

Subject: RE: Dear Ladies of WIN

From: Valerie Beck <ladiesofwin@gmail.com>

Date: March 12, 2013 1:11:43 PM CDT

To: Valerie Beck <ladiesofwin@gmail.com>

Subject: Dear Ladies of WIN

Dear Ladies of WIN,

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none." William Shakespeare wrote these wise words, and I write now to convey my shock at the wrong that Erica Thomas has done in concocting and posting disgusting lies about me to our WIN website and to some of our Members in an email. And, I apologize to you that I placed my trust in someone who betrayed us all.

Erica hijacked our WIN website, our domains, and our WIN email accounts, none of which I currently have access to and all of which are owned by the organization. She didn't stop at WIN, but also attacked my businesses nationwide, by destroying and deleting the entirety of my team members' and my business email accounts, belonging to my companies Chicago Chocolate Tours, Philadelphia Chocolate Tours, and Boston Chocolate Walking Tours, in the middle of the night over the weekend. I can hardly express my astonishment at this level of maliciousness.

I'd like to share three notes with you as a response to this behavior:

1. On a WIN note, I am indignant that Erica would accuse me of stealing money from the organization I conceived and continue to cradle. There is not a reasonable soul in the universe who would believe that after I envisioned and brought WIN into existence, funded the startup fees with my own cash, and recruited my own beloved friends and contacts, that I would turn around and steal \$30 a month from you. Shame on any unreasonable soul who would fabricate or be duped by such a story. Apparently Erica put together some shreds of raw data to try to paint a negative picture of me. I will bring the full and complete financial statements to an upcoming event so you can see them for yourselves. I absolutely reject this monstrous and ludicrous insult to my integrity.
2. On a personal note, Erica's actions made me feel deeply hurt, angry, and betrayed. She was a friend of almost 10 years, or at least I thought so. I hosted her wedding shower. My wedding gift to her was a honeymoon to the Herrington Inn in Geneva, Illinois, which she and her husband had loved so much during our WIN Summer Retreat in 2011 that I was delighted to treat them to a stay there for their honeymoon after that. The Inn lavished them with extra goodies, and they came back raving about how wonderful the Inn and everyone who worked there was. They called it their "happy place." Her claim that I am somehow racist because we are holding our annual WIN Summer Retreat there again this year is astounding and nonsensical.
3. And, on a business note, Erica emailed me late at night to tell me she was going to destroy and delete the multiple email accounts belonging to my businesses in 3 cities; she and her husband operate a technology business as you may know, and I had trustingly paid her to host my business email accounts on the servers she uses. In the middle of the night, she did indeed destroy and delete the accounts, so that my team and I could not access our email accounts, and customers and others could not reach us. My wonderful team and tech experts and I have been working together, and we will soon have sparkling new chocolate tours email accounts on secure new servers. Indeed, you can be sure that I have learned a lesson here about security and properly placed

trust. Meanwhile, the customer information, templates, and other emails we had saved in our email accounts are gone forever.

The fact that Erica attacked my businesses makes me think that all of her attacks against me are actually personal in nature, and ultimately have nothing to do with WIN or anything else but with challenges that she may be facing in her own life or heart. Some have told me they believe that all of this outrageousness stems from jealousy on Erica's part. Whatever the motivation, I am appalled by Erica's behavior. At the same time, I feel pity. When I see hate, I pray that the hater remembers the love in her heart.

Moving forward, I remain as committed to WIN as ever. I set up a temporary WIN webpage for us at www.chicagochocolatetours.com/ladiesofwin, which lists our events, and a temporary WIN email address where you can reach me: ladiesofwin@gmail.com. You can also call or text me anytime at 312-925-5377. I welcome your thoughts or questions, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events such as our WIN Innovation Circle this Friday 3/15, from 8 to 10 am, at Anne Fontaine boutique at 909 N. Michigan Avenue.

I heard a wonderful statement recently: "Every minus is half a plus, waiting for a stroke of awareness." My awareness of the positive arising from the negative is that I am immensely grateful to you for your positivity, professionalism, and warmth. We are continuing onward and upward together.

Thank you,

Best,
Valerie

Valerie Beck
President, Women's Innovation Network - WIN

[Click for WIN events](#)

www.facebook.com/womensinnovationnetwork
www.twitter.com/ladiesofwin

ladiesofwin@gmail.com

The mission of WIN is to foster massive business growth for women entrepreneurs through innovation, inclusion, and inspiration, in a positive and ethical environment.

CEO/Founder

www.chicagochocolatetours.com
www.philadelphiachocolatetours.com
www.bostonchocolatewalkingtours.com

Uplift Through Chocolate on the sweetest tours in town!