



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

American Business Women's Association



Sept. 2025 | Vol. 60, Issue 2

Raintree Rambler

**Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN**

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



Inside this issue:

February Meeting Flyer	2
Scoop Blair Reporting	3
Aug. Meeting Agenda	4
Members on the Move	5-7, 13
Secretary's Report	8-9
Committee Reports	10
Discovering Raintree's Diamonds	11
Make, Bake & Buy	14

September 18 Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Contact **Lois Cook** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations or *make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. September 14.
- ◆ **765-524-4727 or loiscook49@gmail.com**
- ◆ Meeting at A Team Party Parlor, Muncie
- ◆ Networking 6:00-6:15
- ◆ Meeting starts at 6:15

PROGRAM: Planning for the future with legal Documents with Leslie Mathewson

BRING:

- ◆ \$15 for meal

Perfect Attendance Recipients will be treated with a free meal!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Donna Collins—Sept. 20

Janet Johnson—Sept. 27

Michelle Tinch—Oct. 1

Marilyn Upchurch—Oct. 2

Natasha Hamilton—Oct. 5

Roxie Puckett—Oct. 8

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

Lisa Loveless—Oct.

Amy Bowling—Oct.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * 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. 15—Coffee Connections; 1 pm or 7 pm
- * 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
- * Nov. 12-15—National Women's Leadership Conference
- * Nov. 20—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; Muncie
- * Dec. 6—Cardinal Crossroads Holiday Party, Brookville, OH



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>

"Planning for the Future with Legal Documents"

Thursday, September 18, 2025

A Team Party Parlor

4000 N. Broadway Ave., Muncie IN 47303

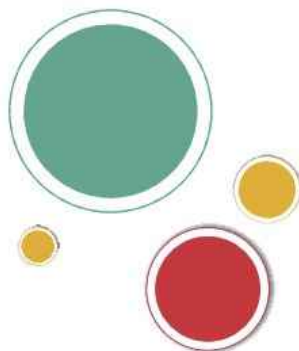
Registration	6:00-6:15 PM
Dinner	6:15 PM
Networking & Introductions	6:45 PM
Business Meeting	7:30 PM

Our member, Leslie Mathewson, will be discussion estate planning documents, such as Wills and Trust. She will also be addressing other documents that may be beneficial to you, such as Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives. These documents are not only beneficial for you but for your family and businesses.

Event cost is \$15 for members and guests, cost includes dinner). Noneating attendees meeting cost \$5.00. Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, September 14th 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 September 14 if you are not attending.

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

RAINTREE CHAPTER



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

American Business Women's Association



Scoop Blair Reporting

“See you in September” who could forget this song originally sang by “The Tempos” in 1959 and later by the “The Happenings” in 1966. The same year which the Raintree Chapter was founded!!! Coincidental??? I don’t think so..just a little reminder of Raintree’s 60th Anniversary Celebration coming up in 2026!!!

September is all about a season of enticing beauty, a season of transition, a season of energized breezes and a season of relaxation before the rush of the pending holiday happenings. September also offers a sense of renewal. A time to enjoy the last lingering days of summer combined with the many luscious aromas of Autumn.

As Raintree President I have found the “thrills” that September offers also provides all of us with the perfect opportunity to “rediscover” our own membership involvement:

Beauty: Rejoicing in the “Friendship” Membership Offers

Transition: Taking on a new “Committee” Position

Energized Breezes: Sharing the “Excitement” of Belonging

Relaxation: Enjoying the Many Moments of “Me Time”

Renewal: Slowing Down and Savoring the “Moment”

“See You in September” when we embrace this very special time of the year together with “appreciation” and “anticipation” of celebrating Raintree’s 60th Anniversary!!!

Cheryl Blair

Raintree Chapter President

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY!!

Looking for Raintree meeting sponsors

- ⇒ Provide promotional materials for attendees
- ⇒ 5 minute talk on business or any topic
- ⇒ Meal provided with \$50 fee
- ⇒ Contact Treasurer Shirley New to make arrangements.

September 2025 Meeting Agenda



ABWA Raintree Chapter Meeting Agenda Sept. 18, 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-August
 - Treasurers Report-May, June, July, August/500 Event Final Report
 - New Business:
 - Proposed 2025/2026 Budget-Shirley New
 - Audit Committee-Lois Cook
 - Perfect Attendance Recognition-Peggy Miller
 - Membership Moment-Orientation Video-Peggy Miller
 - Member Handbook-Inserts-Mary Cordle
 - Newsletter-Elaine Study
 - ABW Day Sept. 22nd-See Flyer
 - Social Event Planning-Survey Completion Today
 - Just in Time Webinar-Sept. 25th 7PM EST
 - APEX Complimentary Class-Daily Accountability Process (Sept 2nd-30th) 45 days to complete
 - Coffee Connections-Oct. 15th-1PM EST or 7PM EST
 - Old Business:
 - Make, Bake & Buy (Oct 31st-Nov. 1st) Mary Cordle
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Data Sheet-Mary Cordle
 - Member Survey
 - 60th Anniversary Quilt Square
 - Summer Sizzler 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
- 50/50 Diane Sager
- "Tip on Creating a Member Quilt"- "Connect Each Piece With a Strong Thread of Commitment and Loyalty"
- 8:15PM** Benediction



Members on the Move

FRIDAY NIGHT SUMMER SIZZLER

Network. Relax. Sizzle.

On Aug. 22, Peggy Miller & Elaine Study welcomed all to Network. Relax. Sizzle. where 42 ABWA members & guests laughed, shared stories, ate, enjoyed each other and won door prizes.



Crayon Partners Mary Gantt and Kay Fittes got to know each other much better!



Members on the Move

Saturday Summer Sizzler

Beautiful. Brilliant. Blooming.



Co-chair Shirley New
and Chair Andrea Moore



Debbie de Kater, seated, 2025 H.E.A.R.T.
Award winner is with past winners.



Karen Johnson, Raintree Chapter, talks with
Kathy Eller, Tu'Ya Chapter, Oklahoma.



Current national Board Officers: Vice President Kim Stengel, President Anne O'Neill, District V Vice President Renee Clement, District 3 Vice Pres. Eileen Caspers, District 2 Vice Pres. Kristena Hackett



Raintree members Michelle Tinch, Guest Melissa Jeffries, Shirley New, Peggy Miller, Lois Cook, Diana Sager, Elaine Study, Karen Johnson, Mary Cordle. (Cheryl Blair was busy making a purchase from a vendor.)

Members on the Move

Saturday Summer Sizzler

Cardinal
Crossroads
Council
Members
from all seven
council
leagues



Speakers Cheryl Blair, Renee Clement and Mary Ceccanese incorporated the theme into their talk. Cheryl designed the table centerpieces with her talk in mind.



Hanging out at Shirley's house after Sizzler.



Fronzie Shriner (black shirt) was named Cardinal Crossroads Council Woman of the Year. She is pictured with past winners.

Secretary's Report

August 21, 2025

The August 21 meeting of the ABWA Raintree Chapter was held at the New Castle/Henry County REMC. Seventeen members attended. They included Cheryl Blair, Amy Bowling, Donna Collins, Lois Cook, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Dawn Pokorny, Roxie Puckett, Diane Sager, Elaine Study, Michelle Tinch, Marilyn Upchurch and Sharon Woodruff.

President Cheryl Blair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Lois Cook led the Invocation, pledge, ABWA mission statement and Raintree's vision statement. Member and caterer Dawn Pokorny provided the meal.

For the **networking** event, Mary Cordle distributed sheets with each member's name along with a list of adjectives. As the sheets were passed around the room, words describing each member were added to the growing list of personal adjectives. Members shared a word that either surprised them or described them the most.

Vice President Mary Cordle presented outgoing president Cheryl Blair with some vintage jewelry as a thank you from Raintree Chapter.

Secretary Elaine Study reported the May, June and July minutes had been printed in past newsletters. There were no additions or corrections.

Treasurer Shirley New reported because of computer difficulties the May, June and July treasurer's reports along with the final Indy 500 souvenir booth profit statement will be available at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Proposed 2025/2026 **budget** will be discussed at the September meeting.

Proposed updates to the **2025-26 Raintree Standing Rules** had been discussed at the

July meeting of the incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairs, then emailed to members for review. Committee member Elaine Study read the proposed changes to the group. Lois Cook moved that the proposed changes along with the ABWA Proud Code of Conduct and ABWA Core Values be accepted. Peggy Miller seconded the motion which passed.

2025-26 Committee Chairs were introduced by President Cheryl Blair. Cheryl asked members to contact her to verify the committee they want to participate on.

Shirley New described how the June meeting of the incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairs completed the **Gap Analysis**. A printed copy of the results were given to each member which Shirley reviewed.

Raintree's goals for the coming year are:

Publish a monthly meeting agenda in every newsletter

Orientations of new members will be completed within 1 month of joining

Raintree website will be updated monthly

Meeting locations will alternate between New Castle and Muncie

Membership chair Peggy Miller will present a **"Membership Moment"** at each meeting. Unfortunately, the newly created member orientation video could not be shown because of technical issues.

Mary Cordle and Cheryl Blair reported on attending the August **"Muncie on the Move"** Chamber of Commerce breakfast. They decided to spend \$5 to have 30 seconds to talk to the group about ABWA. They purposely decided to be the last of the groups to speak so attendees would remember what they said. They plan on attending the Oct. 1 meeting.

Elaine Study and Shirley New attended the August New Castle-Henry County Chamber of Commerce **"Chamber Network for Women."** They enjoyed a local speaker and chatting with former member Tammy Nelson. Members are welcome to join them at the Oct. 3 breakfast meeting.

Audit Committee Chair Lois Cook will present her committee's findings at the next meeting.

Make, Bake and Buy co-chair Mary Cordle encouraged members to join a committee to help with one of our major fundraisers. The live and silent auction event will be held at Fort Wayne on Nov. 1. Printed registration forms were available. Mary also reminded members to shop sale items at local stores to create auction baskets for the fundraiser.

President Cheryl explained ABWA National annual dues of \$125 will now have an automatic renewal unless you go onto the Your Membership portal and specifically change your option. Since these dues have been increased, please update any Raintree brochures you still have to \$125 before handing to prospective members. She also reminded members the last day to be a current Raintree member by paying your annual \$24 dues is Sept. 1.

(Con't. on next page)



Secretary's Report

August 21, 2025 (con't. from previous page)

OLD BUSINESS

Cheryl learned our liaison Gene for the **Habitat for Humanity**, had not advised us of the dedication of the new habitat house like he had promised. Cheryl read his email apologizing for his oversight and promised he would let us know of a future build. Cheryl informed him we were also interested in being part of a woman's build. Raintree is interested in continuing our partnership by providing refreshments at another build.

Completed Raintree **Data Sheets** are to be given to Mary Cordle. She will be giving you a call if she does not have your completed sheet.

Cheryl Blair also reminded members to get their completed **Member Interest Surveys** to her ASAP.

DVP Luncheon Quad Chair Shirley New reported the July event that honored District V Vice President Renee Clement went well. Survey results will be reviewed, and planning will begin for next year's event which is a combined effort of our Cardinal Crossroads Council and Eastern Michigan Council.

The **National Women's Leadership Conference** will be held in Portland, ME from Nov. 12-15. Cheryl reminded the group early bird registration will end on Sept. 1.

Raintree's 60th anniversary celebration chair Elaine Study welcomed all members

to the first planning meeting on Sept. 9 at 7 pm. A Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting. Cheryl reminded any member who has not given her their quilt pieces from last year needs to do so immediately because she plans on having the quilt on display at our 60th anniversary celebration in May.

Newsletter Chair Elaine Study verified that members had received this month's newsletter via email. She needs committee members to help gather information and write articles. She encouraged all committee chairs to send her updates to be published. "Members on the Move" is a new feature that highlights members attending other meetings. Please send her pictures and articles for this column. Anyone wanting to advertise needs to electronically send Elaine a business card, then pay treasurer Shirley New \$15 for the year.

Membership Chair Peggy Miller had planned on announcing the winning team for last year's **"Pointing the Way to Success" contest**. However, since team leaders had not reported their total reports, the announcement will be delayed until next month.

Best Practices Chair Janet Johnson brought Raintree's copy of the Best Practices binder that had been submitted for all to view. She encouraged members to join her committee to gather information for next year's Best Practices submission.

Cardinal Crossroads Council Delegate Elaine Study reported the last council meeting was held in July. See the current newsletter for her meeting report. The council standing rules need to be reviewed. She will email them with proposed changes to members in the next few days. Members are asked to review the changes and respond to Elaine. Proposed changes will be reviewed at the Sept. Raintree meeting.

Peggy Miller reported that a group of members attended the first anniversary meeting of the Queen City Chapter in Cincinnati. The Gem City members were very appreciative of their Hoosier guests!

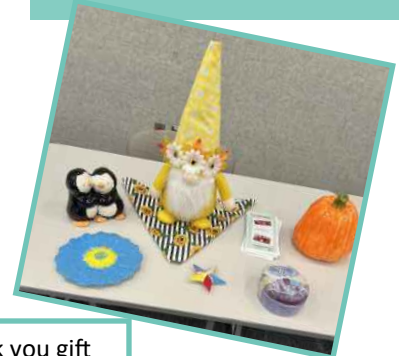
Summer Sizzler will be held this weekend. Cheryl Blair will bring the two silent auction baskets members contributed to.

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

Lois led the Benediction and the meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.

The next Raintree meeting is September 18 at 6 p.m. at A Team Party Parlor, Muncie.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Study, Secretary



Left: Outgoing President Cheryl Blair displays her thank you gift from the chapter. **Right:** Some examples of July's painted pottery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOTIFICATION

Chair Donna Collins asks for you to contact her at 765-623-9383 by phone or text OR donnamcollins59@yahoo.com with all news to share such as:

- Family celebrations—graduations, weddings, anniversaries
- Announcements of deaths of family members or past or present chapter members
- Positive work announcements

Donna will share your information with the rest of the chapter.



NEWSLETTER

BUSINESS CARD ADS NEEDED

Editor Elaine Study asks for anyone who wishes to advertise in the remaining newsletter editions to email their business cards immediately to her at studyelaine@yahoo.com.

The \$15 fee is to be paid to Treasurer Shirley New.



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'S NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- ◇ **Top Ten Business Women**
- ◇ Patty Harding—1975
- ◇ Shirley New—2022
- ◇ **The American Business Woman**
- ◇ Wendy Wilker—2013
- ◇ **District V Vice President**
- ◇ Shirley New—2003-2004
- ◇ Linda Wentz—2007-2008
- ◇ Cheryl Blair—2019-2021
- ◇ **National Secretary/Treasurer**
- ◇ Cheryl Blair—2021-2022
- ◇ **National President**
- ◇ Cheryl Blair—2022-2023



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Important Automatic Renewal Information from ABWA National

Please note, that if you paid your national dues by credit card, you are automatically enrolled in autorenewal. Your credit card will be charged a year from today. You will receive reminders prior to the renewal date.

To unenroll from autorenewal, simply login to the member portal. Under "Payments & History", go to the Membership tab. Then select the option to turn off autorenewal.

If you have any questions about your membership or benefits, please don't hesitate to reach out - we are here to help.

Thank you for your continued involvement in ABWA. We look forward to supporting you in the year ahead!

Managing Your Auto-Renewal Preferences:

You are always in control. To opt out of auto-renewal at any time:

1. Log into the Member Portal
2. Click **Payments & History**
3. Go to the **Membership** tab
4. Select the option to **Turn Off Auto-Renewal**

Rest assured, you will receive multiple reminders before any changes are made.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the ABWA National Office at 913-732-5100.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and membership.

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth H. Johnson, CAE

Executive Director

Clearway 

INSURANCE ADVISORS

11385 Montgomery Rd. STE 240
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Independent Life, Health and Medicare
Insurance Broker

Cheryl Blair

765-749-9008

cblair@clearwayinsuranceadvisors.com



Members on the Move

Nora wins Indiana State Fair Honors

Nora Hamilton, 15, of New Castle, received top honors at the 2025 Indiana State fair competition this summer.

Nora is a daughter of Natasha and Zach Hamilton. She is a Henry County 4-H member and has participated in 4-H Youth Development Program for seven years.

On Aug. 2, Nora earned Champion in Senior Division Demonstration. Nora's demonstration presentation was how to pack a suitcase for her "Cases For A Cause" incentive. "Cases For A Cause" helps children that are placed in the foster care system.

Nora also earned the First Place (Blue Ribbon) Honor in Public Speaking on Aug. 9 with her speech titled "Independence and Self-Confidence: My 4-H Journey."



Article and pictures courtesy of The Courier Times.





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.**

10 a.m.

Doors open for pre-auction browsing

10:30 a.m.

1st round silent auctions

11:30 a.m.

Lunch served with cash bar available

2:00 p.m.

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)

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

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
Raintree Chapter President
ignitionspark1@gmail.com

Elaine Study
Newsletter Editor

studyelaine@yahoo.com



Raintree Chapter

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<http://abwa-raintree.com>



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