



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

American Business Women's Association



Oct. 2025 | Vol. 60, Issue 3

Raintree Rambler

**Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN**

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



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October 16 Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Contact **Lois Cook** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations or *make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. October 12.

- ◆ **765-524-4727 or loiscook49@gmail.com**
- ◆ Meeting at New Castle REMC
- ◆ Networking 6:00-6:15
- ◆ Meeting starts at 6:15

PROGRAM: Declutter, organize and decorate our homes with Juliann Barnes

BRING:

- ◇ \$15 for meal
- ◇ Items to add to silent auction baskets for Make, Bake and Buy fundraiser



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Cordle—Oct. 30

Peggy Miller—Nov. 4

Jennifer Wilson—Nov. 6

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

Lisa Loveless—Oct.-2 yrs.

Amy Bowling—Oct.-2 yrs.

Dawn Pokorny-Nov.— 8 yrs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * Oct. 7—60th Anniversary Zoom; 7 pm
- * Oct. 15—Coffee Connections; 1 pm or 7 pm
- * Oct. 16—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; New Castle
- * Oct. 25—Cardinal Crossroads Honors Day Meeting; see Sept. 30 email from Elaine to make reservation to Amy Elberfeld
- * Sept 1-Nov 30—Fall Membership Campaign
- * Nov. 1—Make, Bake, and Buy; Ft. Wayne
- * Nov. 4—60th Anniversary Zoom; 7 pm
- * Nov. 12-15—National Women's Leadership Conference
- * Nov. 20—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; Muncie
- * Dec. 2—60th Anniversary Zoom; 7 pm
- * Dec. 6—Cardinal Crossroads Holiday Party, Brookville, OH
- * Dec. 18—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; New Castle
- * MAY 16, 2026—RAINTREE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!!

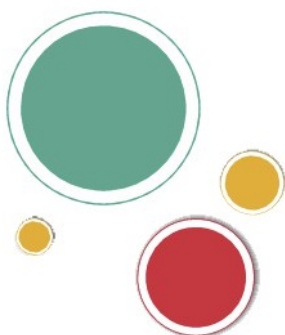
Juliann Barnes



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.

For more information about Raintree Chapter, contact President Cheryl Blair at ignition.spark1@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.abwa-raintree.com>

RAINTREE CHAPTER



Thursday, October 16, 2025

Henry County REMC

3400 S. State Road 3, New Castle, IN 47362

Registration	6:00-6:15 PM
Dinner	6:15 PM
Networking & Introductions	6:45 PM
Business Meeting	7:30 PM

Juliann Barnes with Juliann Barnes Designs will be discussing how we can declutter, organize and decorate our homes. Juliann wants to help us do these activities so that we can "Love Where We Live & Live Where You Love." Juliann has served as an interior decorator for 6 years and has helped 350+ clients to make changes to their homes that allows them to truly enjoy their living spaces.

Event cost is \$15 for members and guests, cost includes dinner). Noneating attendees meeting cost \$5.00. Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, October 12th by phone, text or email to guarantee their reservation to Lois Cook 765-524-4727 loiscook49@gmail.com Members – you have auto reservation – please cancel by October 12 if you are not attending.



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American Business Women's Association



Scoop Blair Reporting

“October glows on every cheek, October shines in every eye, while up the hill and down the dale Her crimson banners Fly”...Elaine Goodale Eastman Poet (1863-1953)...these words bring thoughts of the upcoming season of transition which begins with ABWA’s Fall Membership Campaign “Turning a New Leaf”.

Think about how the ongoing season of change transforms today’s green leaves into vibrant “fall colors” of beauty and radiance. This same annual period of “adjustment” creates the promise of a new period of growth and maturity when spring arrives in 2026.

This same “promise of growth” is offered to all current Raintree members and to all new members. The fall tree depends on the “strength” of its branches to supports its evolving growth. The “strength” of Raintree’s evolving future is dependent on each member’s support in recruiting and sharing the “branches” of opportunities and growth offered within ABWA ...no matter “what the season”.

As the trees continue their anticipated “transition” into “amazing colors” of the fall season take the time to remember the many “transitions” you have experienced as a member of the Raintree Chapter of ABWA. Take those memories and create your own “legacy of leaves” by participating in the “Turning a New Leaf” membership campaign by “branching” out to those who are ready to experience their professional and personal transformation!!!

The “beauty” of the season is yours to share today!!!

Cheryl Blair

Raintree Chapter President



Scoop Blair covering
a local story



SEARCH ACHIEVE CONTEST!!

Looking for Raintree member’s names

- ⇒ 3 Raintree Member’s names are mentioned in the issue 4 Achieve newsletter.
- ⇒ Contact Elaine Study with names and page numbers.
- ⇒ First member with correct answers will win a PRIZE!

October 2025 Meeting Agenda



ABWA Raintree Chapter Meeting Agenda October 16, 2025

6:00PM

Sign in and Register

6:15PM

Call the meeting to Order - Cheryl Blair

Invocation & Pledge

Mission Statement/Raintree's Vision Statement

Dinner

6:45PM

Networking Event-Mary Cordle

6:50PM

Program

7:45PM

Business Meeting:

Secretary Minutes-September

Treasurers Report-Sept.

Budget-Add Community Service Line Item \$400

New Business:

Audit Committee-Lois Cook

Honoring Rene Street-Discussion

Membership Moment-Fall Membership Campaign Peggy Miller

Social Event Planning-Survey Completion Today

Just in Time Webinar-Sept. 25th-Recap

Apex Campus Oct. Complimentary Class "Emotional Intelligence"

Updated Brochure

Chamber Network for Women 10-10-25 gathering-Report

Old Business:

Make, Bake & Buy (Oct 31st-Nov. 1st) Mary Cordle

Habitat for Humanity

Data Sheet-Mary Cordle

Member Survey

NWLC (Nov. 12-15) Portland Maine

Raintree "60th" Anniversary celebration-Elaine Study

Best Practices-Janet Johnson

Council Report-Elaine Study

50/50

Diane Sager

"Tip on Creating a Member Quilt"- "Making a Quilt Requires Many Colorful Squares-Each One Dependent on the Next Square"

8:15PM

Benediction



Members on the Move

MARY'S SON GETS MARRIED!



Kingsport, TN was the location of a beautiful venue for the wedding of Mary and Jerry Cordle's son.



September 14 turned out to be a perfect day for Seth and Jesse's outdoor wedding.



Members on the Move

Donna travels to Hawaii with Euchre Sisters

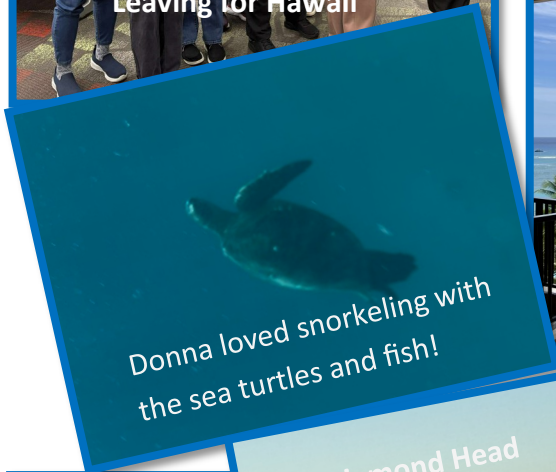


Leaving for Hawaii

Together for 30 years, Donna Collins and the Euchre Sisters enjoy playing cards—especially Euchre. Every fall, the group usually takes a trip where they travel 2-3 hours and stay for an extended weekend. This year they decided to go to Hawaii for 9 days! Ask Donna for more details of her adventure!



The view from Donna's room.



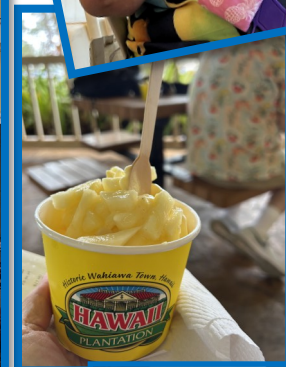
Donna loved snorkeling with the sea turtles and fish!



Chickens are everywhere!



Diamond Head



Dole Whip with fresh pineapple. Delicious!



The Hale Koa resort is celebrating 50 years. Screen printing activity at their resort.



USS Arizona. They are doing work to further preserve it. Donna said it was very humbling to see it.



Secretary's Report

September 18, 2025

The September 18 meeting of the ABWA Raintree Chapter was held at the A Team Party Parlor in Muncie. Fifteen members and one guest attended. They included Cheryl Blair, Amy Bowling, Lois Cook, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Roxie Puckett, Diane Sager, Elaine Study, Michelle Tinch, Marilyn Upchurch and Jennifer Wilson. Juliann Barnes was the guest.

President Cheryl Blair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Diane Sager led the Invocation, pledge, ABWA mission statement and Raintree's vision statement. Member and caterer Jennifer Wilson provided the meal.

For the **networking** event, Mary Cordle asked members to introduce themselves and share a defining moment in their life or career that shaped who they are. Many heartwarming stories were shared.

PROGRAM: Member Leslie Mathewson of Mathewson Law P.C., spoke on "Planning for the Future with Legal Documents." Leslie discussed the key documents in estate planning and distributed her office's pamphlet plus a list of information and documents that should be kept in an emergency file.

Secretary Elaine Study reported the August minutes had been printed in the last newsletter. There were no additions or corrections.

Treasurer Shirley New presented the May, June, July and August treasurer's reports which will be filed for audit.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Shirley New then presented the proposed **2025/2026 budget** explaining any changes from previous budgets. Lois Cook moved, and Janet Johnson seconded accepting the proposed budget with changes. Motion passed.

The Audit Committee will present their findings at the October meeting.

Membership Committee Chair Peggy Miller presented the **2024-2025 Perfect Attendance** Certificates to: Cheryl Blair, Donna Collins, Lois Cook, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Roxie Puckett, and Elaine Study. The recipients also received tonight's dinner free of charge.

Peggy also announced tonight's **Membership Moment:** Cheryl Blair and Shirley New have created an orientation video that every new Raintree member will have the opportunity to view. Peggy encouraged everyone to watch the entertaining and informative video. Shirley will email all members the link. Cheryl thanked Shirley's son for recording the project.

Vice President Mary Cordle distributed the updated pages for the **Member Handbook**. She thanked Elaine Study for updating and printing the pages. Members are to replace current pages with the revised ones. Elaine recommended paying special attention to the Committee responsibilities located in the standing rules.

Newsletter Editor Elaine Study reminded members that any business can **sponsor a \$15 business card ad**. Send Elaine the ad electronically. Also send her pictures and information of ABWA activities or personal adventures to share.

In celebration of ABW Day which is September 22, a copy of President Ronald Reagan's Proclamation 5532 was distributed. That proclamation stated September 22, 1986, was officially designated as American Business Women's Day. President Cheryl Blair shared an explanation of ABW Day.

REMINDERS: Just in Time webinar is Sept. 25 at 7 pm EST. Look for email from National to register. APEX Complimentary Class for September is Daily Accountability Process with 45 days to complete. Coffee Connections is Oct. 15 at 1 pm and 7 pm EST. Look for email from National to register.

OLD BUSINESS

Make, Bake and Buy co-chair Mary Cordle encouraged members to contribute to the live and silent auctions by bringing items to the October meeting. She brought some examples of colorful containers which needed to be filled. Give basket information and value to Karen Johnson, Peggy Miller and Roxie Puckett who are on the silent auction committee. The Fort Wayne fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1 and is held in conjunction with the Women of Magnitude Express Network.

The **Habitat for Humanity's** E Ave. New Castle build is on a delay. A second build will happen later at 1929 Thornburg, New Castle. Cheryl will keep us updated.

Members were reminded to give completed Raintree **Data Sheets** to Mary Cordle; completed **Member Interest Surveys** to Cheryl and 60th anniversary quilt squares to Cheryl.

(Con't. on next page)



Secretary's Report

September 18, 2025 (con't. from previous page)

Summer Sizzler Co-chair Shirley New reported the August event was well attended. Peggy Miller and Elaine Study did a great job on the Friday night activities. Saturday had excellent speakers, vendors and food. Debbie deKater won the H.E.A.R.T. Award and Fronzie Shriner was named the Cardinal Crossroads Council Woman of the Year. Next year Shirley will be the Summer Sizzler chair and Fronzie will be her co-chair.

The **National Women's Leadership Conference** will be held in Portland, ME from Nov. 12-15. Spots are still available if you are interested in attending.

Raintree's 60th anniversary celebration chair Elaine Study thanked the five members who attended the first planning meeting on Sept. 9. They decided the goal of the anniversary celebration was to PARTY and showcase Raintree's longevity and show we are still going strong! Since we will be inviting former Raintree members and current and former ABWA members, the group chose Saturday, May 16, 2026, for the anniversary celebration date. It will be held at the New Castle/Henry

County REMC. The planning committee will meet every month on the first Tuesday of the month. The next Zoom call is Tues., Oct. 7 at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. A committee sign-up sheet was circulated.

Members were also given information about the **60th anniversary theme contest**. Your theme idea needs to be sent to Elaine Study by Oct. 2. Outside ABWA judges will determine the most appropriate theme. The winner will receive one paid registration to the May 16, 2026, anniversary celebration.

Membership Chair Peggy Miller announced the winning team for last year's **"Pointing the Way to Success" contest**. Members were Cheryl Blair, Karen Johnson, Peggy Miller, Michelle Tinch and Marilyn Upchurch. Each member received a certificate for a Raintree meeting meal of their choice.

Best Practices Chair Janet Johnson asked members who attend the Just in Time webinar on Sept. 25 to email their certificate to Elaine or herself.

Cardinal Crossroads Council Delegate Elaine Study reviewed the proposed changes to the Cardinal Crossroads Council standing rules. She will report the chapter's recommendations to the council standing rules committee.

Shirley asked members to keep Jennifer Wilson and her family in their prayers because of the passing of her stepmother.

Tip on Creating a Member Quilt: Connect each piece with a strong thread of commitment and loyalty.

Diane Sager led the Benediction, and the meeting was closed at 8:45 p.m.

The next Raintree meeting is October 16 at 6 p.m. at New Castle/Henry County REMC in New Castle.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Study, Secretary



Left: Jennifer Wilson, Cheryl Blair, Roxie Puckett, Janet Johnson, Juliann Barnes and Shirley New listen intently to the important information they are hearing. **Right:** Speaker Leslie Mathewson explains the key documents needed in estate planning.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECIPIENTS!



2024-25 Perfect Attendance Recipients from left: Cheryl Blair, Janet Johnson, Lois Cook, Leslie Mathewson, Mary Cordle, Roxie Puckett, Karen Johnson, Shirley New, Elaine Study, and Peggy Miller. Donna Collins was absent.



**POINTING THE WAY TO SUCCESS
MEMBERSHIP CONTEST WINNERS!**



Karen Johnson, Peggy Miller, Marilyn Upchurch, Cheryl Blair, Michelle Tinch

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAKE, BAKE AND BUY

Co-Chair Mary Cordle is helping our chapter get silent and live auction baskets ready for the Nov. 2 fundraiser.

If you don't have enough items for a complete basket, bring unused items and appropriate carrying containers or baskets to the October meeting. Bring value of items, too! We will determine which items fit together to make the best presentation for the event.

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chair Elaine Study reports the BIG PARTY is SAT., MAY 16, 2026 at the New Castle/Henry County REMC!!

All members are asked to be on the planning committee. Monthly Zoom meetings will be held on the first Tues. of the month. Look for the Zoom link in your email a few days before each meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS, KAREN!!

Celebrating ABWA Member Anniversaries



25 YEARS

LAURA HARBISON
National Member
Henderson, NV

LEIGH LYON
National Member
Sanford, FL

35 YEARS

CAROLYN BARRY
Trendsetter Chapter
Palm Desert, CA

30 YEARS

KAREN JOHNSON
Raintree Chapter
Huber Heights, OH

CAROLINE LECKIE
Palms of Edisonia Chapter
Fort Myers, FL

SUSAN MORELL
Mill Creek Chapter
Youngstown, OH

40 YEARS

DEBORAH BROWN
Columbia Triad Chapter
Columbia, SC

TAMERA MURRAY
Tipacon Charter Chapter
Farmington Hills, MI

ELENA NIGRO
Mill Creek Chapter
Youngstown, OH



ABWA

Screenshot from
the Just in Time
Webinar

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Discovering Raintree's Diamonds

Since 2026 marks Raintree's 60th anniversary, the Diamonds that have

RAINTREE CHAPTER SPONSORS 3 OTHER CHAPTERS

Raintree Chapter was more than 90 strong so National suggested we branch off and make a new chapter. Raintree Chapter sponsored the new formation of **Silver Dawn Chapter** which was chartered in August 1974. We have no pictures of the chartering to share.

We also sponsored and helped form a new Prime Time Chapter – **New Beginnings Chapter** on December 9, 2002 pictured below.



We then sponsored **Gem City Chapter** from the Day-



ton,
Ohio



Raintree members attending the chartering from left: Sharon Woodruff, Karen Johnson, Mary Cordle, Renae Gawith, Elaine Study, Peggy Miller, Rose Elliott, Pauline Hasty, Cheryl Blair and Shirley New.

Just In Time Webinar-9-25-25 Recap

By Cheryl Blair

Attendance Certificate on Member Platform-Under Manage Profile.

Anne O'Neill, National President reported SBMEF Board Goal was met. Anne advised Barb Sloan to serve as National Office Recruitment Specialist. A new position geared to support various methods of recruitment.

Elizabeth Johnson, Executive Director, announced ABWA's new logo and tag line will be revealed at the upcoming NWLC along with the date and location of the 2026 NWLC.

There will also be changes in the formation process. Elizabeth introduced Danna Gutierrez who will serve as ABWA's new Chapter Development Manager.

ABWA's Fall Membership Campaign: Sept. 1st to Nov. 30th "Turning a New Leaf". This is reflective of new leadership and pending changes.

Announcements: Spring Membership Campaign (3-1-25 to 7-31-25) resulted in 307 new members; details were reviewed on the "Top Secret" plan honoring Rene Street with more info being sent via email to members; ABW Day photos requested by National along with captions to be included in the next Achieve Newsletter. Elizabeth read the ABW Day Presidential Proclamation signed by Ronald Reagan.

Recognition of Inner Circle members along with Anniversary Celebrations of members and leagues. Names & photos of Top Ten Class of 2026 were recognized.

NWLC Updates-Michelle & Toby: If roommate is needed post on Team Board/if a room booked is not needed post on Team Board/possible tours will be posted on Team Board /program ads required by Oct.3/members need to sign up for standalone networking sessions/Kelly Swanson will be the opening session speaker/Top Ten breakfast tickets need to be purchased in advance/October 22 is the First Timer Zoom Event-60 First Times are currently registered.

JIT guest speaker was Dr. Kate Mason author of "Powerfully Likeable Women". Next Coffee Connection is October 15th. Most popular Apex classes were announced along with top Apex participating Chapters. Apex survey will be emailed to members. Drawing for Dell Latitude Laptop concluded the webinar.

ABWA's APEX CAMPUS



Highest Performing Leagues

- Bryan/College Station Charter Chapter – 56
- Oxon Hill Charter Chapter – 78
- Women Growing Together Express Network - 87

2025 Most Popular Courses

- Coaching for Daily Management
- Visual Management
- Change Management
- 3C Problem Solving



TURNING A NEW LEAF

A Fresh Season for Women in Business

This fall, ABWA is turning a new leaf with a NEW LOGO, slogan, and branding. There's no better time than now to get involved.

As a member of ABWA, you know the power of connection, growth, and support. Now, you can help someone else experience that same transformation.

Invite a colleague, friend, or fellow woman in business to join ABWA and start a new chapter in her professional journey. **When she joins, you both grow.**

New Connections.

New Opportunities.

New Momentum.

The new look of ABWA will be unveiled at the National Women's Leadership Conference November 12–15 in Portland, Maine.

Be one of the first members to proudly display the **NEW LOGO** with these two incentive options:

Level 1 – ABWA Pin with the NEW LOGO

One or more new members

Level 2 – ABWA Branded Tote

Three or more new members

Grand Prize Drawing – One complimentary registration to NWLC 2026*

Each member recruited is one entry into the grand prize drawing.

*Registration is transferrable to another member, it is not eligible to be used beyond 2026. The Fall Recruitment Campaign runs September 1–November 30. All referrals need to be submitted by November 30, 2025. All items will ship after Nov 30.



Just in Time Webinar information

from Executive Director Elizabeth Johnson

Just in Time webinar recording - If you were unable to join us 9/25, the recording of the webinar is now available on the National Resources page under "Achieve / Just in Time". It is accessible via YouTube, though you need the link to access it.

Certificate - Certificates are no longer generated for participation in the JIT webinars. Instead, your participation is automatically logged in your membership platform. You can see this under "Member Profile" and "Professional Development".

Accessibility to the Just in Time webinar - If you had difficulty logging in for the webinar, here are a few tips from Zoom.

1. Be sure to use your ABWA membership platform email to access Zoom. Zoom and Your-Membership are linked. In order to keep the meetings members only, it has to authenticate that you are in fact a member of ABWA. It does so by using your ABWA membership login email. (If you use a work Zoom or have a separate account other than your ABWA email attached to Zoom, you'll want to make sure you are not logged in under that account).

2. Make sure your ABWA membership is up to date. If your membership is expired, you will be unable to access the webinar (see #1 above).

3. A new link is set out for every webinar via Zoom. Be sure to keep that link, or better yet, add it as a calendar invite. If you are unable to find that email/link, contact the ABWA office and they will resend you the link for you. Your link is tied to your account so it will reflect in your records as having attended. The earlier you can request this link, the better, as our staff is working hard during the webinar itself.

Thank you for bearing with us while we adapt to the new YM/Zoom platform. This is our second webinar on the platform and while change can be difficult, the long-term pay off for the membership is there. By integrating the webinars with Zoom, we can easily confirm membership, and log your participation without the need for certificates.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SHARON WOODRUFF



NAME: Sharon Woodruff **YEARS IN ABWA:** 40

REASON I JOINED ABWA: Friendships

MY ABWA HIGHLIGHTS: Attending spring and national conferences

REASON I WILL CONTINUE MY ABWA MEMBERSHIP: Friendships and programs

INTERESTING INFO ABOUT ME: Retired from Ball State after 41 years. I was the Coordinator of Commencements from 1978 to 2011.

THIS IS HOW I USUALLY SPEND MY DAY: Reading, lunch with friends, time with family

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Minnetrista Museum and Gardens

MEMORABLE ABWA EXPERIENCE: The guest speakers, workshops and people I met at conferences

MEMORABLE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: Being with my 2 grandsons and family on trips to Florida

THINGS I COLLECT/LIKE TO DO: Bette Boop collectibles and visits to small towns for their history

FAVORITE QUOTE: "All is well with my soul." Bible verse

FAVORITE MOVIE: *White Christmas*

FAVORITE BOOK: Any book about John Wayne

FAVORITE SONG: "I Did it My Way" by Frank Sinatra

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SAY: LIFE IS GOOD!

Clearway

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Insurance Broker

Cheryl Blair

📞 765-749-9008

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Karen S. Johnson

Independent Beauty Consultant

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937-671-4026

ksj848@aol.com

Contact me for a complimentary facial



RAINTREE CHAPTER'S VISION STATEMENT

Raintree Chapter offers opportunities to support our members and the women in our community by helping them grow personally and professionally through leadership, networking, education, recognition and community enrichment.

ABWA Core Values

1. Selfless Leadership
2. Building Community
3. Value and Seek Diversity
4. Manage for Innovation and Excellence
5. Lifelong Learning
6. Focus on Facts and Own the Results
7. Choose to Make a Difference
8. Celebrate

Raintree's 2025-26 Executive Team



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.



Back: Secretary Elaine Study,
765-969-8602;

Treasurer Shirley New,
765-620-8271;

Front: Vice President Mary Cordle,
765-621-7594;
President Cheryl Blair,
765-749-9008

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 business or personal interests.
- As an ABWA member, I will not allow my actions, personal beliefs or convictions to alienate sponsors, members or prospective members at any level of the ABWA organization (local, regional or national).
- As an ABWA member, I will always treat members, the ABWA National Team, guests, vendors and sponsors with dignity and respect.

Cheryl Blair
Raintree Chapter President
ignitionspark1@gmail.com

Elaine Study
Newsletter Editor

studyelaine@yahoo.com



Raintree Chapter

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