



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

American Business Women's Association



AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Raintree Chapter

Aug. 2025 | Vol. 60, Issue 1

Raintree Rambler

**Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN**

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



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January 21 Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Contact **Lois Cook** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations or *make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. August 17.
- ◆ **765-524-4727 or loiscook49@gmail.com**
- ◆ Meeting at New Castle R.E.M.C.
- ◆ Networking 6:00-6:15
- ◆ Meeting starts at 6:15

**PROGRAM: Intro to our
60th Anniversary Year**

BRING:

- ◇ \$15 for meal
- ◇ \$24 for annual Raintree dues
- ◇ Pottery piece from July meeting for picture
- ◇ Completed Data Sheets to Mary



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Johnson—Aug. 19

Lois Cook—Aug. 22

Elaine Study—Aug. 30

Amy Bowling—Sept. 5

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

Mary Cordle—Aug

Cheryl Blair—Sept

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * Aug. 17—Raintree reservations needed
- * Aug. 20—Coffee Connections-1pm & 7 pm; See email from National
- * Aug. 21—Raintree meeting-6 pm; New Castle
- * Aug. 22-23—Summer Sizzler, Anderson
- * Sept. 18—Raintree Meeting-6 pm; Muncie
- * Sept. 25—Just In Time webinar—7 pm; need registered via email from National
- * Oct. 1—Muncie on the Move-6:45 am; registration needed—See Cheryl Blair; Muncie
- * Oct. 3—New Castle Chamber Networking for Women-8:30 am; registration needed, See Elaine Study; New Castle
- * Oct. 16—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; New Castle
- * Oct. 25—Cardinal Crossroads Honors Day Meeting; need reservation to Amy Elberfeld
- * Nov. 1—Make, Bake, and Buy; Ft. Wayne



"Introduction to our 60th Anniversary Year."

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Henry County REMC – Conference Room
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	7:00 PM

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 ignitionspark1@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.abwa-raintree.com>

We will be discussing the plans that the officers and committee chairs have put together for our 60th Anniversary year. This would include how to grow our membership and keep new members and what actions to take to help this special year be a great year to celebrate our chapter.

Event cost is \$15 for members and guests, cost includes dinner). Noneating attendees meeting cost \$5.00. Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, August 17th 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 August 17 if you are not attending.

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



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American Business Women's Association



Scoop Blair Reporting

“Pottery, Painting, Networking, Snacks and Artistic Actions” all define Raintree’s July “On the Road” meeting” ...if you missed it do not worry because at our upcoming August meeting the various completed pottery pieces will be on display!!! Be prepared to take photos of these “one of a kind” creations.

August launches Raintree’s 60th Anniversary Year!!! The traditional gem recognizing a 60th Anniversary milestone is a “diamond”. Diamonds are known for their exceptional “hardness” in withstanding the “test of time”. Wait a minute. Does that sound like our Raintree Chapter as we start today to plan for tomorrow?

But wait there’s more. Diamonds are also known for their “brilliance” and “sparkling” lure to those who stand in the everlasting glow of promised longevity and prosperity. We all know “Diamonds are Forever” as shown by the diamond’s presence in the ongoing “Diamond Jubilee” tradition which celebrates a particular event or anniversary.

Diamonds last so long because they are “durable” and full of ongoing “energy” with a unique “network” of participating crystals. These strong crystals combine their strengths and uniqueness to create an everlasting gem. “Quality” and “value” are the factors which makes the “diamond” stand out as a “gem” for years to come.

Think about it. The many characteristics which make up a “diamond” also make up why our Raintree Chapter is preparing to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. We have stood the “test of time”. We continue to shine with “brilliance” and “energy”. We are “durable”. We are made up of a unique “network” of members. We combine our talents to add “quality” and “value” to each meeting ensuring the future of our “Raintree Chapter” for years to come.

Yes, indeed...” Diamonds are Forever” and so is our “Raintree Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association!!!

Cheryl Blair, Raintree President



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Best Practices Chair Janet Johnson proudly displays the completed Best Practices in League Management Binder ready to mail to National. This submission shows Raintree has met the requirements for this award.



August 2025 Meeting Agenda



ABWA Raintree Chapter Meeting Agenda August 21, 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** Planning For the New Year
- Business Meeting:
- Mary's "Misc Moment"
 - Secretary Minutes-May, June & July
 - Treasurers Report-May, June & July/500 Event Final Report
- New Business:
- Proposed 2025/2026 Budget-Shirley New
 - Raintree Standing Rules Proposed Updates-Elaine Study
 - Introduction of New Committee Chairs-Cheryl Blair
 - Gap Analysis Report-Shirley New
 - Membership Moment-Peggy Miller
 - "Muncie on the Move" Muncie Chamber Report
 - "Chamber Network for Women" New Castle Chamber Report
 - Audit Committee-Lois Cook
 - Make, Bake & Buy-Mary Cordle
 - National Dues-Automatic Renewal (\$125)
 - Raintree Dues-Last Day to Pay Sept. 1 (\$24)
 - Raintree Brochure-Update National Dues to \$125
- Old Business:
- Habitat for Humanity
 - Data Sheet-Mary Cordle
 - Member Survey
 - DVP Luncheon Report-Shirley New
 - NWLC (Nov. 12-15) Portland Maine
 - Raintree "60th" Anniversary celebration-Elaine Study
 - Membership "Pointing the Way to Success" contest- Peggy Miller
 - Best Practices-Janet Johnson
 - Council Report-Elaine Study

Reminder: September 18th Meeting will be in Muncie

50/50 Diane Sager

"Tip on Creating a Member Quilt"- "Create a History to reflect the "patterns" of growth from the past and into the future"

8:15PM Benediction



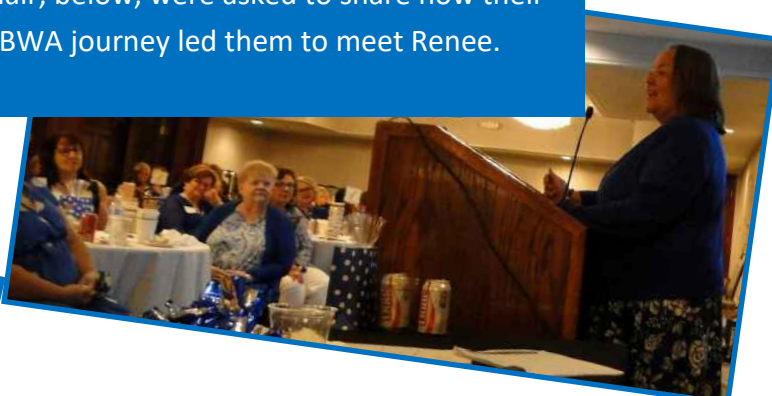
Members on the Move



DVP Luncheon

On July 12, 2025, members of District V and guests gathered at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, MI, to celebrate their District V Vice President Renee Clement. Renee, shown in the picture on the left, was honored with genuine praise, gifts, laughter and fellowship of District V associates, her fellow National Board colleagues and close family members.

Shirley New, left, Elaine Study, right, & Cheryl Blair, below, were asked to share how their ABWA journey led them to meet Renee.



Raintree members attending the celebration are Karen Johnson, Mary Cordle, Cheryl Blair, Elaine Study, Shirley New and Peggy Miller. Attendees were asked to wear royal blue, Renee's campaign color.



DVP Luncheon (con't)



Cardinal Crossroads Council members proudly pose with their 2024-25 District V Vice President Renee Clement.

Renee was joined in Michigan by her son Levi and husband Frank.



Quad chairs for the 2024-25 District VP Luncheon are Shirley New, Paula Clutter, Vicki Vincent and Marcia Green.

Secretary's Report

July 17, 2025

Raintree Chapter's 6 p.m. On-the-Road meeting was held at Made in Muncie Pottery located in downtown Muncie, IN. Eleven members and three guests attended this July 17, 2025, meeting of the Raintree Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

Pottery waitress Michele explained the sequence of the evening: pick the piece of pottery you want to paint, choose the paint colors, then begin painting after your paints have been delivered to you. Pottery will be fired later and pottery waitress Michele will contact Shirley when pieces are ready to be picked up.

Members in attendance were Cheryl Blair, Mary Cordle, Donna Collins, Lois Cook, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Elaine Study, Michelle Tinch, Jennifer Wilson, Leslie Mathewson and Roxie Puckett. Guests included Maxann Jones, Maggie Oliphant and Alexis Dishman.

Everyone brought some food to share.

For the networking Mary Cordle asked everyone to explain why they chose their specific pottery piece to paint after introducing themselves.

Michelle Tinch, professional development committee chair, presented Peggy Miller with a \$615 check from the Education Fund as a reimbursement for 2024 National Women's Leadership Conference registration.

Treasurer Shirley New presented checks to Woman of the Year Cheryl Blair and Top Ten Nominee Mary Cordle to pay for their 2025 National Conference registration.

President Cheryl Blair shared the following special announcements:

Member Interest Surveys: Need to be completed and returned to Cheryl Blair via email or in person ASAP! If you need a copy of the form, please see Cheryl. This information will be used in planning for next year.

Member Data Sheets: Were emailed to members on June 1st. If you have not completed yours, please do so and email to Mary Cordle or bring to the August meeting.

Membership: "Pointing the Way to Success Card" please give to your team captain tonight for final point tally. Winning team to be announced at Raintree's August meeting.

Cardinal Crossroads Council: Next meeting is July 26th at REMC. RSVP is due by July 20th to Amy Elberfeld, text 513-260-2696 or aelberfeld109@gmail.com Cost: meeting + food = \$15. Meeting only \$5. Pay at the meeting.

ABWA Queen City Chapter: On August 5th they will be celebrating their 1st year anniversary. If you would like to attend, please contact Shirley New (several members have already signed up.) Networking begins at 5:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 is meeting time frame.

Summer Sizzler: August 22-23, Anderson, IN. Registration deadline is July 19, 2025. Raintree will be donating 2 auction baskets. Coffee Creations & Garden Party are the themes. Basket donations to be collected tonight and given to Cheryl for final basket preparation.

Coffee Connections: August 20th—Registration available on ABWA Platform. This is open to new members and current members as well.

Make, Bake, and Buy: October 31st to Nov. 1st-Fort Wayne. The planning process and committee are already working on this event. If interested in helping on the committee see this year's co-chair Mary Cordle.

2nd Raintree Combined Meeting of incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairs: August 7th at Shirley's office. 5:30 p.m.

The next Raintree meeting is August 21st at 6 p.m. at REMC in New Castle.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Study, Secretary

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July Meeting Pictures



July On the Road meeting at Made In Muncie Pottery. Members and guests chose their pottery piece and paints, painted, then displayed their final project. Pieces were fired later. Members are to bring pieces to the August meeting for all to enjoy.



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.

Your most frequently
used tool should be
your imagination,
not your memory.

CARDINAL CROSSROADS COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORT

By Elaine Study, Council Delegate

Council Chair Shirley New welcomed 20 members & one guest to the Cardinal Crossroads Council meeting.

Raintree attendees: Shirley New, Mary Cordle, Lois Cook, Elaine Study, Peggy Miller and Cheryl Blair

Brunch was provided by Dawn Pokorny, Raintree Chapter.

Amy Elberfeld, Council Vice Chair, presented networking topic: What snacks and drinks do you take on a road trip?

Speaker Tisha Gierhart, Shafer Leadership Academy spoke on Bridging the Generational Gap.

After chapter reports District V Vice President Renee Clement shared National Updates.

Standing Rules Committee-Chair Elaine

Study, Amy Elberfeld & Cheryl Swarts; requested delegates to ask league members for proposed changes to standing rules & submit to Elaine by Sept. 20. The committee will prepare proposed changes for presentation at Oct. 25 council meeting.

2025 Audit Committee: Chair Lois Cook, Debbie DeKater, Karen Bradburn

2025 Nominating Committee: Chair Roberta Taylor, Jaime Wilsey Heckman, Marcia Gabbert

Honors Day—October 25 meeting. Woman of the Year, Top Ten Nominee and Protégé Recipients from each league are invited to attend.

Council Holiday Party-December 6, 2025, at Rob's Restaurant, Brookville, OH; 10 a.m.--noon.

Discovering Raintree's Diamonds

Since 2026 marks Raintree's 60th anniversary, the Diamonds that have contributed to Raintree's strength and durability will be highlighted monthly.



- ◇ Raintree Chapter was chartered in May 1966
- ◇ Rose City Chapter, Richmond, IN, was the sponsoring league
- ◇ Thirteen women formed the nucleus of Raintree Chapter: Georgia Abrams, Olive Dashiell, Lily Hicks, Sara Hones Vollmer, Ester Ray, Mary Werking, Ruth Scott, Kathleen Coursen, Juanita Fennrill, Louise Johnson, Charlotte Profitt, Cleo Schroth, and Dorothy Strohm

Members on the Move

Chamber Network for Women

Look who Shirley New and Elaine Study found at the August New Castle Chamber Network for Women—former Raintree member Tammy Nelson! She is the director at the New Castle Glen Oaks Health Campus where the meeting was held.

Next meeting is October 3. Contact Shirley or Elaine for more details regarding attending.



Muncie on the Move

Representing ABWA at the early morning August Muncie Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast known as Muncie on the Move are Cheryl Blair and Mary Cordle.



Let Cheryl or Mary know if you are interested in going to the October event with them.



Members on the Move

Queen City Chapter's 1st Anniversary



Queen City President Amy Elberfeld, above, welcomes attendees to their 1st anniversary meeting.



Raintree guests Lois Cook, Cheryl Blair, Peggy Miller and Shirley New pose with Queen City Chapter members.



Register to Attend!

Live & Silent Auctions *hosted by*

American Business Women's Association
Raintree Chapter & Women of Magnitude Express Network
to benefit league education fund

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025

Parkview Field Suite Level Lounge
1301 Ewing St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Tin Caps "Silver" Parking lot
Corner of Brackenridge & Ewing St.
Enter main ballpark gates & take
elevator or stairs to 2nd floor.

TICKETS

TICKET PRICES

\$35 before Thursday, Oct. 8, 2025 \$45
after Thursday, Oct. 9 to Oct. 15



Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/make-bake-and-buy-2025-tickets-1545289054159?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

venmo

AUCTION ITEMS

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Needed by October 24

To donate contact

Cheryl Blair, 756-749-9008

ignitionspark1@gmail.com

10 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

Doors open for pre-auction browsing

1st round silent auctions

Lunch served with cash bar available

Payment is collected, event ends

HOTEL ROOMS

GROUP RATE-Oct. 31, 2025

Hampton Inn & Suites

223 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne

\$147 + tax--2 queen beds

Rate good until Oct. 16, 2025

260-247-6915 Use code

American Business Women's Assoc.

Check in after 3 pm; check out before 11 am

Booking Link:

<https://group.hamptoninn.com/xz46jw>

Special Parking Arrangements

Hotel will provide complimentary daily parking (\$15 daily value)

Seating is assigned.

Questions? Contact Shirley

New wcsanew@hrtc.net

To pay by check, make check payable to "ABWA-Women" then mail check & this section to Jessica Abbott; 10330 Tidewater Trail; Ft Wayne, IN 46845

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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
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Elaine Study
Newsletter Editor

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Raintree Chapter

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