AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

ONE MEMBERSHIP,
A LIFETIME OF VALUE

LEVERAGE YOUR ABWA EXPERIENCE
to advance your career
THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION
is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations, and to provide opportunities
for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through
leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.

Set of Core Values for the
American Business Women’s Association

1. Lifelong Learning
2. Achievement
3. Giving Members a Voice
4. Treat People With Dignity
5. Focus on Creating Value for Members
6. Visionary Leadership
7. Focus on the Future
8. Focus on Results
9. Manage by Fact
10. Manage for Innovation

ABWA’s Proud Code of Conduct

The Association’s Proud Code of Conduct was developed as a means of guiding all members in
making ethical decisions. The broad statements of the code of conduct listed here are not expected
to cover all conduct for ALL situations. This is why
the Proud Code of Conduct was created as a living
and fluid code.

• All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for ABWA.
• Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the
  representation of ABWA’s mission.
• Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors, and sponsors
  with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
• Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter, Express Network and
  Council Bylaws.
• Members will not use their personal power to advance their personal interests.
• Members will strive for excellence in their professions by maintaining and enhancing
  their own business knowledge and skills, and by encouraging the professional development
  of other members.
Whether you are working full-time, part-time, or just entering the workforce, the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) has the resources, services and opportunities to shorten your learning curve and accelerate your career.

A description of ABWA’s exclusive membership benefits are included in this guide along with a template you can use for developing your professional development plan.

Did you know?
ABWA is the only professional women’s organization offering a powerful storehouse of online courses in its exclusive Apex Campus.

Did you know?
ABWA’s conference curriculum includes compelling keynotes, workshops and break-out sessions presented by business experts and leaders in training and development including:

- FranklinCovey
- SkillPath Seminars
- Gemba Academy
- University of Kansas (KU) School of Business
- Park University Graduate Studies

Did you know?
There are a wide-range of possibilities for peer mentoring and support available at every level of the organization, local, regional and national.

We want you to leverage your ABWA membership by taking the time to invest in developing your individual professional development plan (PDP).

A PDP will help you to:

- Keep your career aspirations in focus and on target.
- Assess where you are today.
- Define strategies for bridging gaps in your knowledge, skill sets, and experience.
- Choose the best resources and opportunities you will need to achieve your one main goal (OMG!).

If you need assistance, contact the ABWA National Team at 1-800-228-0007.

It’s your time to unleash your brilliance!

RENÉ STREET
Executive Director

FELICIA JOHNSON
2018-2019 National President
OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Don’t have a lot of time to research the latest business trends? We’ve got you covered! As an ABWA member, you will receive two complimentary subscriptions to the Association’s official publications: Women in Business® magazine and Achieve Newsletter. Each publication includes knowledge “bytes” on topics ranging from leadership to personal branding that are sure to add to your cache of business knowledge and expertise.

leadership
operations management
technology
marketing
personal brand
career advice
life style

2019 American Business Woman of ABWA
Latorie Walker

As the owner and founder of Aspire Preschool, Walker is a shining example of how ABWA’s resources and programming can help women in business. She joined the organization following the tragic death of her husband and found herself turning to ABWA to help rebuild her business and her life.

Upon completing her Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Walker searched for an organization that could help her and found ABWA, whose mission is to help women in business. She joined the organization and found that ABWA provided her with the tools she needed to build upon her ideas, including a master’s degree in business administration.

Walker’s time with ABWA has been transformative, and she has been able to grow her business and her life. She has been able to help other women open their businesses, providing them with the tools and support they need to succeed.

Today, Walker is owner and chief executive officer of Aspire Preschool, which operates three preschool/daycare centers in the Columbia, S.C. area. She is also a firm believer in sisterhood, and she volunteers her time for the Transitions Homeless Center and the Sister’s House Domestic Violence Shelter.

Walker has served as an officer for the Midlands Chapter from her earliest days as an ABWA member, including as Chapter President. She is active in her community as a PTA officer in the earliest days as an ABWA member, including as Chapter President. She is active in her community as a PTA officer in the...
Leverage your ABWA experience by considering the wide-range of career development resources, services and opportunities your membership in ABWA affords you.

• An ABWA Benefit for Members Only

THE BUSINESS SOURCE

Research shows that people who read books make more money. Part of their success is having a constant flow of new ideas and strategies they can use to help advance their careers, their teams and their companies.

The problem is . . . who has time for all that reading? ABWA is proud to offer The Business Source at a 70% discount (a $91 dollar savings) to members of the American Business Women’s Association.

The Business Sources provides concise summaries of the latest business books. With an annual subscription, you will receive an email each month with two book summaries on best practices and powerful insights from leading-edge thinkers, industry experts and world-renowned business gurus. Most summaries take just 15 minutes to read!

The Business Source has three enrollment periods; late spring, early fall, and winter. Look for enrollment information in your email inbox.
E-learning is an excellent way to deliver targeted, objective, learning “bytes” so you can access knowledge you need, when you need it. Specific benefits to using ABWA’s Apex Campus include: thousands of dollars in savings, quick deployment (login and launch a course at any time), learning through refreshers (go back and view again and again), hundreds of short videos that are right-sized (chunk out a course in small “bytes” or complete a course in one setting), and downloadable templates for you to use in your work environment.

You will find a huge caché of job specific knowledge bundled into four different modules:

- How to Be Heard
- Job Suite
- School of Lean
- School of Six Sigma

When you’ve completed a course, show and share your commitment to advancing your business acumen by printing your certificate of completion and sharing with your employer, client or business partner.

Download the Apex Campus Flyer pdf for a complete listing of modules/courses from the National Resources in Community Connections, or from the ABWA website.
Milestone years give us a chance to look back at our achievements, with an eye on the future and what lies ahead. 2019 will mark the 70th anniversary of ABWA. We will be recognizing milestones throughout the year at our Regional and National Conferences, and we hope you join us as we celebrate ABWA’s 70 years of Changing Women’s Lives... One Woman at a Time®.
INSPIRATIONAL RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

• An ABWA Benefit for Members Only

JOIN A CHAPTER OR EXPRESS NETWORK

As a National Member of ABWA, you are eligible to join a local ABWA community we refer to as Chapters and Express Networks. Meetings are scheduled monthly and local annual dues are modestly priced. You will find a listing of some (not all) of the Chapters and Express Networks on the ABWA website at https://www.abwa.org/abwa-chapter-express-networks/

For more information, contact the national office at 913-732-5100.

Some of the most valued benefits of belonging to an ABWA Chapter or Express Network are:

1. Connecting with and growing your personal and professional network with a diverse group of members from different industries.
2. Learning from guest speakers and business experts at each monthly meeting event.
3. Peer mentoring and support from your ABWA colleagues.
4. Learning and mastering skills that will accelerate your career.
5. Being celebrated for making a difference in your community!
6. Having access to Community Connections, an online portal where you can connect with the members affiliated with your Chapter and/or Express Network.

JOIN A CHAPTER OR EXPRESS NETWORK

Being part of ABWA changed my life in ways I had not expected. At work I had always received difficult projects and could be counted on to give 110%. Yet, I felt that I was not seen as a leader... in fact I often was asked to train new employees that left me behind as they climbed the corporate ladder. My goal when joining was to take advantage of the amazing online training and listen to accomplished speakers in order to build my resume. ABWA is great place to be exposed to new ideas, take risks and build lifelong relationships with a diverse group of women across the nation.

VANESSA WILLIS
Past National President
Bay Area Business Express Network
Fremont, California

Don’t believe us? Here are testimonials from some of ABWA’s biggest fans!

Being part of ABWA membership and awards have elevated me as a job candidate in every opportunity I have sought, resulting in successively expanding roles. The skills and confidence that I’ve gained through Chapter involvement empowered me to welcome and successfully navigate new professional challenges.

HOLLY HENGSTEBECK
Novi Oaks Charter Chapter
Novi, Michigan

My ABWA membership and awards have elevated me as a job candidate in every opportunity I have sought, resulting in successively expanding roles. The skills and confidence that I’ve gained through Chapter involvement empowered me to welcome and successfully navigate new professional challenges.

HOLLY HENGSTEBECK
Novi Oaks Charter Chapter
Novi, Michigan

VANESSA WILLIS
Past National President
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Fremont, California
• An ABWA Benefit for Members Only

START A NEW CHAPTER

Do you want to be promoted but lack the knowledge, skill sets and experiences in planning, budgeting, leading teams, project management, marketing, etc.?

Are you interested in growing your professional network by at least thirty new contacts?

Do you want to receive national recognition for Changing women’s lives . . . one woman at a time®?

If this is you, consider forming a new ABWA Chapter in your community. During the six-month formation period, you’ll learn and rehearse a wide-range of business disciplines that will close the gaps in your resume, grow your professional network, and give you the national recognition you deserve by being featured in one of ABWA’s official publications.

In addition, your formation coach, Angela Zuba will guide you every step of the way.

For more information contact Angela Zuba at azuba@abwa.org

“Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience”

—DAVID A. KOLB, PhD
Experiential Learning Expert
If you are looking for a new job, ABWA’s Career Connections provides women with a centralized resource for job placement and career enhancement.

In Career Connections…

• All resume posting and job searches are free and confidential.
• You can save job postings and apply to positions when you’re ready!
• The Job Agent and RSS Capability notifies you when posted jobs match your criteria.
• You can post up to five professional documents such as published articles, resume, references, certificates, etc. to demonstrate you are the most qualified applicant for the position!

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Your Career Connections provides a location for job postings from national companies.
• ABWA members can post resumes for viewing by companies looking for qualified professionals to fill positions nationwide.
• Career Connections offers premier advertising space for employers and other companies to reach a new audience of female professionals nationwide.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN CAREER CONNECTIONS www.abwa.org

INSPIRATIONAL RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

• An ABWA Benefit for All Women
The Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF) has been assisting women to succeed in higher education ever since its inception in 1953. Today it is considered one of the country’s most highly respected grant and scholarship programs for women.

SBMEF assists women who are pursuing advanced educational goals to achieve both business and professional success to become role models, mentors, and leaders for the future. Since it was established in 1953, the fund’s Board of Trustees has awarded more than $17 million in scholarships to more than 17,000 women thanks to the generous contributions of ABWA members.

To learn more about each scholarship opportunity, visit the SBMEF website at https://sbmef.org/ or by emailing Jill Miller at jmiller@abwa.org

Like SBMEF on Facebook! www.facebook.com/ABWASBMEF
MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PDP)

Use the worksheet in the following pages to document your plan, and chart your progress and achievements.
STEP 1
Where Am I Now?
Describe your current position, the skills you’ve mastered in order to perform your current job, and any professional development, certifications, or degrees you’ve received in the past twelve months.

STEP 2
My One Main Goal (OMG!)
12 Months from now is . . .
What are your aspirational goals in your job and in your career?
Do YOU want to search for a new job in a new industry?
Do YOU want to get promoted?
Do YOU want to earn more money?
Do YOU need a specific certification to expand your client base?
Do YOU want to graduate from college?

My OMG! in the next year is to...
STEP 3
The KNOWLEDGE, SKILL SETS and EXPERIENCES I Will Need to Achieve My OMG!

What is holding you back from achieving your OMG?
This section of your PDP will help you to identify and prioritize the areas of professional development that are most critical in achieving your OMG!

What are the areas of professional development that you will need to focus on in order to bridge gaps in your knowledge, skill sets, and experiences?

List the areas of professional development using the chart on the next page, categorize and rank each item from highest to lowest impact!

begin statements for knowledge development with:
To learn more about…
To acquire knowledge about…

Begin statements for Skill Sets gaps with:
To be more proficient at…
To become more effective in…

Begin statements for experience gaps with:
To get more experience in…

Example:
1. I want to be promoted as a director of operations
   - Knowledge:
     - I want to acquire knowledge about…
   - Skill Sets:
     - I want to be more proficient at…
   - Experience:
     - To get more experience in…

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### The “Area” that I am committed to focusing on in order to achieve my OMG!

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**STEP 4**

From the list on the previous page, complete the chart below.

An inspirational list of opportunities, resources and services at the national and local level are referenced in this document. For more information, call ABWA National at 1-800-228-0007.

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<th>TARGET AREA</th>
<th>ACTIONS I WILL FOCUS ON TO IMPROVE</th>
<th>RESOURCES I WILL NEED</th>
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### Step 5
**Develop Your Professional Portfolio**

- Keep a record that demonstrates what you achieved in the last twelve months including certificates, testimonials, transcripts, emails from clients, employer or co-workers.
- Add professional development and work accomplishment statements to your resume.

<table>
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<th>My achievements in the past twelve months</th>
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AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

THE ABWA MISSION is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations, and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.

Connect with ABWA Online. 

Anytime! Anywhere!

• Login: There’s something new to explore in Community Connections—visit your team board or stop by for an online chat!

• Request to Join the ABWA Members Group

• Become a friend of Executive Director René Street on Facebook: www.facebook.com/rene.street

9820 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 110 · Overland Park, KS 66212-6188 · 1-800-228-0007 · 1-913-732-5100
If I were going to update my resume, I would have to include some headings that are not normally included in order to share a true picture of my passion for the American Business Women’s Association—Educational Skills, Lifelong Friendships, Networking with the best, and of course Recognition!

The education that I’ve received in ABWA is invaluable! By serving in local leadership roles, you learn new skill sets that are unequal to any academic institution.

ROBIN NECCI
Past National President
Heart of the Piedmont Chapter
Greensboro, NC

How has ABWA benefited me, in less than 300 characters? Almost an impossible task, but here goes. Since joining ABWA, I am NOW confident, an effective leader, have friends nationwide, a visionary, an event planner, a speaker, a woman to be counted on. ABWA has changed my life and the way I look at the world. Thank you ABWA!

LOIS MARGOLIN
Past District I Vice President
Coral Springs Charter Chapter
Coral Springs, Florida

I went into my 1st ABWA meeting nervous, having already talked myself out of it several times. Being an introvert, I knew that if I wanted to make my company a success, I had to learn to talk to people. ABWA helps me with that. Every month I open up a little bit more, I talk a little bit more and I grow a little bit more. ABWA is there to help me at my speed.

LAURA HATT
EmpowerHer Chapter
Orangeburg, South Carolina