

January 2024 Vol. 16 Issue 1

COUNCIL NEWS



An Area Council of the American Business Women's Association



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Your story
IN ABWA

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Woman of the Year Celebration

Quarterly AAC Meeting
Saturday, January 27, 2024
11:00 am—1 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Videssa Woods
2023 WOY

Hilton Atlanta Airport
1031 Virginia Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30354





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Members of the ABWA Atlanta Area Council,

Happy New Year!

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we begin an exciting new year! I am deeply humbled and profoundly honored to serve as your 2024 Chair for the Atlanta Area Council. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to lead our council into what promises to be a fantastic year together. Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

As we stand on the threshold of this promising year, let us take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked upon together. Our Atlanta Area Council is a close-knit community of remarkable women who have demonstrated unparalleled resilience, determination, and a shared commitment to growth and empowerment.

2023 was a year of significant achievements for us, but I firmly believe that our best days are yet to come. The path ahead may be challenging, but it is also laden with opportunities that are uniquely ours to seize. Our strength lies in our unity, our diversity, and our unwavering dedication to each other and to the mission of the American Business Women's Association.

In 2024, let us resolve to continue the journey we started—a journey of personal and professional growth, of breaking barriers, and of making a positive impact on our leagues and in our communities. Let us push the boundaries of what we can achieve, both individually and collectively, because we are women of substance, determination, and vision.

Let's always keep in mind that each one of us brings a distinct and valuable story, talent, and contribution to our council. Getting involved on our committees not only allows you to share your exceptional talents but also plays a pivotal role in propelling our council towards even greater heights. Your active participation is not just encouraged; it's vital to our shared success. Join us and let's make remarkable strides together!

As we embrace 2024, let us do so with open hearts and open minds, ready to learn, grow, and adapt. Let us encourage one another, lift each other up, and celebrate each other's successes.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our Atlanta Area Council. Together, we will scale new heights, break new ground, inspire one another to achieve greatness, and celebrate our successes. Your AAC Executive Board are here to support you and your leagues, to listen to your ideas, and to lead by example. Together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey with me. Your dedication and commitment to ABWA Atlanta Area Council inspires me every day, and I am eager to see what we will accomplish together in 2024.

Wishing you a year filled with boundless opportunities, personal growth, and shared success.

Best in ABWA,

Anne O'Neill
2024 Chair, ABWA Atlanta Area Council



**ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

2024 Executive Board

Chairman: Anne O’Neill

Harris County Charter Chapter
Email: abwaanoneill@gmail.com
Cell: 770-883-6427

Vice Chairman: Irene Hudgins

Airport Charter Chapter
Email: ihudgins@bellsouth.net
Cell: 404-202-0923

Communications Officer: Retoin George

Golden Dome Charter Chapter
Email: rgeorge_us@yahoo.com
Cell: 404-488-7248

Financial Officer: Denise Turner

Pyramid Chapter
Email: deniseturner52@gmail.com
Cell: 678-925-9153

Ex- Officio: Delsonia Chappell

Pyramid Chapter
Email: deechappell@hotmail.com

ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIRMAN



ANNE O'NEILL
Harris County

VICE-CHAIRMAN



IRENE HUDGINS
Airport Chapter

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



RETOIN GEORGE
Golden Dome Chapter

FINANCIAL OFFICER



DENISE TURNER
Pyramid Chapter

CHAPTERS of the MONTH

January Meeting

- Airport Charter Chapter*
- Atlanta Peach Chapter*
- Buckhead Charter Chapter*
- Douglas County Charter Chapter*

April Meeting

- ELEN*
- Golden Dome Charter Chapter*
- Harris County Charter Chapter*
- Hidden Hills Chapter*

July District I DVP Celebration

- All Atlanta Area Council Leagues*

October Meeting

- McIntosh Chapter*
- Pyramid Chapter*
- Solidarity Chapter*

ABWA Mission Statement

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.

Council Vision Statement

The vision of the Atlanta Area Council is to promote communication between chapters, to disseminate information, to exchange ideas, to participate in workshops, seminars and other joint activities, and to provide opportunity for members to grow personally and professionally through education, networking support and community recognition.

INVOCATION

Lord in the quiet of this hour, we come to thee for wisdom and for power, to view Thy world through only loved-filled eyes; to grow in understanding; to be wise and sure to see Thy guiding light; and thus, to know each other as Thou knowest us.

Amen

BENEDICTION

O, guiding spirit, guardian of our days, be with us as we go our separate ways. Help us to feel those thoughts that lift and bless, to know a closer bond of friendliness, to see Thy beauty, always, every day, translated into living, this we pray.

Amen.





Congratulations!!!

Videssa Woods, a member of the Golden Dome Chapter and our 2023 Atlanta Area Council Woman of the Year!

Dior Davis, member of Airport Charter Chapter and our 2024 Business Woman of the Year!

Deborah Johnson-Blake "Dr. DJ," who was recognized as the first ever recipient of the Ambassador Steering Committee Vision Award!



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

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





Minutes for October 23, 2023

Atlanta Area Council (AAC) Q4 Business & Election Meeting

Date: October 21, 2023, **Time:** 10:30 AM – 12:56 PM
Location: Holiday Inn & Suites

10:30 am: Networking session held.

Chairman Delsonia Chappell called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Pledge and Invocation were led by Vera Whatley.

Anne O'Neill provided a welcome and acknowledged attendees.

Introduction of Executive Officers and ABWA Recognition:

Chairman Chappell introduced the head table including the AAC executive board and program participants.

ABWA Dignitaries were recognized by Ex-Officio Virginia Long. In attendance were Past National officers, Top Ten Business Women and American Business Women.

Introduction of PAACC in attendance was done by Evelene Key, including Virginia Long, Carolyn Parks, Trina Nkhazi, and Anne O'Neill. League Presidents were also acknowledged: Dior Davis (Airport Charter Chapter), Gwendolyn Bridges (Atlanta Peach Charter Chapter), Tamiko Leverette (Buckhead Professional Women's Chapter), Vonda Thorpe (Douglas County Charter Chapter), Nichelle Mather (ELEN), Precious Mapp (Hidden Hills), Denise Turner (Pyramid Charter Chapter).

National Conference Achievements and Awards: Carolyn Parks announced that there were 80 first-time attendees at the National Women's Leadership Conference. The AAC chapters were well represented with major achievements:

- Yvonne Young: Recognized for successfully completing KSU MBA Essentials program.
- Dr. Deborah Johnson Blake: Honored with the inaugural Ambassador Steering Committee Vision Award for her dynamic leadership in representing District I and positively impacting all districts.
- Ms. Anne O'Neill: Elected as the new National Vice President and SBMEF Trustee.
- Ms. Sonya Lowe: Introduced as the newly elected District I Vice President.
- Dior Davis: Applauded for achieving the prestigious 2024 American Business Woman Award.

Dior Davis, the 2024 American Business Woman of the Year, provided her Top Ten speech. Carolyn Parks presented Dior with flowers.

Lunch Served 11:20 AM

Chairman Chappell called the business meeting to order.

- Announced the inclusion of last meeting's minutes in the newsletter.
- No corrections to the minutes; the Q3 Meeting Minutes will be filed as recorded.
- The 3rd quarter financial report will be emailed to all league presidents and delegates by November 1st.
- The 4th quarter financial report will be available in the January 2024 meeting.
- Two volunteers are needed to audit financial records in January 2024.

In her closing statement, Chairman Chappell shared a personal journey of crafting and discarding her speech, emphasizing the importance of speaking from the heart. Using a metaphorical image of a tree with branches, trunks, and roots, she imparted valuable lessons from her tenure.

Chairman Chappell presented special gifts and recognized 2023 executive board and committee leads for their outstanding service to the Council.

Anne O'Neill presented Chairman Delsonia Chappell with a gift and flowers for her leadership.

Carolyn Parks, Chairman of the Nominating committee, introduced the 2024 AAC Executive Board nominating committee members - Valjean Williams and Beyunker Gilbert. The 2024 Executive Board slate was presented:

- Council Chairman: Anne O'Neill
- Council Vice Chairman: Irene Hudgins & Videssa Woods
- Communications Officer: Retoin George
- Financial Officer: Denise Turner

Each candidate presented a two-minute speech.

Terrill McFarland called the roll call and the following delegates and asked that all delegates record their presence representing the quorum needed.

Airport:	Dior Davis
Atlanta Peach:	Ethelyn Barksdale
Buckhead:	Tamiko Leverette
Douglasville:	Cheryl Tibbs
ELEN:	Nichelle Mathur
Golden Dome:	Linda Boswell
Harris County:	Amber Clark
Hidden Hills:	Precious Mapp
Pyramid:	Margaret Tarver

Motion to proceed with the slate made by **Cheryl Tibbs** and seconded by **Yvonne Young**. **Motion carried.** Sonya Lowe, head teller, collected and counted the ballots.



Minutes for October 23, 2023

Atlanta Area Council (AAC) Q4 Business & Election Meeting cont'd

The New Executive Board elected were:

- Anne O'Neill, Chairman
- Irene Hudgins, Vice - Chair
- Retain George, Communications Officer
- Denise Turner, Financial Officer

Officers were installed by Trina Nkhazi (Past National President) in accordance with the AAC election installation bylaws.

Announcements and Correspondence:

- Evelene Key announced that nominations were open for the 2024 Council Women of the Year. The deadline for submissions is November 30, 2023.
- Latonya Owens announced that the silent auction was open and recognized the vendors.
- Terrill McFarland read a thank you card from Carolyn Parks.
- Carolyn Parks made the following announcements:
 - * Transition Meeting for the New Executive Board is scheduled for November 11th (9- 1 pm).
 - * All members present were asked to sign up for a committee.
 - * AAC annual dues are due.
 - * Silent Auction Winners were announced.

Chairman Chappell delivered acknowledgment and closing remarks.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:56 PM.





2023-2024 Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Committee	Chair	Co-Chair
Hospitality	Valjean Williams	
Fundraising	Peg Taylor	Gwendolyn Bridges
DVP Celebration Co-Chairs	PAACC	
Newsletter	Gloria Hayes	
Decorations	Nikki Sumlin	
Programs	Nichelle Mathur	
Membership	Karen Taylor Moody	
Education (June Leadership Workshop)	Roshon Thomas	
Publicity	Delsonia Chappell	Dr. Deborah Johnson Blake
Woman of the Year (2025)	Delsonia Chappell	
Sponsorship	<i>Open</i>	
Website/Technology	Carolyn Parks	



2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Jan 27, 2024	Quarterly Council Meeting/ WOY Luncheon	11 AM—1 PM	Hilton 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA
March 29, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	10:00 AM- 12PM	ZOOM
April 26, 2024	Quarterly Council Meeting Top Ten/WOY Recognition	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Hilton 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA
June 7, 2024	Leadership Workshop	9 AM—1 PM	Date and Location: TBD
July 26, 2024	DVP Celebration - Friday Night Reception	6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Hilton 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA
July 27, 2024	Educational Forum & Lunch- eon Honoring District I VP Sonya Lowe	9 AM—3 PM	Hilton 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA
September 21, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	ZOOM
September 25 – 28, 2024	National Women’s Leader- ship Conference		Kansas City, MO
October 26, 2024	Quarterly Council Meeting— Inner Circle Awards & Elec- tions	11AM – 2 PM	Hilton 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta, GA
November 9, 2024	Transition Meeting	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	TBD/LIVE



SAVE
The
DATE

ABWA's Virtual Regional Conference
MARCH 22-23, 2024 - FOR ALL DISTRICTS!



REGISTER TODAY!

Complete the registration form and mail (or fax 913-660-0101)
with your credit card payment to ABWA National.

Learn great tips and strategies to help you become the leader
you've always aspired to be. Join us for ABWA's Regional Conference
and connect, learn and grow virtually!

• S A V E T H E D A T E •

COME HOME TO ABWA!

NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER
25th-28th
• 2024 •
Overland Park
KANSAS

AMERICAN
BUSINESS
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION





Anne O'Neill
Chairperson

Vacant
Newsletter Editor

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