washington DC*Vice President* – Michelle Rodenborn, Los Angeles*Secretary* – Laura Jones, New York*Treasury* – Dorothy Schumacher, Chicago**AWARDS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Woman of Year</b>	<b>Member of Year</b>	<b>Chapter of Year</b>
<b>2010</b>			
<b>2009</b>	Joanne Mwangi, Nairobi, Kenya	Kollyn Kanz – Los Angeles	Toronto
<b>2008</b>	Pam Heilman, New York, NY	Carmen Romero - Peru	Peru
<b>2007</b>	Linda Rottenberg, New York, NY	Leann Hackman-Carty, Alberta	Monterrey, Mexico
<b>2006</b>	Andrina Lever, Toronto, Canada	Beth Peterson, Northern Calif.	Washington, DC
<b>2005</b>	Futhi Mtoba, South Africa	Amy Johannesen, New York	Charleston, SC
<b>2004</b>	Adair Heuchan, Ottawa, Canada	Marian Ladner, Houston	Alberta
<b>2003</b>	Carole Brookins, Washington, DC	Meg Jones, Geneva	Dallas
<b>2002</b>	Astrid Pregel, Atlanta, GA		
<b>2001</b>	None this year		
<b>2000</b>	Marjory Searing, Washington, DC		
<b>1999</b>	Deborah Lamb, Washington, DC		
<b>1998</b>	Majarie Shostak, Los Angeles, CA		
<b>1997</b>	Hea-Kyung Joo, Seoul, Korea		
<b>1996</b>	Marian Duntley, Washington, DC		

1995	Laura Jones, New York, NY		
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### **Conference /Board Meeting Locations**

2010 Fall Board Meeting – Mexico City, Mexico  
 2010 Spring Board Meeting – Washington, Fall Board Meeting – Mexico City  
 2009 Fall Board Meeting – Cleveland  
 2009 Spring Board Meeting – Toronto  
 2008 Fall Conference - Monterrey, Mexico  
 2007 Fall Conference - Miami  
 2006 Fall Conference - Northern California (San Francisco)  
 2005 Fall Board Meeting - Washington, D.C.  
 2004 Tampa  
 2003 Alberta (Calgary)  
 2002 Dallas  
 2001 Cancelled  
 2000 San Diego  
 1999 Washington  
 1998 Los Angeles  
 1997 Boston  
 1996 Bermuda  
 1995 Miami  
 1994 Arizona  
 1993 Atlanta  
 1992 San Francisco  
 1991 Chicago  
 1990 Washington, D.C.

### **Newest Chapters:**

2010: Ottawa (Canada), Phoenix (USA)

Organization of Women in International Trade

[www.owit.org](http://www.owit.org)

United around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.  
 Unidos alrededor del mundo para fomentar el comercio exterior y el progreso de la mujer en los negocios.  
 Unies dans le monde entier au monde du commerce international et de l'avancement des femmes en affaires.