



**Atlanta Area Council**  
Atlanta, Georgia

*An Area Council of the American Business Women's Association*



**BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.**

American Business Women's Association

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## Quarterly Meeting

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**11:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.**

**Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel**  
1031 Virginia Avenue Hapeville, GA 30354

*Honoring ABWA Inner Circle Members*

*Featuring a Financial Fitness Panel*



Noni Carter, PhD  
Edward Jones  
Financial Coach



Larisa Humphrey  
IRS Enrolled Agent



Annice Fisher  
ValuTeachers  
Investments



## Atlanta Area 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 opportunities for members to grow personally and professionally through education, networking support and community recognition.

## Chairman's Message



Greetings ABWA Atlanta Area Council,

Spring is in the air. April showers, warmer temperatures, plants in full bloom with flowers in brilliant colors and pollen are all evidence that spring is here. It is during this time of renewal and transformation, to clean out the clutter, plant new seeds and celebrate. Spring is considered the most beautiful of all the seasons. Spring is, also, called the queen of seasons because of its beauty, growth and blossoming. When I think of spring as the queen of seasons, I realize there are comparisons to us, the queens of ABWA. The comparative characteristics are beauty radiance, energetic, personal growth, adaptability, inspirational and graceful. As we move forward into this new season, let the beauty of nature be reflected in us.



As we close the chapter on the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of our council year, let us reflect on our many outstanding achievements:

- o 1st Quarterly meeting and WOY Celebration. What a thrill to see the great attendance at the meeting.
- o Transition of website to a new platform and webmaster
- o Collaboration team to develop new and efficient Membership Directory form
- o Addition of new chapter to council, InspireHer Chapter

Thanks to the everyone who contributed to the success of these programs and efforts.

We are eagerly looking forward to the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and all the opportunities and achievements to come. Many exciting ideas that will improve operations and efficiencies have been presented by committees and are currently in the development phase.

Please register to attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Program and Inner Circle Recognition on April 26, 2025, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel.

Please mark your calendars to Save the Dates for our upcoming events:

Leadership Workshop, June 14, 2025

Educational Forum and Luncheon honoring District 1 VP, July 25 & July 26, 2025

My sincere gratitude to the entire council for your dedication. With your continued support, commitment and enthusiasm, I am confident we will achieve great things together this council year.

Sincerely,

Irene Hudgins, 2025 Chairman

ABWA Atlanta Area Council



## Atlanta Area Council Q1 Meeting and WOY Celebration Minutes

**Date:** January 25, 2025 **Time:** 11:00 am **Location:** Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel  
**10:30 am:** Networking and vendor shopping

**Attendees:** Irene Hudgins, Denise Turner, Retoin George, Denise Fareed, Trina Nkhazi, Anne O'Neill, Delsonia Chappell, Peg Taylor, Deborah Johnson-Blake, Peg Taylor, Beyunker Gilbert, Rebekah Reynolds, Barbara Campbell, Sarah Mobley, Michelle English, Roshon Thomas, Ethelyn Barksdale, Stephanie Johnson, Videssa Woods, Sonya Lowe, Dior Davis

### GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Irene Hudgins at 11:05 am. The invocation was led by Chairman Hudgins. The pledge was led by Denise Fareed, treasurer. The welcome and introduction of our 2025 AAC Chairman was given by Vice-Chair Denise Turner. Opening remarks were given by our Chairman, Irene Hudgins.

Chairman Hudgins introduced the 2025 Executive Board, PAAC Advisor, 2024 Woman of the Year, Ex-Officio and National President.

Committee chairs and special guests were introduced by Chairman Hudgins:

- Decorations – Donna Love
- Fundraising – Peg Taylor
- Hospitality – Videssa Woods
- DVP Celebration – PAACC
- Membership – Karen Taylor Moody
- Newsletter – Brenda Wyatt (interim)
- Leadership workshop – Glenda Shivers, Delcenia Mitchell
- Program – Sonya Lowe
- Public Relations – Roshon Thomas
- Shower of Cards – Ethelyn Barksdale
- Website – Deborah Johnson-Blake
- WOY 2025 – Delsonia Chappell

### Special Guests

- Anne O'Neill, 2024-2025 National President
- Dior Davis, 2024-2025 District I Vice President
- Trina Nkhazi, 2021-2022 Past National President, Forever Ten
- Sonya Lowe, 2023-2024 District I Vice President
- Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake, 2021 American Business Woman, Forever Ten
- Videssa Woods, Past D1 Ambassador Steering Committee Representative, 2023 AAC WOY
- Marlena Coggins – Past District I Vice President, Forever Ten
- Barbara Campbell, Forever Ten
- Tamiko Leverette, Forever Ten

Trina Nkhazi, our 2024 PAACC advisor, introduced the PAACC members and league presidents

### Past Council Chairs

- Marlena Coggins – legacy builder
- Anne O'Neill – National President
- Trina Nkhazi
- Reva Johnson
- Delsonia Chappell

### League Presidents

- Airport Charter Chapter – Terrill McFarland (Level I)
- Atlanta Peach – Gwendolyn Bridges
- Douglasville Charter – Vonda Thorpe (absent – please say blessing for her quick recovery)
- Pyramid Chapter – Denise Turner

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## Atlanta Area Council Q1 Meeting and WOY Celebration Minutes

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### Special Presentation of Chapter Award

The 2024 year was closed out with an appeal to all chapters to encourage early payment of their annual dues. Those chapters who paid prior to November 30, 2024, were entered into a drawing for \$50 to go toward chapter operations. The check was presented to Golden Dome.

### Announcements

There will be a District I meeting on Monday, January 27, 2025.

### LUNCH and VENDOR Shopping

#### Vendors and Silent Auction

Vendors were introduced and they shared their wares:

- Sandy Kroese-Simply Tasteful
- Rita Wilson – J Bloom Jewelry
- Denise Fareed – Unique Things

Information on silent auction items was shared.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the October 2024 meeting

The minutes were printed in the newsletter. There was one minor administrative correction. The minutes will be filed as recorded.

### Treasurer's Report

The financial report will be emailed to all presidents and delegates in February. The budget was also sent to chapter presidents and delegates.

The roll call of delegates was given by Retoin George, Communications Officer. Delegates were asked to stand where they were.

- Airport – Stephanie Johnson
- Atlanta Peach – Ethelyn Barksdale
- Buckhead – Roshon Thomas
- Douglas County - Michelle English
- Golden Dome – Sarah Mobley
- Harris County – Anne O'Neill
- Hidden Hills – Barbara Campbell
- Pyramid – Delsonia Chappell
- Roll call was completed and there was a quorum.

A motion was made Anne O'Neill and second by Stephanie Johnson to accept the 2025 budget as presented. The motion carried.

### National Update

The update was given by National President, Anne O'Neill. The new theme is: Believe, Belong, Become. The new platform has been launched. President O'Neill challenged everyone to log into the new platform and add a picture before Spring Conference which is March 21-22, 2025. There will be a District I Zoom call on January 27, 2025, at 8pm. Persons are being sought to run for National offices. The deadline is April 1, 2025.

### Speaker

The keynote speaker, Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake, 2024 Woman of the Year, was introduced by Delsonia Chappell. Dr. "DJ" is the CEO of the Writing Pad, a time management coach, and a member of Douglas County Charter chapter. Dr. "DJ" is affectionately known as the "The Time Management Diva."

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## Atlanta Area Council Q1 Meeting and WOY Celebration Minutes

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The topic was “Finding Unity in the Community.” Unity – embrace diversity and create a safe space where everyone can thrive.

L – lead with vision and awareness

E – establish foundational priorities

A – allocate resources and time, build in a time for self-care

D – delegate to elevate

E – eliminate non-essentials, recognize activities that are of low value

R – rejuvenate with regular breaks, avoid burnout, work 25 minutes, then take a 5 minute break

S – set ambitious but realistic goals

H – harness technology for collaboration, share resources

I – introspect to inspire growth

P – project forward for purposeful impact

Stay open-minded. Embrace each step to elevate, inspire and empower.

Call to action: carry forward a spirit of unity. Unity is strength.

The speaker was presented with a small token of our appreciation.

### Woman of the Year Recognition – Delsonia Chappell

We had three outstanding candidates for Woman of the Year: Beyunker Gilbert – Pyramid Chapter, Rebekah Reynolds – Douglas County, and Peg Taylor – Douglas County. The judges were non-ABWA members who were given numbered (no names) applications. The judges were Teresa Hicks and Beverly Heidelberg met and selected Peg Taylor as our 2025 Council Woman of the Year.

**Fundraising/Chapter of the Quarter (COQ)/Silent auction** information was given by Herdy Menina, fundraising co-chair. The COQ was Atlanta Peach. The chapter received a check for \$50.00 to be used for chapter operating funds.

Silent Auction winners:

- \$25.00 Amazon gift card – Delsonia Chappell
- \$50.00 Longhorn gift card, champagne, and chocolate – Beyunker Gilbert
- Pure Haven Body oil – Beyunker Gilbert
- Wine in a basket – Terrill McFarland
- Zebra Shawl and matching jewelry – Dr Lori James

The silent auction raised \$256.00.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

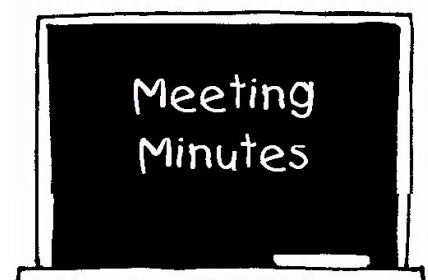
Acknowledgements were made by Chairman Irene Hudgins to the staff of the Hilton Hotel, WOY Committee, Hospitality Committee, and Delsonia Chappell.

Chairman Hudgins recognized first time attendees Stephanie Johnson-Airport, Dr Zanthia Reddish – Douglas County, and Consuelo Hopkins – Airport.

### BENEDICTION

The benediction was given by Chairman Irene Hudgins.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.



## 2025 Calendar of Meetings & Events

The Atlanta Area Council holds 2-4 general membership meetings during the year. The meeting schedule also includes Special Events.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
January 11, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	ZOOM
January 25, 2025	Quarterly Council Meeting/WOY Luncheon	11 AM—1 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
February 18, 2025	2025 AAC Planning Meeting	8:00 AM (Breakfast) 9:00 AM -11:00 AM (Planning)	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
March 21-22, 2025	ABWA Virtual Regional Conference		ZOOM
March 29, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	ZOOM
April 26, 2025	Quarterly Council Meeting Top Ten/Inner Circle Recognition	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
June 14, 2025	Leadership Workshop	9:30 AM— 2:00 PAM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
July 25, 2025	DVP Celebration - Friday Night Reception	6:30 PM — 8:30 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
July 26, 2025	Educational Forum & Luncheon Honoring District I VP Dior Davis	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
September 20, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
October 25, 2025	Quarterly Council Meeting— Inner Circle Awards & Elections	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta
November 12-15, 2025	National Women’s Leadership Conference	8:00 AM— 5:00 PM	The Westin Portland Harborview Portland, Main
December 6, 2025 <small>Date changed due to NWLC schedule</small>	Transition Meeting	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Hilton Atlanta Airport 1031 Virginia Ave, Atlanta

## 2025 Council Goals

The goals of the Council are to enhance and support the mission of the Association and its Chapters and Express Networks; to support and improve the earning power of all members; advance working women by providing them with opportunities for professional development and facilitating the exchange of ideas and information among the Chapters and Express Networks in their areas and provide enrichment opportunities for area members. Councils serve as a conduit for information between local Chapters and Express Networks and venues for face-to-face connections between members of those Chapters and Express Networks.

## Chapters' Announcement

AIRPORT CHARTER CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOM-  
EN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

-----  
***CHAPTER WOMAN OF THE  
YEAR  
AND  
47<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION***  
-----

MAY 17, 2025

9AM – 1PM

Holiday Inn & Suites Atlanta Airport North

1380 Virginia Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30344

Inspiring women to:  
**Believe. Belong. Become**



Early Bird tickets \$65 until April  
29<sup>th</sup>, after \$70

For more additional information  
please contact Karen Taylor Moody  
[lady5\\_luck5@yahoo.com](mailto:lady5_luck5@yahoo.com)  
Irene Hudgins,  
[ihudgins@bellsouth.net](mailto:ihudgins@bellsouth.net)  
or  
Consuelo Hopkins  
[snikpoh129@gmail.com](mailto:snikpoh129@gmail.com)

Entertainment by the  
Phenomenal Jazz Keyboardist  
"Robert Carr"

Vendors  
Silent Auction  
Door Prizes



## Chapters' Announcement



Atlanta Area Council  
American Red Cross

2025

Peg Taylor  
AAC Woman of the Year





## Chapters' Announcement

2025 - 2026
○ APPROVED CANDIDATE

*Dr. Deborah*  
**JOHNSON-BLAKE**

**TIME TO VOTE**



# ABWA DISTRICT 1

## VICE PRESIDENT



“

**Clock in for Change:**  
**Elevating Leadership, Maximizing Time**

”




**770-648-3895**

**drdj.abwa@gmail.com**

Sponsored by the Douglas County Charter Chapter



# Achieve

ISSUE 2 • AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION • 2025

Celebrating ABWA's Women in Business®



### INSIDE

- 3 Dates to Remember
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The Visionary's Map  
Unlock Creativity and Drive Innovation
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Why Innovation Should Be More Like Easter Eggs  
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Congratulate ABWA Members!
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March-June 30 - Share the ABWA Love  
and Recruit New Members!
- 16 2025 National Women's Leadership Conference,  
Portland, Maine - November 12-15, 2025  
Save the Date!



The mission of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) 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.

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2ND ISSUE 2025 1



## One Membership, A Lifetime of Possibilities

LEVERAGE YOUR ABWA MEMBERSHIP TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER



AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION • CHANGING WOMEN'S LIVES... ONE WOMAN AT A TIME.®



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*"What gets measured, gets improved."*

Take advantage of more courses from our ABWA Apex Campus! **As long as you register by the deadline at 5pm CT, you will have 50 days to complete the courses complimentary (a \$60 value).**

**Change Management - April 1st - April 30th, 2025** - (School of Leadership) When we follow a good strategy, complete an important project, or install a new technology, we expect to realize its benefits. However, many organizations find that people are slow to adopt the improvements, or don't adopt them at all. Change Management offers a structured process for planning, preparing, implementing and monitoring successful change in an organization. Learn the seven reasons that change efforts fail and how change management practices address these courses.

**Process Confirmation - April 1st - 30th, 2025** - (School of Lean) - Process Confirmation is a systematic way to check that critical processes are being followed through a simple, visual, time-based activity, which involves going to where the work is actually done. Through the 7 modules, learn how this brief, informal audit can lead to productive discussions about keeping and making further improvements.

Login at [www.myapexcampus.org](http://www.myapexcampus.org) under the **The School of Leadership and School of Lean** and register today! (Process Confirmation is the 26th course listed and Change Management is the 1st course listed, or use the Course Search feature.) Please call the ABWA National team at 913-732-5100 or email us at [webmail@abwa.org](mailto:webmail@abwa.org), if you have questions.



## 2025 Chapters of the Month

*Each chapter is requested to bring a Silent Auction item valued at \$50 to the council meetings.*

### **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*

*InspireHer Chapter*



**BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.**  
American Business Women's Association

**Register now!**

## **Join us for the April *Just in Time Webinar* (2 of 4) for 2025**

***An Informative Webinar  
For All ABWA Members***

**Thursday, April 24th, 2025  
6:00 PM - 7:15 PM CDT**

**Dear ABWA Members,**

Here is the agenda for the upcoming *Just in Time webinar*!

### **WHAT'S NEW AT ABWA: ENHANCING YOUR EXPERIENCE**

- Explore the latest resources and tools on ABWA's Apex Campus
- Get a sneak peek into newly launched courses and how they support professional growth

### **KEY LEAGUE LEADERSHIP DEADLINES YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Stay on track with critical dates and responsibilities for League Leaders
- Helpful reminders and support tools

### **SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ABWA NATIONAL PRESIDENT, ANNE O'NEILL**

- Update on the Board of Directors' progress on 2025 Key Result Areas (KRAs)
- Insights on ABWA's strategic direction

### **SPOTLIGHT ON THE AMBASSADOR STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Discover how the Ambassador Steering Committee is advancing ABWA's mission

### **PREVIEW: NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025**

- What to expect in Portland, Maine
- Highlights, keynote speakers, and how to register

And so much more!

**THE PASSWORD FOR THIS EVENT IS: 2025**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



## Members Corner

**Janelle Hudgins**, a well talented and driven 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Banneker High School, had the exciting opportunity to attend Clemson University's C-CATS program (Clemson's Challenge for Academically Talented Students) from April 3-5, 2025. The program was held at the scenic Hanson Camp in South Carolina, where high schoolers stayed for the weekend while diving into a range of academic and leadership experiences.

C-CATS is a selective weekend program designed for high-achieving high school freshmen and sophomores. Its purpose is to introduce students to college life, leadership development, and goal setting through immersive workshops and activities.

For Janelle, the experience was inspiring and motivating. Janelle thought Clemson's campus was cool and amazing. Throughout the weekend, Janelle participated in leadership stimulations, group challenges and personal development sessions. She took a tour of the campus and heard from current Clemson students, gaining insights into college life, career paths, and what it truly means to be a part of the Clemson community. Janelle left the C-CATS program with a renewed sense of purpose. This experience made Janelle think more seriously about what she wants to do after high school, and she is excited for what's ahead. Janelle enjoyed the outdoor adventures at Hanson Camp, such as hikes, rope courses, ax throwing and other outdoor activities.

As Janelle continues her high school journey, her experience at Clemson's C-CATS program will serve as a remainder of what's possible through hard work, dedication, and a passion for learning.

**Janelle is the granddaughter of Irene Hudgins, current Vice President of Airport Charter Chapter and Chairman of Atlanta Area Council.**



**Remember the past, plan for  
the future, but live for today,  
because yesterday is gone and  
tomorrow may never come.**

Luke the Evangelist

## Members Corner

# DR. DJ'S FAMOUS CHEESE DIP

A crowd-pleasing recipe

## Ingredients

- 1 lb ground meat (beef or chicken)
- 1/2 lb Italian sausage (optional)
- 1 large block of Velveeta cheese, diced
- 1 can RoTel tomatoes
- 1 packet of taco seasoning
- 1 large Vidalia or sweet onion, diced
- 1-2 fresh jalapenos, finely diced
- 1 can condensed mushroom soup
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder, red pepper to taste

## Instructions

1. Brown ground meat with diced onions and jalapenos and taco seasoning. Drain.
2. Add ground meat and veggies, diced Velveeta cheese, Rotel tomatoes to crock pot (crock pot on high).
3. Mix all ingredients and allow the cheese to melt thoroughly in crock pot.
4. Please note that the cheese tends to burn quicker once melted and you may have to put the crock pot on low.

## Tips & Notes

Serve with tortilla chips, vegetables, or pretzels. For a spicier dip, leave the seeds in the jalapenos. You can also add a can of diced green chilies for extra flavor. Enjoy!



## June Leadership Workshop



# JUNE LEADERSHIP *Workshop*

**LEADING WITH PURPOSE:**

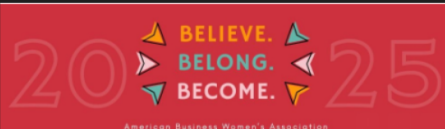
**BACK TO BASICS TO  
BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME**



**06/14/2025**



**9:30 – 2:00**



**Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel**

**1031 Virginia Avenue**

**Hapeville, GA 30354**

**\$75**

**(Includes Lunch & Parking)**



## July Luncheon Celebration

**Atlanta Area Council**  
American Business Women's Association

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE  
**Our District 1  
Vice President  
Dior Davis**

*July Luncheon  
Celebration*  
**JULY | 25-26 | 2025**

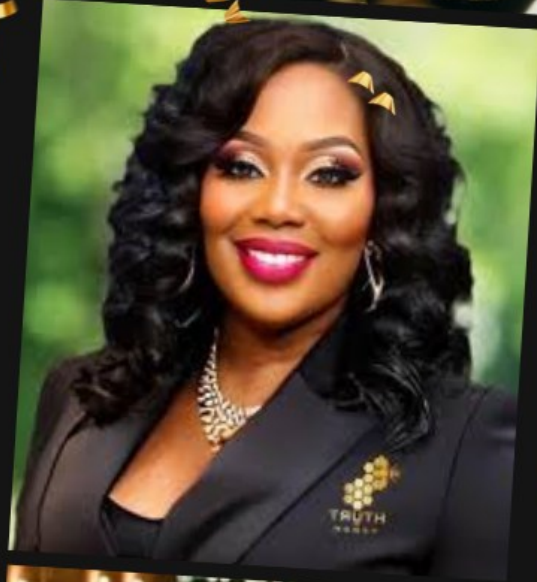
**HILTON ATLANTA AIRPORT HOTEL**  
1031 VIRGINIA AVENUE HAPEVILLE, GA

**REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 15TH**  
[HTTPS://AACABWA.ORG/](https://aacabwa.org/)

**6:30 pm Friday Reception**  
"All White" Reception & Dinner

**9:00 am Saturday Morning**  
Professional Development Forum

**11:00 am Saturday Luncheon**  
*Breakfast @Tiffany's Themed  
Black, White & Gold*



## Membership



### AAC Membership Incentive Initiative

The purpose of the membership incentive program is to encourage the attendance of members from each chapter/express networks. This will be done by giving the chapter/express networks with the most members at the meeting a gift. As a result, the membership committee is implementing the below steps immediately.

### Incentives for Chapters/Express Networks

- Quarterly incentives for the Chapter Leagues and Express Networks (January, April, July, October). June workshop bonus.
- Incentive is based on the number of members in attendance from the various Chapter Leagues/Express Network.
- A gift will be given each quarter to the Chapter League/Express Network at the meeting.
- A gift will be given out at the meeting to each first-time member at the meeting.
- One grand gift will be given at the end of the year for the Chapter League/Express Network for total attendance for the AAC year.





## Membership



# BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

## ABWA's Spring Membership Campaign

### MARCH 1 – JUNE 30

### Spring Into Action with ABWA!

As spring brings new growth and fresh opportunities, now is the perfect time to take action and invite others to join the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). Share your success stories and encourage friends, neighbors, and business colleagues to discover the opportunities for professional and personal growth as a member of the American Business Women's Association.

Invite a prospective member to your next ABWA meeting or event and help them explore how ABWA can help them grow professionally and personally.

As a thank you for sponsoring new members during our Spring Membership Recruitment Campaign, we're offering these lovely gifts (while supplies last).

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your network and help others bloom just like the season of spring!

### LEVEL ONE

#### RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER

Receive a dazzling 1-1/4" round ABWA Pin enhanced with diamond rhinestones celebrating ABWA's commitment to working women and women business owners. Wear this exclusive pin as a symbol of your contribution to our legacy of *Changing Women's Lives... One Woman at a Time.*™



pin shown larger than actual size



### LEVEL TWO

#### RECRUIT THREE OR MORE NEW MEMBERS

Elevate your organization game when you receive this beautiful red Round Zip Pouch, the ideal solution for keeping your essentials organized and easily accessible wherever you go. Perfect for stashing tech accessories, coins or any other small items, the pouch fits effortlessly into your purse, backpack, or luggage.

Dimensions:  
4" w x 3.75" h x .75" d





## Nationals' Announcement

### THE TOP TEN BUSINESS WOMEN OF ABWA AWARD CRITERIA



### 2026 Top Ten Business Women of ABWA Recognition

The Top Ten Business Women of the American Business Women's Association was created in 1953 to underscore women's professional accomplishments, contributions to their community, and engagement in ABWA.

The nominee's application must be submitted by mail to ABWA National no later than May 15, 2025. A panel of independent judges (non-ABWA members) will review and rank the nominee applications on a score from 1-10 (ten being the highest level or the "best" score). An additional 5 points may be added to any nominee's cumulative score provided she meets/exceeds the Optional Criteria (listed below).

#### Eligibility Requirements for Members

To be considered for this prestigious award, the nominee must:

- Be a National Member (with or without a League affiliation) in good standing for at least two consecutive years as of May 15, 2025.
- Be employed full-time.
- Be able to demonstrate career advancement (increase in job scope) in the past five years.
- Have served as a volunteer in a community organization that is non-sectarian/non-partisan since May 15, 2022.
- Have successfully completed four Apex Courses since May 15, 2023. *Note: Four certificates of completion must be submitted with the nominee's application.*
- Be registered for and in attendance at the 2025 National Women's Leadership Conference by August 1, 2025.
- Sponsored at least one new member since May 15, 2024.
- A League must be chartered and in good standing for a minimum of one year with the American Business Women's Association by May 15, 2025.

#### Optional Criteria

The nominee may qualify for additional points towards the award, if she has:

- Earned a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- Attended at least one ABWA Nationally sponsored conference events (virtual or in-person) since May 15, 2022.
- Sponsored more than three ABWA members since May 15, 2022.
- Has supported the formation/chartering of an ABWA Chapter or Express Network since 2020.
- Served on the National Board of Directors, as a league officer/committee chair, or as a volunteer for the NWLC team since 2020.

*We want you to enjoy this prestigious honor to the fullest thus, a member who is serving on the National Board of Directors will not qualify to participate in this award while she is still in office.*



Each Top Ten Business Woman, Class of 2026 is eligible for ABWA's most prestigious honor bestowed on an individual member, provided she:

- Participates in the panel interview on date/time scheduled.

**DR. GAIL HAMILTON**  
2025 American Business Woman

Her application must be signed by the League's President (if the President is the nominee, then a member of the League's Executive Board must sign the form) and Top Ten Nominating Committee Chair and submission postmarked on or before: **May 15, 2025** to:

**ABWA National**  
**Top Ten Submission**  
**P.O. BOX 4757**  
**Overland Park, Kansas 66204-0757**



# • Save the date! •



AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 12-15, 2025 Portland, Maine

The 2025 National Women's Leadership Conference will be a celebration of ABWA members and Leagues as we recognize accomplishments, learn from key business experts, and become inspired by others around us.

Hotel offering your special group rate:

The Westin Portland Harborview

\$199.00 USD per night

Last day to book at the ABWA rate: Monday, October 06, 2025

[Click to register!](#)





Nationals’ Announcement

MEET THE CANDIDATES for ABWA'S 2025-2026  
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS/SBMEF TRUSTEES



Candidates for  
National President



**BARBARA PEDERSEN**  
Heart of the Piedmont Chapter  
• member since 2004 •  
Campaign Managers:  
Robin Necci and Terry Howard



**KIM STENGEL**  
Women of Vision Express Network  
• member since 2017 •  
Campaign Managers:  
Cindy Osmer and Tina Johnson

Candidates for  
National Vice President



**DIOR DAVIS**  
Airport Charter Chapter  
• member since 2021 •  
Campaign Manager:  
Terrill McFarland



**KRISTENA HACKETT**  
Charisma Charter Chapter  
• member since 2015 •  
Campaign Manager:  
Kendra Stengel





## Nationals' Announcement

### Candidates for National Secretary-Treasurer



**EILEEN CASPERS**  
Ad Astra Chapter  
• member since 2008 •  
Campaign Managers:  
Elaine Boose and Nancy Griffin



**MICHELLE  
FEGUSON-MILLER**  
Forsyth Chapter  
• member since 2003 •  
Campaign Manager:  
Elisa Wells



**DR. TRACEY G. JACKSON**  
Oxon Hill Charter Chapter  
• member since 2007 •  
Campaign Manager:  
TBD

### District 1 Vice President Candidates



**DR. DEBORAH  
JOHNSON-BLAKE**  
Douglas County Charter  
Chapter  
• member since 2016 •  
Campaign Managers:  
Teresa Williams and  
Michelle English



**QUINZETTA MCCRAY**  
Birmingham Charter  
Chapter  
• member since 2014 •  
Campaign Manager:  
Felicia Johnson

### District 2 Vice President Candidate



**KATHY ELLER**  
Tu'Ya Chapter  
• member since 2020 •  
Campaign Managers:  
Rochelle Wagoner and  
Frances Nicholson-Bovee

# Nationals' Announcement



District 3

Vice President Candidate



LESLIE MCMILLIN

Kansas City Express Network

• member since 2018 •

Campaign Manager:  
Nancy Ballenger

District 4

Vice President Candidate



LINDA B. JOHNSON

Limitless Ladies Chapter

• member since 2014 •

Campaign Managers:  
Joyce Wright and Petra Duvall

District 5

Vice President Candidate



RENEE CLEMENT

Gem City Chapter

• member since 2018 •

Campaign Manager:  
Elaine Study

District 6

Vice President Candidate



KAREN FITTING

Pathfinder Chapter

• member since 2017 •

Campaign Manager:  
Karen Oliver



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## 2025 Committee Chairs/Co-chairs

Decorations	Donna Love
DVP Celebration Co-chairs	PAACC Members
Education (June Leadership Workshop) Co-chairs	Glenda Shivers Delsenia Mitchell
Fundraising Co-chairs	Peg Taylor Herdy Menina
Hospitality	Videssa Woods
Membership	Karen Taylor-Moody
Newsletter	Brenda Wyatt (Interim)
Programs	Sonya Lowe
Publicity/FB	Roshon Thomas
Shower of Cards Coordinator	Ethelyn Barksdale
Technology/Website	Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake
Woman of the Year (2025)	Delsonia Chappell



2024-2025 Chapter Presidents and Delegates

Chapter	President	Primary Delegate
Airport Charter	Terrill McFarland	Stephanie Johnson
Atlanta Peach	Gwendolyn Bridges	Ethelyn Barksdale
Buckhead Professional Women’s	Linda Williams	Roshon Thomas
Douglas County	Vonda Thorpe	Cheryl Tibbs
Empowered Ladies Express Network	Nichelle Mathur	Sandy Defoe
Golden Dome	Glenda Shivers	Sarah Mobley
Harris County	Myra Stevens Brown	Myra Stevens Brown
Hidden Hills	Precious Mapp	Debbie Matthews
Pyramid	Evelene Key	Margaret Tarver

June 2025

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14Leadership Workshop
15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



*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*



## ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct

1. All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women's Association.
2. Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA's mission.
3. Members will not use their personal power or position of influence to *advance their personal interests*.
4. Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
5. Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter, Express Network and Council Bylaws.
6. 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 and women in their community.

Atlanta Area Council  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Establish December 1979

## 2025 Executive Board

### Chairman

**Irene Hudgins**

Airport Charter Chapter

Email: [ihudgins@bellsouth.net](mailto:ihudgins@bellsouth.net)

### Vice Chairman

**Denise Turner**

Pyramid Chapter

Email: [deniseturer52@gmail.com](mailto:deniseturer52@gmail.com)

### Communications Officer

**Retoin George**

Golden Dome Charter Chapter

Email: [rgeorge\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:rgeorge_us@yahoo.com)

### Financial Officer

**Denise Fareed**

Atlanta Peach Chapter

Email: [denisefareed@att.net](mailto:denisefareed@att.net)

### Ex- Officio

**Anne O'Neill**

Harris County Charter Chapter

Email:

[abwaanneoneill@gmail.com](mailto:abwaanneoneill@gmail.com)

### PAACC Advisor

**Trina Nkhazi**

Airport Charter Chapter

Email: [trina4abwa@gmail.com](mailto:trina4abwa@gmail.com)