

## ABWA's Mission

The mission of the American Business Women 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.

## History

In the 1940s, workingwomen were making new inroads to the business world. Women were changing the face of industry and having a positive economic impact. Hilary A. Bufton Jr., a Kansas City businessman, recognized women's potential, and saw the need for an organization to support and empower them to reach their career goals. As a result, in 1949, Bufton founded the American Business Women's Association. Professional development remains the cornerstone of ABWA today. In 2009, ABWA celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



## The Board of Directors

The National Board of Directors governs the affairs, policies and business of ABWA on behalf of its members. Board members also serve as trustees of the Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF), ABWA's national scholarship trust.

ABWA National Headquarters is located in Kansas City, Mo., where a team of professionals develops products, plans national and regional events and administers SBMEF. The team also works closely with the National Board of Directors on all aspects of the Association.

## Membership

ABWA is a prestigious organization made up of workingwomen across the nation. A majority of members belong to local chapters and Express Networks<sup>®</sup>. Over 600 chapters and networks throughout the U.S. offer networking and professional development programs via monthly meetings.

Whether you are actively seeking to advance to the next level, or to stay current with business trends and skills; whether you dream of breaking out on your own or are running your own business; whether you are looking to stay active in retirement, are a stay-at-home mom ready to reconnect or are a full-time student looking to explode onto the job scene - ABWA has a membership option that is right for you. Regardless of which you select, your first step is to join the Association as a national member. When you pay your national ABWA membership dues, a whole world of opportunity will open up to you!

## National Publications

ABWA offers a varied collection of informational tools to their members. *Women in Business*<sup>®</sup>, the award-winning national magazine of ABWA, offers articles on a blend of professional development and personal topics. Published six times a year, *Women in Business*<sup>®</sup> is full of relevant and useful information that reaches 18,000 working women. In addition to the printed format, our magazine is also produced digitally and posted on the ABWA Web site.

Members also enjoy custom-designed online newsletters to serve the individual needs of different groups: Company Connection<sup>®</sup> for women business owners, Leadership Edge for chapter and network officers, Express Network<sup>®</sup> for busy professionals and Council Communications for council officers.

## **Professional Development/Women's Instructional Network (WIN)**

ABWA offers learning opportunities for women who are taking their business careers to the next level. The Women's Instructional Network is an interactive online community designed especially for ABWA. WIN delivers professional development courses, ABWA tools and resources, as well as a specialized communication vehicle to keep individual members and local chapters and Networks up-to-date on the latest Association news. ABWA members' dues provide exclusive access to the network, connecting them 24/7 to dynamic, market-relevant professional development opportunities, local leagues and the national Association.

## **ABWA-KU MBA Essentials**

An outstanding and exclusive opportunity for members is the ABWA-KU MBA Essentials program, a product of a special partnership between the University of Kansas School of Business and ABWA. Each MBA Essentials course delivers critical business subjects at a master's degree level including "Accounting Tools for Financial Success," "Organizational Behavior and Management Principles" and "Human Resources: Principles and Practices." This program is only offered at the ABWA National Women's Leadership Conference.

## **ABWA-KU Management Certificate Series**

The ABWA-KU Management Certificate Series is designed as a series of business concentrations, each with specialized courses. Faculty from the University of Kansas School of Business instruct professionals on the information they need to leverage their careers. This exclusive program is only offered at ABWA's regional conferences.

## **Scholarships**

ABWA supports education through scholarships and grants. The Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF) is the national scholarship fund of ABWA. Since its inception, SBMEF has awarded more than 15,250 scholarships totaling more than \$15.4 million.

## **Annual Events**

Members have the opportunity to experience ABWA and network with other working women on a grand scale at the ABWA conferences. Each spring, ABWA hosts six district conferences around the country.

Excitement is building for ABWA's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the **National Women's Leadership Conference**, September 24-26, in Kansas City, Mo. The schedule is packed with top business school educators and consultants, workshops, seminars and dynamic keynote speakers. Motivational groups like Drum Café (seen at the 2008 Olympics), the hilarious Sam Glenn and the fantastic juggling duo, Passing Zone convey strong messages for team building and positive attitudes.

## **Top Ten Business Women and American Business Woman Awards**

Every year, each ABWA group has the opportunity to nominate one of its accomplished members to represent it at the national level as a candidate for the Top Ten Business Women of ABWA. From the ten finalists, the American Business Woman of ABWA is chosen. The Top Ten Business Women are introduced to the membership at the National Women's Leadership Conference.

## **American Business Women's Day National Event**

American Business Women's Day on Sept. 22 celebrates the important contributions more than 57 million American workingwomen and 10 million women business owners are making to this nation. This ABWA founding date was recognized in 1983 and 1986 by Congressional resolution and a proclamation issued by President Ronald Reagan.



For more information about the **American Business Women's Association**, visit [www.abwa.org](http://www.abwa.org) or contact [abwa@abwa.org](mailto:abwa@abwa.org).

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