



Hello WilcoHR Members and Friends,

Reflecting on last month's, Black History Month and celebrations, the month gave us the opportunity to recognize the contributions of Blacks worldwide. It's a great reminder that we all need to start somewhere and think about what we can do for the black community.

But I'm going to challenge that concept. We should not only take the month to celebrate the accomplishments in the black community but take time throughout the year to learn more and celebrate the accomplishments of black history, present accomplishments, and help lay the foundation for success in the years to come. I believe this about every ethnicity and women, and we need additional attention on what diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging means in our present environment.

Which leads to me our current month of March, which is Women's History Month. This month we celebrate the many accomplishments of women in history. So here are some ways to help celebrate Women's History Month:

- Explore the history of women's rights. ...
- Be aware of issues women still face today. ...
- Post on social media to spread awareness of Women's History Month. ...
- Support a women's nonprofit. ...
- Host an event to celebrate women. ...
- Support women-owned businesses. ...
- Write a thank you note to a woman that inspires you.

I attended an International Women's Day event, along with several other Board Members, put on by the Leander Chamber of Commerce. I met so many fabulous women, made a lot of new connections, and hope to partner with them all in the very new future.

WilcoHR had a phenomenal 2022! 2023 appears to be following suit. The Chapter is moving forward. The SHRM Q4 Membership and Certification Reports say our member numbers have not grown; my data says something different. Yes, we lost some members since the pandemic but in 2022 we gained 23 members (new or rejoined). The report also told me WilcoHR members are 82% SHRM certified. This says a lot about our WilcoHR members and how special you are and you are the best at your profession.

I also need to recognize from February to date, we have 17 new members. We are excited to have you all part of WilcoHR and hope to see you virtually or in-person at one of our upcoming meetings.

We have returned to bi-monthly in-person meetings and trying to have a central location that will benefit attendance from all of our members who work and live in Williamson County. Our geographical area is very large and not concentrated in one specific city. So, for those who are unable to attend in-person, we are still holding virtual meetings.

If you are rejoining WilcoHR or new to HR you will want to check out our website which displays our redesign of the WilcoHR logo and slogan--***People Focused, Purpose Driven***. Please check out our updated site and keep a lookout for new changes as this will be an on-going process. Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors, Evins Personnel and Benefits 360. Also, thank you to our Gold Sponsors Premier HR Solutions, Lynch Law Firm and Jennipher Judge with Coldwell Banker.

Finally, we have some exciting upcoming community events that our members will be able to partner with our Board Members in giving back to our Wilco community. As those events approach, communication will be made available to all of you. We hope you will join us! Don't forget to follow us on social media, FB, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to email me at President@wilcohr.org. See you all soon!

Carla Dykstra, SHRM-SCP
WilcoHR President