

The Tillie Award

Preparing for this year's milestone celebration, the EWI 70th Anniversary Committee stumbled upon several Chapter Notebooks which included detailed annual activity reports. Along with these records, a trophy inscribed with "Tillie Award" was also found. With a little more digging, the story behind the Chapter Notebooks and the award came to light.

According to Verona Weeks, 1955 INK (EWI's first magazine) editor, "The Tillie Award was the brainchild of Past National President, Ruby Sorber, of Payne Heating Company, Los Angeles Chapter [who served the organization during 1951-1952]. She recognized the need for an incentive to improve the general quality of the Chapter Notebooks, and to provide more avenues of contact and information between the Chapters and Corporate office."

Each year a national committee was appointed to judge the Chapter Notebooks. Verona stated the awarding of the Tillie was one of the most anticipated moments of the National Convention. In commemoration of EWI's 70th Anniversary, the Corporate Board felt it fitting to resurrect the Tillie Award at this important milestone in EWI history.

Tillie was first awarded in 1951 to EWI of Las Vegas and the final award was presented in 1971 to EWI of Wichita. Tillie was awarded for the finest Chapter reporting; Wendy Cowley, 2007-2008 Corporate President, modified the award to include recognition for best practices.

With approval and support of the Corporate Board, it was decided that Tillie would be awarded based upon review of Chapter PULSE newsletters, visits with Chapters, and conversations with the membership. The Corporate Board looked for a Chapter doing something big, exciting, and cutting-edge for the reinstatement of the Tillie. They found what they were looking for in the Reading Rally efforts put forth by EWI of Columbus.

2008 Tillie Award **Saluting EWI of Columbus**

By Wendy H. Cowley
EWI of Salt Lake City

EWI of Columbus was awarded the 2008 Tillie for its extraordinary Reading Rally project. This Chapter partnered with the Columbus Public Library system's "Summer Reading Club," and as a result of this powerful community alliance, the "Summer Reading Club" has emerged as one of the largest and most successful literacy programs in the country.

Since 2004, EWI of Columbus has donated one bicycle and helmet to each branch of the library system as an incentive for children to finish the program. The program has grown and so has EWI's commitment; this year, EWI of Columbus doubled its donations to each branch. Libraries hold drawings to select winners from among groups of children who successfully complete the "Summer Reading Club's" program. This year, 54 ecstatic children received new bikes and helmets.

By instilling a passion for reading, members of EWI of Columbus

are touching the lives of young people in their community. Each year, more and more children join the "Summer Reading Club." Last year, over 80,000 children participated.

EWI of Columbus has embraced the philanthropic spirit of EWI with innovative thinking and dedication. Their Reading Rally accomplishments made this Chapter the perfect candidate to receive this prestigious award. **ewi**

Dear Ladies of Executive
Women International,

Thank you for my bike I won in the Summer Reading Club. I really like my bike. It's pretty and thank you for my kickstand. I always wanted a kickstand. I'm learning to ride with my Daddy's help. Thank you for my helmet.

Thank you,
Joy Grimes, Age 4

P.S. My mother wrote this for me.