



Mar. 2026 | Vol. 60, Issue 8

Raintree Rambler

Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN

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



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March 19 Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Contact **Shirley New** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations or *make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. March 15.
- ◆ **765-620-8271** or **wcsanew@hrtc.net**
- ◆ Meeting at MUNCIE: A Team Party Parlor
- ◆ Networking 6:00-6:15
- ◆ Meeting starts at 6:15

PROGRAM: Kayla Kreigh with Ruoff Mortgage

BRING:

- ◇ \$15 for meal
- ◇ Guests, guests and more guests!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

No March

Shirley New-April 18

Cheryl Blair-April 28

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

**Nancy Brown—Mar—10
yrs**

Peggy Miller—Mar—43 yrs

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * Mar 1-May 31—Spring Membership Campaign
- * Mar 2-31—Apex Course: Tracking Agile Kanban
- * Mar. 12—District V VP Zoom; 7 pm see ABWA-District V Members Only Facebook page
- * Mar. 19—Raintree meeting; 6 pm; Muncie
- * Mar. 27-28—Virtual Spring Conference
- * Apr. 7—60th Anniversary Zoom; 7 pm
- * Apr. 16—Raintree meeting; 6 pm New Castle
- * Apr. 25—Cardinal Crossroads Council 10 am
- * Apr. 30—Just in Time webinar
- * MAY 16, 2026—RAINTREE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!! 10-3, NewCastle
- * May 24—Indy 500 Fundraising Booth
- * July 10 & 11—DVP Luncheon
- * Sept 29-Oct 3—National Women's Leadership Conference
- * Nov. 6, 7—Make, Bake and Buy

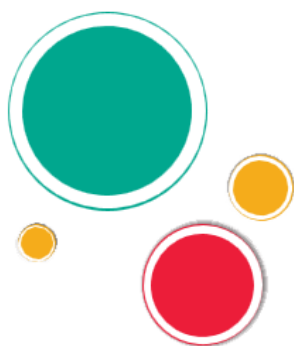


Kayla Kreigh with Ruoff Mortgage

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-aintree.com>

RAINTREE CHAPTER



Thursday, March 19, 2026
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

Kayla Kreigh with Ruoff Mortgage will be our speaker. Kayla will discuss the current mortgage rates and how that is impacting real estate sales. She will also give us information on pre-approvals of mortgage, what actions can be done to help improve your credit and give us tips and pointers as to mortgage in the current economic climate.

Event cost is \$15 for members and guests, cost includes dinner). Noneating attendees meeting cost \$5.00. Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, March 15, by phone, text or email to guarantee their reservation to Shirley New at 765-620-8271 wcsanew@hrtc.net. Members – you have auto reservation – please cancel by March 15 if you are not attending.



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.
 American Business Women's Association



Scoop Blair Reporting

March Madness, St. Patrick's Day, Spring's Arrival and the elections of Raintree's New Executive Officers...what do these March monumental moments all have in common? Well, let me explain:

Starting with "March Madness"... an annual event that elevates the game of College Basketball. The excitement builds as teams earn a spot in the "Sweet Sixteen" then move onto the elusive "Elite Eight". Next forging their way into the "Final Four" and entry into the "NCAA Championship Game". This is a time when "leadership" and "teamwork" combine to create success....and this is the common factor which being a member of Raintree represents!!!

Moving onto St. Patrick's Day... a time to celebrate the "luck of the Irish" by wearing green, displaying shamrocks, eating and drinking with friends and family. Remembering just how "lucky and blessed" we are as the day of celebration kicks off....and this is the common factor which being a member of Raintree represents!!!

Next comes the arrival of Spring...a time of morning showers followed by emerging flowers, trees budding and animals returning from their Winter slumber. Spring always symbolizes a time of renewed commitment to increased outside activity, a promise of the best is yet to come and a perfect opportunity for "personal growth"...and this is the common factor which being a member of Raintree represents!!

Last, but certainly not least is the March elections of Raintree's new Executive Officers. The Nominating Committee works to provide a slate of candidates within our membership. These candidates are given the ongoing opportunity to experience: "leadership & teamwork", to feel "lucky & blessed" and expand their "personal growth"!!! I am so happy I said "yes" 2 years ago when the Nominating Committee contacted me!!! This same "Journey of a Lifetime" can be yours too....just say yes!!!

Cheryl Blair
Raintree Chapter President



Scoop Blair
covering a
local story

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



Karen S. Johnson

Independent Beauty Consultant

7161 Saffron Drive
Huber Heights, OH 45424

937-233-6490

937-671-4026

ksj848@aol.com

Contact me for a complimentary facial



March 2026 Meeting Agenda



ABWA Raintree Chapter Meeting Agenda March 19, 2026

- 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-Kayla Kreigh-Ruoff Mortgage
- 7:45PM** Business Meeting
 Secretary Minutes-February/Perfect Attendance
 Treasurers Report-January & February
- New Business:**
 Woman of the Year Presentation-Cheryl Blair
 Nominating Committee Report-Donna Collins
 Just in Time Webinar-April 30
 Apex Campus Complimentary Course-Tracking Agile Kanban (March 2-31)
- Old Business:**
 Impact Scholarship & Outright Grant Update-Leslie Mathewson
 Habitat for Humanity Update-Cheryl Blair
 Spring Membership Campaign March 1-May 31- Peggy Miller
 March 27-28-Virtual Spring Conf.
 Indy 500 Race Booth Volunteers (May 24) Diane Sager & Shirley New
 DVP Luncheon (July 10-11)
 National Women Leadership Conference (Sept 29-Oct 3-Sugarland, TX)
 Make, Bake & Buy-Mary Cordle
 Summer Sizzler-Shirley New
 Raintree "60th" Anniversary celebration May 16th-Elaine Study
 Best Practices-Janet Johnson
 Council Report-Donna Collins
- 50/50** Diane Sager
- "Tip on Creating a Member Quilt"- Strong Fabric Creates a Strong Sense of Past Reflections**
- 8:15PM** Benediction

Members on the Move

SHARON KEEPS BUSY!

Sharon Woodruff spends much of her time dog-sitting for her grand dog Cooper. Last month Sharon and Cooper spent lots of time together while Cooper's parents were away taking a cruise. Cooper loves chasing and retrieving balls.



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS



Mary Cordle, front, and other Berkshire Hathaway agents helped sort and prepare food for families in need in the Muncie area. They spent the day volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Secretary's Report

February 19, 2026

Raintree Chapter of the American Business Women's Association met on February 19, 2026, at the Henry County REMC. Twelve members and one guest were in attendance. Members included Cheryl Blair, Donna Collins, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Roxie Puckett, Elaine Study, Michelle Tinch, and Sharon Woodruff. Chris Carroll was the guest.

At 6:15 p.m. President Cheryl Blair called the meeting to order. Mary Cordle led the Invocation, Pledge, ABWA mission statement and Raintree's vision statement. Member Dawn Pokorny provided the evening meal.

For the **networking event**, Mary Cordle asked the group to share "When I'm not working you can find me _____."

PROGRAM: Program Chair Leslie Mathewson introduced this month's speaker **Chris Carroll with Manageably**. Chris explained his company helps businesses run their social media or he trains someone to be the on-site social media person. Chris advised to have a backup administrator for any social media business page. If your group creates a Facebook event, you should post it to your personal page then share it to the local group page for more people to view it.

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

Treasurer Shirley New did not have the January treasurer's report. It will be emailed and to call Shirley if there are any questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Chair Peggy Miller distributed the **Spring Membership Campaign** document for March 1 -May 31. Score points for

each recruited member during the campaign for a special prize!

Woman of the Year Chair Cheryl Blair supplied information sheets to the seven eligible members to complete and return to Cheryl for processing.

Top Ten Chair Mary Cordle reported that at this time no one is eligible for the nomination since no one has sponsored a new member in the time needed.

Three **Nominating Committee** members need to be elected. Elaine Study moved and Mary Cordle seconded that Donna Collins be a member of the Nominating Committee. Motion was approved. Shirley New moved and Roxie Puckett seconded Janet Johnson also be on the nominating committee. Motion was approved. Mary Cordle moved and Elaine Study seconded that Peggy Miller be on the committee. Motion was approved. Nominating committee consists of Chair Donna Collins and members Janet Johnson and Peggy Miller. They will have a slate of officers for Raintree to vote on at the March meeting.

Fundraising Committee Diane Sager and Shirley New asks us to Save the Date of May 24 to work at the **Indy 500 Souvenir Booth**. Shirley took names of those able to work that long day.

DVP Luncheon Quad Chair Shirley New reported the planning committee has been meeting on the first Monday of the month. Let Shirley know if you want to help that committee. The event to honor our District V Vice President Renee Clement will be held on July 11 in Ann Arbor, MI. Plan to attend Friday evening July 10 for a networking dinner before the celebration on Saturday. Details to follow.

Dates to Remember:

March 2-31: Apex Campus Complimentary Course: Tracking Agile Kanban

March 27-28: Virtual Spring Conference—Early Bird registration deadline is Feb. 26.

Sept 29-Oct 3: National Women's Leadership Conference in Sugarland, TX.

OLD BUSINESS

Professional Development Chair Leslie Mathewson submitted 2 applications for the **Business Skills Tuition Reimbursement**.

2026 Make, Bake and Buy chair Mary Cordle reported planning has begun for the Nov. 7 joint fundraiser with WOMEN. Future monthly Zoom meetings will be held at 7 pm on the third Tuesday. In honor of past member Lois Cook, Raintree Chapter will sponsor a basket with Sunflower related items. Keep your eye out for appropriate sunflower items suitable for the basket.

Summer Sizzler Chair Shirley New invited members to join her on the third Monday at 7 for the planning meetings. Since the Anderson church where the event had been held for years has been sold, a new venue is needed. This year's theme is: **Activate, Elevate, Accelerate**.

(Con't. on next page)

Secretary's Report

January 15, 2025 (con't. from previous page)

Social Event: Michelle Tinch shared two candles made at the recent candle pouring at Sugar Creek Candle Co, Middletown. She reported those attending enjoyed the event and were able to choose the vessel and scents used in their specific candle.

Raintree's 60th anniversary celebration is May 16, 2026. Only three months to go!! Chair Elaine Study emphasized the need to share the save the date flyer with others and to seriously be working on their committees. The registration form will be available in March. Next Zoom meeting is March 3 at 7 pm and a representative from each committee should be present.

Best Practices Chair Janet Johnson reported attendees of the recent Just In Time webinar can find their attendance certificate on the membership platform.

Cardinal Crossroads Council Delegate Donna Collins reported the first meeting of the year was held in January. The next meeting is April 25 at the REMC building.

President Cheryl encouraged everyone to read the new **Achieve newsletter** on the membership platform. She loves the new format and knows you will, too!

Cheryl also reminded all to sign up to attend Indianapolis Charter Chapter's Zoom meeting on Feb. 24 at 7 to hear DVP Renee Clement speak on "Patchwork of her Purpose."

Tip on Creating a Member Quilt:

"Stitching together creates moments of love with every stitch."

Mary Cordle led the Benediction, and the meeting was closed at 8:00 p.m.

The next Raintree meeting is March 19 at 6 p.m. at the A Team Party Parlor, Muncie.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Study, Secretary



Speaker Chris Carroll of Managearly



Michelle Tinch brought an example of a three-wick and a single wick candle made at the social event held at the Sugar Creek Candle Co. in Middletown.



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.

SHIRLEY NEW—ONE OF RAINTREE'S DIAMONDS!

- ♦ **First joined Raintree in 1974**
- ♦ **Continuous member since 1990**
- ♦ **Raintree President in 1975, 1993, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023**
- ♦ **Raintree Woman of the Year in 1979, 1994, 2016**
- ♦ **District V Vice President in 2003-2004**
- ♦ **National Top Ten for 2022-23**
- ♦ **Multiple Perfect Attendance Award Recipient**
- ♦ **Boss of the Year in 2002**
- ♦ **Served as Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer many times**
- ♦ **Fundraising Chair for Indy 500 Souvenir Booth for decades**
- ♦ **Perpetual Cheerleader for all Raintree members**
- ♦ **Photographer for most Raintree-related events**
- ♦ **Organizer to bring Make, Bake and Buy event to Indiana**
- ♦ **Chauffer for all out of town adventures**



Members on the Move

MARILYN'S MEXICO TRIP!



One of Marilyn Upchurch's favorite activities is her annual February trip to Mexico! She usually flies to Cancun, then uses a bus, ferry or cab to travel to various locations.

Following are a few pictures of her 2026 Mexico adventures. Ask her to share some of her stories!



Inside a Mexican restaurant



Here's where you order a real Mexican taco!



5th Avenue, Playa del Carmen



The dock at night, Isla Mujeres, Mexico



Members on the Move

MARILYN'S MEXICO TRIP CONTINUED!



Textile shop in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, where Marilyn likes to trade for books.



Holbox Island beach



Grocery Store



Selling papayas on the beach

ACTIVATE HER AMBITION WITH ABWA

2026 ABWA SPRING CAMPAIGN

March 1, 2026 – May 30, 2026

You didn't get where you are alone—and neither should she.

At ABWA, we believe ambition grows stronger when it's shared. By referring a new member, you're opening the door for another woman to activate her ambition through education, leadership, and a powerful national network.

As a thank you for helping others, enjoy these gifts the next time you're being active.

YOUR REWARDS

1

REFER ONE NEW MEMBER

Receive an ABWA microfiber yoga mat towel.

2

REFER THREE NEW MEMBERS

Receive an ABWA branded workout jacket.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

FOR EVERY MEMBER YOU REFER TO ABWA YOU GET ONE ENTRY INTO THE GRAND PRIZE DRAWING FOR ONE OURA 4 SMART RING.



When submitting a referral form online, your referral contact will be notified by email that you referred her name for membership in the American Business Women's Association. A member of the National Headquarters Team will email your friend or colleague to inform her about membership opportunities available in ABWA. The rest is up to her!



**OURA 4 SMART RING
VALUED AT \$349**



abwa.org/refer-a-friend/



webmail@abwa.org



913.732.5100

Members on the Move

MARY WINS A TOP AWARD!



Friday, March 6, 2026, Mary Cordle was at the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Indiana Realty 2025 Celebration of Excellence and was given the award for top agent in GCI (gross commission income) and units.

Congratulations, Mary!!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

**DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT
ZOOM CALLS**

District V Vice President Renee Clement invites all District V members to her informative Zoom calls.

Put these dates on your calendar.

Mar 12, 2026 07:00 PM
May 14, 2026 07:00 PM
Jul 9, 2026 07:00 PM
Sep 10, 2026 07:00 PM

Watch the ABWA-District V Facebook page for Zoom sign up or contact Cheryl Blair or Elaine Study for details.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Help us plan during 7 pm Zoom meetings:

April 7

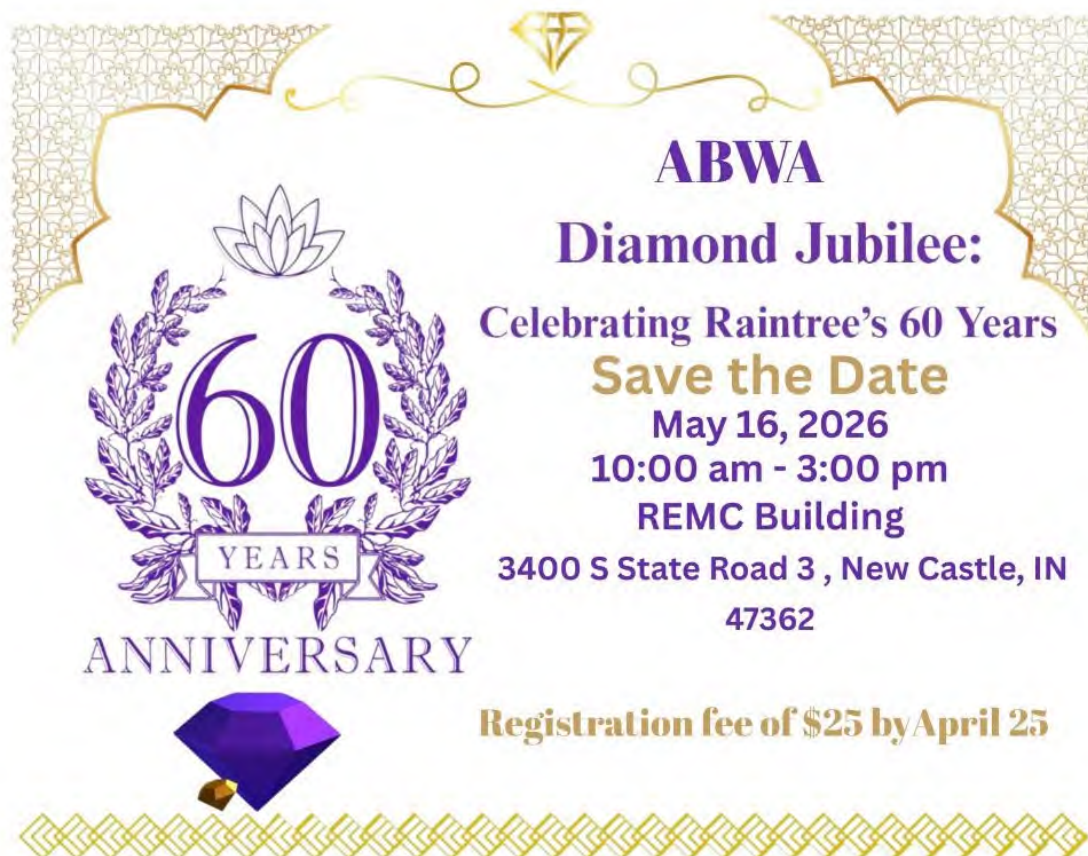
May 5

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141470607?pwd=EiBxxNpLrZgpekVNtNKgqFk5CryJrx.1>

Meeting ID: 841 4147 0607

Passcode: 554343



ABWA
Diamond Jubilee:
Celebrating Raintree's 60 Years
Save the Date
May 16, 2026
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
REMC Building
3400 S State Road 3 , New Castle, IN
47362
Registration fee of \$25 by April 25

The poster features a large purple '60' surrounded by a laurel wreath, with 'YEARS' and 'ANNIVERSARY' below it. A diamond icon is at the top, and a purple diamond is at the bottom. The background has a decorative gold border.

LUNCH WITH THE CHAMBER

Thursday, April 16, 2026

-11:15am Check-In & Networking
-11:45am Lunch, Business & Speaker



Presenter:
Oi Lin Cheung, Ph.D.
Indiana University
East
Topic: The 2026
Economic Outlook:
Navigating Henry
County's Growth in a
Shifting Landscape

Sponsored by:



**F.C. Tucker/Crossroads
Real Estate**
Independently Owned & Operated

Networking is the No.1 unwritten rule of
success in business." - Sallie Krawcheck

LOCATION:

Henry County REMC
3400 IN-3
New Castle, IN

QUESTIONS? 765.529.5210

Register at NCHCCHAMBER.COM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
Public is welcome.

Photo courtesy of the Courier-Times

CHAMBER PARTNERS

PLATINUM



Boar's Head



GOLD



BRONZE

- FIRST FINANCIAL BANK
- FIRST MERCHANTS BANK
- HINSEY BROWN
FUNERAL SERVICE
- IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
- NASH FM
- NEW CASTLE STAINLESS PLATE
- NEW LISBON BROADBAND AND
COMMUNICATIONS
- THE COURIER TIMES
- TRIPLE J PLUMBING
- VITAL COMPUTING LLC

NEW CASTLE CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT FOR WOMEN

April 10—8:30 am

June 5—8:30 am

**Senior Living at Forest
Ridge; 2800 Forest
Ridge Parkway**

**Engage with like-minded
women, exchange ideas
& foster collaboration
that can propel your ca-
reer to new heights!**

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ABWA SHOWER OF CARDS/CARING

Longtime ABWA District 5 members Pam & Patty Allen share info about ABWA sisters & families who can use some encouragement. To be added to their email distribution list contact them at allentwins@sbcglobal.net.

Or ask Elaine Study to send them your email address.

Raintree Chapter Officer & Committee Chairs 2025-2026

President	Cheryl Blair
Vice President	Mary Cordle
Secretary	Elaine Study
Treasurer	Shirley New
Anniversary (May)	Elaine Study
Associates Night (June)	Michelle Tinch
Audit (End of League's Year)	Karen Johnson
Best Practices (All Year)	Janet Johnson
Fundraising (All Year)	Diane Sager
Membership (All Year)	Peggy Miller
Newsletter (All Year)	Elaine Study
Notification (All Year)	Donna Collins
Professional Development/ Program	Leslie Mathewson
Social Media/Publicity (All year)	Jennifer Wilson
Standing Rules (End of Year)	Lois Cook
Top Ten & Woman of the Year	M. Cordle/C. Blair
Website (All Year)	Shirley New
Cardinal Crossroads Council	Donna Collins, Delegate

MUNCIE ON THE MOVE MEETING DATES

*April 1	*October 7
*June 3	*December 3
*August 5	



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MARY CORDLE



NAME: MARY CORDLE

YEARS IN ABWA: 10

REASON I JOINED ABWA: I joined ABWA primarily for the networking opportunities and the friendships. The connections I've made with other women in business have been truly meaningful.

MY ABWA HIGHLIGHTS: Attending the National Women's Leadership Conferences has been a highlight for me—especially those held in Augusta, Chattanooga, Kansas City, and Portland, Maine.

REASON I WILL CONTINUE MY ABWA MEMBERSHIP: I continue in ABWA because I genuinely enjoy getting together with my ABWA sisters. The support and camaraderie keep me coming back.

INTERESTING INFO ABOUT ME: I love shopping and absolutely love my career as a realtor—helping people buy and sell homes is very rewarding to me. I do *not* love to cook, and I have a black thumb... I can't grow a plant to save my life!

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: East Tennessee is my favorite place to visit, especially since my son and his wife live there.

MEMORABLE ABWA EXPERIENCE: My first National Women's Leadership Conference in Augusta, Georgia, was probably my most memorable ABWA experience.

MEMORABLE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: Celebrating my 60th birthday in Las Vegas and seeing Donny Osmond in concert—unforgettable!

THINGS I COLLECT/LIKE TO DO: I collect nutcrackers at Christmas. I've also discovered that I seem to collect shoes and eyeglasses too... LOL!

FAVORITE QUOTE: Micah 7:8 — *"Rejoice not against me, O my enemy: for when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me."*

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Man From Snowy River*

FAVORITE BOOK: Books by Karen Kingsbury

FAVORITE SONG: *The God Who Stays* by Matthew West

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SAY: As women in business, we all need to be each other's biggest supporters. We should build one another up—because we're all in this together.

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

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



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