



SEPTEMBER 2021 | Vol. 58 Issue 02

# RAINTREE RAMBLER

Raintree Chapter # 4058

New Castle, Indiana 47362

*A League of the American Business Women's Association*



## RENAE'S RADAR

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Raintree President Renae Gawith

HELLO, LADIES . . .



Last month's meeting with several issues and voting is now behind us, and we now move on to bigger and brighter things. We had 12 members and two guests in attendance for the first meeting of our new year!!

On August 30th we were advised by **Rene' Street, ABWA Executive Director**, that we have been awarded **Best Practices in League Management, STRIVING**. See more information on Page 4.

**Carly New** (Shirley's granddaughter) was our **speaker** last month, and she helped us to learn how to get on **Instagram**, how to set-up our own app, and how to use it. We had fun sending pictures out.

**Marilyn Upchurch, Vice President**, did an amazing job on Networking. She is also Chair of our Women's Symposium for this new year, and she reported she was having a problem finding a location for this event at this time - we voted to move the Symposium out to next spring.

### ABWA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupation and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition.

Continued page 3



Cheryl Blair, District V  
Vice President

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For more information about Raintree Chapter, contact President Renae Gawith at [renaegawith@gmail.com](mailto:renaegawith@gmail.com) or visit our website at <http://www.abwa-aintree.com>

*Changing Women's Lives... One Woman at a Time.*

RAINTREE CHAPTER



# “ DVP Celebration Take 2 and Future of ABWA ”

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Henry County REMC – Conference Room  
3400 S State Road 3, New Castle IN 47362

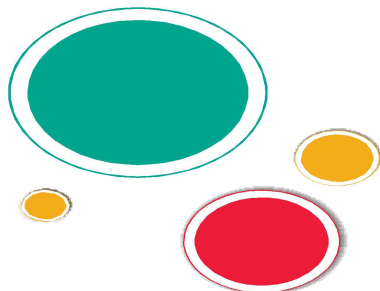
In Person Registration and Dinner	6:00-6:15 PM
Networking, Introductions & Program	7:00 PM
Brief Business Meeting	7:45 PM

COME JOIN US AS WE VIEW THE PRESENTATION FROM THE DVP CELEBRATION HONORING CHERYL BLAIR. Also, Cheryl will talk about and show her presentation from the event highlighting the future of ABWA. You won't want to miss this.

**Event cost is \$15 for members and Guests (cost includes dinner). Zoom & noneating attendees cost \$5.00.**

**Please RSVP by Sunday, September 12th by phone, text or email to make a reservation for guest(s) to Shirley New 765-620-8271 [wcsanew@hrtc.net](mailto:wcsanew@hrtc.net).**

**Members – you have auto reservation – please contact Shirley to cancel by due date. If you are attending by Zoom, please contact Shirley for the link by the due date also.**



## RENAE'S RADAR (continued from Page 1)

**SUMMER SIZZLER** is now behind us - if you did not attend, you sure missed a wonderful event. Raintree had ten members in attendance.

We were pleased to see many of our **Michigan Sisters** joining us, as well as **Anne O'Neill from Georgia (our National Secretary-Treasurer and candidate for National President)**. **Friday night was full of fun, food** (even ice cream sundaes), **and catching up with our ABWA Sisters**. Saturday was very busy - we had **three fabulous speakers** (to include our own Cheryl Blair) - we had a very good **variety of vendors** there - we had the **Gift Card Pull**, and the **Silent Auction** (of which many items were provided by our own members) - and there were several **First-Timers!!**. **Andrea Moore** of the Indianapolis Charter Chapter, was recognized as the **CCC Woman of the Year**; and, our own **Cheryl Blair** was recognized with the **CCC Heart Award**. **For the first time in her life, she was SPEECHLESS - yes, you read that right!!**

One of our next big events will be **MAKE, BAKE, & BUY** - and will be held in Fort Wayne, IN. While this is normally a November event, due to the scheduling of the National Women's Leadership Conference, we had to move it back to **OCTOBER 16TH**. We need to get started working on our **Silent Auction Items** for this event (the more items/baskets we can put together, the more items our guests will have to purchase - and the more **Profit** we will have to split with Women of Magnitude. **Peggy Miller** is in charge of Raintree's contributions, so if you have any questions, contact her.

At the August meeting we were made aware of another possibility for fundraising - **BSU FOOTBALL CONCESSIONS**. We were told there is quite a bit of money to be made working through the football season. This can make-up for the loss of our previous fundraisers with the Indy Motor sports which has not used us since Covid took over. We will work our first BSU Concession on September 2nd. If you have not yet thought about working at some of these BSU dates, we can really use you. Call me if you have any questions, or want to sign on for certain dates.

September 1st is the kick-off for the annual fall **National Membership Recruitment Campaign**, and will run through November 30th. Sign on a new member and you can win a prize!! As we have discussed before, we would really like to increase our membership . . . This would be a good time to **bring a guest** and let her see what we are all about.

**ABWA HUGS - hope to see you on the 16th!!**

*Renaë*

**RENAE GAWITH**  
**Raintree President**



**Congrats - Striving Achieved!**

**Aug 30, 2021 by Rene' Street**

**Congratulations to past president, Karen Johnson, the Executive Board and all members affiliated with the Raintree Chapter, a chartered league of the American Business Women's Association. It is an honor to inform you that your league has been awarded Best Practices in League Management, STRIVING!**

**The final two steps to crossing the Best Practices threshold are as follows:**

**FIRST STEP:** The Raintree Chapter must have at least ONE primary member registered and in attendance at this year's Virtual National Women's Leadership Conference, and present at the Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 5.

**NOTE:** Because mail delivery is unpredictable, we ask that you register by October 10 at [www.abwa.org](http://www.abwa.org) to ensure delivery of your conference materials otherwise, you will be required to download the conference materials (including the conference program) from the National Women's Leadership Conference team board. The last day for shipping conference materials from ABWA National is scheduled for October 15. October 15 is also the last day to save \$100 on your registration fee. Note: This year's conference line up is available for download in the National Resources.

**SECOND STEP:** Before October 10, notify us in writing at [webmail@abwa.org](mailto:webmail@abwa.org) where to ship your achievement certificate to ensure delivery in time for the conference event.

**Thank you for presenting a thoughtful and well-organized submission. If you have any questions, please contact our office at [webmail@abwa.org](mailto:webmail@abwa.org).**

**With sincere appreciation to your continued commitment to excellence,**

**Rene' Street, Executive Director**

**NOTE: A huge THANK YOU to PEGGY MILLER, our Best Practices Committee Chair, this past year. I know the last week making sure everything was complete was nerve-wracking, but you handled it superbly and got it mailed on time. Thank you, again, *Karen J.***



JANET JOHNSON, TREASURER

UPDATE: The new Chapter year started last month, and with that came a **renewal of Rain-tree Chapter dues** for the 2021-2022 year.



Our **Chapter dues are \$24 for the year. If you did not pay your dues last month, you need to have them paid by the September meeting, or you will be considered ineligible and not able to vote on any issues. You might want to drop your check in the mail to Janet today!!** -----



If you've never done a business ad before, it's not too late to start. This could be about your personal business, your workplace, or even ABWA. \$15 for the ad to run in the newsletter for a year is really a good deal.

Or, you may ask your employer if they would like to do so - this goes out to all of our members, ladies in the Council, our District VP, and will be shared with our guests. If interested, please drop a check with your Business Card in the mail to Janet.

**JANET'S address is:**

**4746 East State Road 36, Mooreland, IN 47360**



**TO CONNECT, LEARN, & GROW . . .**

**. . . TOGETHER . . .**

**WITH ABWA!!**

**RAINTREE AUGUST 19, 2021 - CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**President Renae Gawith called the August 19, 2021, in person meeting to order at 6:35 pm at the Henry County REMC Community Room. Members and guests had eaten a meal provided by Dawn Pokorny before the meeting.**

**ATTENDEES:** Twelve in person members: Cheryl Blair, Lois Cook, Rose Elliott, Renae Gawith, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Dawn Pokorny, Elaine Study, Marilyn Upchurch, and Sharon Woodruff. Two in person guests: Donna Collins, guest of Rose and Carly New, guest of Shirley (and our Speaker).

Peggy Miller led the Invocation and Pledge. Marilyn Upchurch explained the networking event. Each person was to state their name then complete the phrase, "Never have I ever...." Members received 1 point for each statement you had never done. Carly New was the winner since she had the least number of points.

President Renae acknowledged our members in attendance who had birthdays in August: Karen Johnson, Lois Cook, and Elaine Study.

DVP Cheryl Blair recapped the July DVP Event that was held in her honor. Cheryl was overwhelmed with the memories made during that event

**PROGRAM:** Chair Shirley New introduced her granddaughter, Carly New, who led those in attendance in a hands-on demonstration of Instagram. The social media app was installed on numerous cell phones and a detailed explanation of its use was given. Participants practiced on their devices as Carly explained the Instagram features.

**BUSINESS:** The **July minutes**, completed by Karen Johnson and Peggy Miller and included in the Best Practices Report, were

printed in the newsletter. Secretary Elaine Study recommended the following changes:

- “1.) Peggy Miller made the motion about increasing the meal price paid to caterer Dawn Pokorny and Marilyn Upchurch seconded.
- 2.) Elaine Study, Campaign Manager for Cheryl Blair’s Election Committee, asked that the committee be able to sell Trophy candy and nuts at the DVP Event along with other campaign materials. It was agreed the candy will be sold to the campaign at Raintree’s cost. A cost report will be given at the next meeting.
- 3.) Marilyn Upchurch reported she has been looking for Symposium venues in Anderson which have been costly. She asked what we thought of looking for places in Muncie. She was encouraged to check out venues there, too.” The changes will be added to the July minutes.

The **July Treasurer’s Report** had only been emailed to the Executive Board. Elaine Study reported \$620 worth of candy/nuts had been sold at the DVP event.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion was held on the proposed **2021-22 Raintree Budget** presented by Janet Johnson. Shirley New moved we approve the budget as submitted. Rose Elliott seconded the motion which was passed.

Elaine Study reviewed the proposed changes to the **2021-22 Standing Rules** which had been emailed to the members. Janet Johnson moved we accept the standing rules as changed. Karen Johnson seconded the motion which was passed. Shirley New moved we accept the **ABWA Proud Code of Conduct** and **ABWA Core Values**. Janet Johnson seconded the motion which was passed.

**RAINTREE JULY CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES** (cont. from page 6).

President Renae Gawith asked everyone to read to themselves the current Raintree **Chapter’s Vision Statement**. Peggy Miller moved we leave the vision statement as we had it last year. Shirley New seconded. Motion passed.

Elaine Study presented the Executive Board’s proposed **chapter goals** as a result of completing the 2021-22 Gap Analysis. Lois Cook moved we accept the goals as presented. Rose Elliott seconded the motion which passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Audit:** Shirley New, Audit Committee Chair, reported that all receipts were accounted for. Typed suggestions were presented to the treasurer.

**Fundraising:** Shirley New and Renae Gawith reported on an opportunity to sell concessions at the Ball State Football games on 9-2; 9-25; 10-2; 10-23; 11-17; and 11-23. Four to six people are needed from 5:30 – 9:30 on weeknights and 12:30-4:30 on Saturdays. After discussion, names were taken of interested workers. Workers are to wear the green Raintree shirts.

**Best Practices:** Peggy Miller reported the Best Practices binder was mailed on time. She thanked members for everyone’s help completing the report. It was a chapter effort!

**Symposium:** Marilyn Upchurch reported we need to have the Symposium in March or April depending on when Regional Conferences are scheduled. She was not able to find a suitable venue at this time.

Shirley New reminded all of chapter group fundraisers: **Summer Sizzler**, Aug. 27 & 28 and **Make, Bake and Buy**, Oct. 16.

Cheryl Blair invited all to her **DVP call** on Aug. 25.

Karen Johnson, Past President, thanked her Executive Board members and presented flowers to Renae Gawith, Elaine Study, and Janet Johnson.

Donna Collins won the donation of \$33.

Janet Johnson led the Benediction and Renae adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Next Raintree Chapter meeting is September 16, 2021, at the Henry County REMC Community Room.

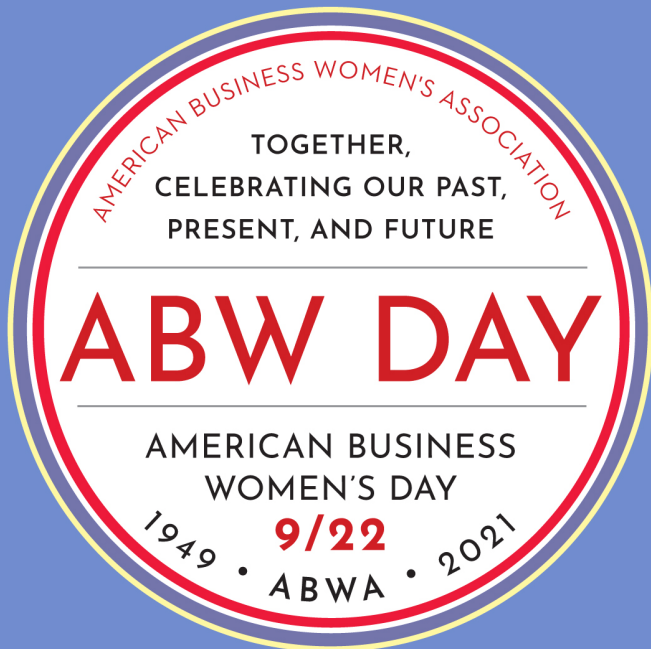
Respectfully Submitted,



**ELAINE STUDY**  
Secretary

***Changing Women’s Lives,***

***One Woman at a Time!!***



American Business Women's Association was founded on September 22, 1949 and was awarded a proclamation in 1983, recognizing ALL working women on

AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



**CHERYL BLAIR RECEIVED THE CARDINAL CROSSROADS COUNCIL H.E.A.R.T AWARD FROM PREVIOUS HONOREE, KAREN REESE.**

*Honesty, Education, Achievement, Responsibility, & Teamwork*







**Add this Just in Time Webinar to your calendar!**

Join us for a webinar on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021 at 6:00-7:15PM CDT.

In this session, we will review:

- Important Deadlines
- Fall Membership Campaign: incentives, resources, and training for hosting a successful fall recruitment event
- Best Practices Summary
- National Women's Leadership Conference Promotion
- **Announcement** - the 2022 class of ABWA's Top Ten Business Women!

**Watch for email announcement to register.**

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





September 01 - November 30th

Annual National Membership Recruitment Campaign

Sept. 02 BSU Football Concessions

(this will be another fundraiser for our group, hopefully will make up for Indy Motor sports not using locals for vendors due to Covid) (There will be several of these Concessions - Contact Renae Gawith for other dates.)

Sept. 16 Raintree Meeting

Sept 22 American Business Women's Day

Oct. 21 Raintree Meeting

Oct. 16 Make, Bake. & Buy 2021

(This will be held in Fort Wayne - we are hosting this along with the Women of Magnitude Express Network - it is part of our fundraising for the year)

Oct. 23 Cardinal Crossroads Council This will be our Honors Day!!

Nov. 4-6 National Woman's Leadership Conference



**RAINTREE BIRTHDAYS**

**JANET JOHNSON**

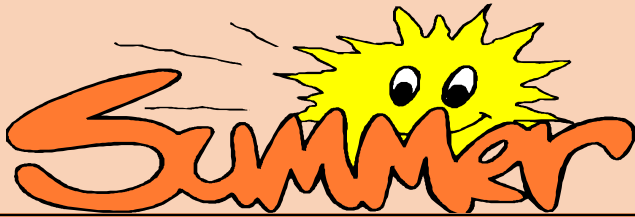
**September 27th**



happy anniversary

**CHERYL BLAIR**  
**September 8 - 4 years**

**ROSE ELLIOTT**  
**September 15 - 44 years**



**SIZZLER**

**August 27-28  
Sponsored by the Cardinal  
Crossroads Council**

**Another great event - if you missed it,  
start thinking NOW about putting SS on  
your calendar for next year.**



**VICKI PEARSON. CO-CHAIR**



**RAINTREE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

**CHECKING in ATTENDEESS**



**ELAINE WAS BUSY WITH TROPHY NUT  
SALES FOR THE CHAPTER & HATS/  
SCARVES/ETC. FOR CHERYL BLAIR'S  
CAMPAIGN.**



**MARILYN WAS ONE OF OUR VENDORS THIS YEAR**



**2021 FIRST-TIMERS**

# Summer

## SIZZLER - continued



**SANDY WARD - CHAIR  
- SILENT AUCTION**



**CHERYL CRAMER - CHAIR - ENVELOPE PULL**

**A SMALL SELECTION OF OUR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!!**



**ROBERTA TAYLOR (CHAIR OF  
FIRST-TIMERS) WITH WINNERS  
FOR THE TABLE DECORATIONS!!**



# Summer

## SIZZLER - continued



**CHAIR PAULA CLUTTER PASSING OUT CHECKS FOR GAIL FRAHM AND CHERYL BLAIR'S CAMPAIGN FUNDS**



**2020 CCC WOMAN OF THE YEAR, JANET GREER, ANNOUNCES THE 2021 CARDINAL CROSSROADS COUNCIL'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR - ANDREA MOORE OF THE INDIANAPOLIS CHARTER CHAPTER.**



**MARILYN LASH FROM MICHIGAN (FORMER DVP AND TOP TEN) GIVES A HUG TO ANNE O'NEILL, OUR CURRENT NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER AND CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT.**

**The 2021 SUMMER SIZZLER COMMITTEE -**

**THANKS TO ALL!!**





**RAINTREE OFFICERS**

**President Renae Gawith**  
**Vice President Marilyn Upchurch**  
**Secretary Elaine Study**  
**Treasurer Janet Johnson**

**RAINTREE CHAIRS**

<b>ANNIVERSARY:</b>	<b>DAWN POKORNY</b>
<b>AUDIT:</b>	<b>KAREN JOHNSON</b>
<b>BEST PRACTICES:</b>	<b>RENAE GAWITH &amp; ELAINE STUDY</b>
<b>BUSINESS ASSOCIATES:</b>	<b>JANET JOHNSON</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING:</b>	<b>MARY CORDLE</b>
<b>MAKE, BAKE &amp; BUY (Silent Auction) :</b>	<b>PEGGY MILLER</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>SHIRLEY NEW</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>KAREN JOHNSON</b>
<b>NOMINATING:</b>	<b>VOTE IN MARCH</b>
<b>NOTIFICATIONS:</b>	<b>ELAINE STUDY</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/PROGRAMS &amp; EDUCATION:</b>	<b>SHIRLEY NEW</b>
<b>PUBLICITY/WEBSITE:</b>	<b>JOY COOMER</b>
<b>TOP TEN:</b>	<b>CHERYL BLAIR</b>
<b>WOMAN OF THE YEAR:</b>	<b>PEGGY MILLER</b>

**CARDINAL CROSSROADS COUNCIL**

**DELEGATE**

**RENAE GAWITH**

**ALTERNATE #1**

**PEGGY MILLER**

**ALTERNATE #2**

**(to be announced)**

pivot

reposition

ADAPT recast

amend veer

reconsider

MODIFY

reach ALTER

revise explore

reexamine

ADJUST

---

reimagining your  
future in ABWA

**OUR BUSINESS CARD SPONSORS - (support them when you can)**

**Vacation Temptations**




**Marilyn Upchurch**  
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mgupchurchmuncie@gmail.com



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Huber Heights, OH 45424  
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937-671-4026  
ksj848@aol.com

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Renaë Gawith Tupperware Consultant.



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**RAINTREE VISION STATEMENT - 2020-21** Raintree Chapter offers opportunities to support our members and the women of our community by helping them grow personally and professionally through leadership, networking, education, recognition, and community enrichment.

**CORE VALUES for the American Business Women’s Association**

1. **SELFLESS LEADERSHIP** - be committed to doing the right thing, always. Be transparent in your actions even when no one is looking.
2. **BUILDING COMMUNITY** - be committed to creating sustainable ABWA communities where women can connect, learn, and grow together.
3. **VALUE & SEEK DIVERSITY** - be committed to recruiting new members from diverse cultures, ages, work industries, and experiences.
4. **MANAGE FOR INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE** - be committed to original thinking and delivering excellence in everything you do.
5. **LIFELONG LEARNING** - be committed to enhancing your own business knowledge, skills, and acumen. Be unafraid to make mistakes, iterate, err, and try again.
6. **FOCUS ON FACTS & OWN RESULTS** - be committed to using “data” to drive your decisions and actions and be accountable for your performance, good and bad.
7. **CHOOSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** - be committed to unlocking a member’s potential and inspiring/motivating her to become the best version of herself.
8. **CELEBRATE** - be committed to celebrating members’ achievements.

**ABWA’s Proud Code of Conduct**

- As an ABWA member, I will serve as a goodwill Ambassador for the American Business Women’s Association.
- As an ABWA member, I will adhere to the Association’s Bylaws and comply with the Association’s Brand Guidelines.
- As an ABWA member, I will not use my personal power or influence to advance my own interests.
- As a ABWA member, I will not allow my personal beliefs or convictions to alienate other members, prospective members, and sponsors at any level of the ABWA organization (local, regional, or national).
- As an ABWA member, I will always treat member colleagues, the ABWA National Team, guests, speakers, vendors, and sponsors with dignity and respect.

**RENAE GAWITH**

**Raintree Chapter President**

~~~~~  
**KAREN JOHNSON**

**Newsletter Editor**

**ksj848@aol.com - 937-671-4026**



**Raintree Chapter**

Visit us online at  
<http://abwa-raintree.com>



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