



Apr. 2026 | Vol. 60, Issue 9

Raintree Rambler

**Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN**

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



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April 16 Meeting Reminders

- ◆ Contact **Shirley New** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations or *make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. April 12.
- ◆ **765-620-8271** or **wcsanew@hrtc.net**
- ◆ Meeting at **NEW CASTLE:** Henry County REMC
- ◆ Networking 6:00-6:15
- ◆ Meeting starts at 6:15

PROGRAM: Jessica Crehan with West Springs Nutrition

BRING:

- ◇ \$15 for meal
- ◇ Completed 60th Anniversary Registration Form & \$\$
- ◇ Guests, guests and more guests!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shirley New-April 18

Cheryl Blair-April 28

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

Leslie Mathewson Ap—1 yr

Sharon Woodruff April—40 yrs.

Roxie Puckett April—1 yr.

Shirley New April—36 yrs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * Apr. 16—Raintree meeting; 6 pm New Castle
- * Apr. 20—Summer Sizzler Zoom 7 pm
- * Apr. 21—Make, Bake, Buy Zoom 7 pm
- * Apr. 25—Cardinal Crossroads Council 10 am
- * Apr. 30—Just in Time webinar 7 pm
- * May 5—60th Anniversary Zoom; 7 pm
- * May 14—District V Zoom call; 7 pm
- * MAY 16, 2026—RAINTREE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!! 10-3, NewCastle
- * May 18—Summer Sizzler Zoom 7 pm
- * May 19—Make, Bake, Buy Zoom 7 pm
- * May 24—Indy 500 Fundraising Booth
- * June 18—Raintree meeting 6 pm Muncie
- * July 10 & 11—DVP Luncheon
- * July 16—Raintree On the Road meeting
- * Sept 29-Oct 3—National Women's Leadership Conference
- * Nov. 6, 7— Make, Bake and Buy

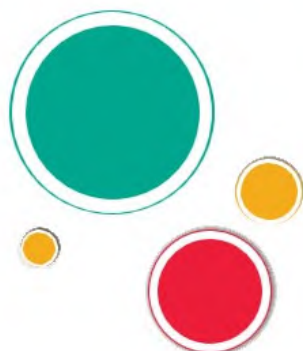


Jessica Crehan with West Springs Nutrition

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, April 16, 2026
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

Jessica Crehan with West Springs Nutrition will be our speaker. West Springs Nutrition offers virtual nutrition counseling. They partner with clients to determine effective means of adapting healthy, sustainable lifestyle changes. Jessica will be discussing some of the ways that we can become healthier through nutritional pointers and tips.

Event cost is \$15 for members and guests (cost includes dinner). Noneating attendees meeting cost \$5.00. Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, April 12, 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 April 12 if you are not attending.



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



Scoop Blair Reporting

Calling ALL Members...write this down...remember this date: May 16, 2026. The 60th Anniversary of our Raintree Chapter of ABWA...A Diamond Jubilee Celebration recognizing this awesome and record setting milestone. Looking back, I discovered the year 1966 was a year of many memorable moments:

The Rolling Stones release "Painted Black"

Mary Tyler Moore & Dick Van Dyke win Emmy Awards

Graham Hill wins the Indy 500--the first "rookie" driver since 1927

The Beatles record "Paperback Writer"

Angela Lansbury & Bea Arthur win Tony Awards for "Mame"

The Beach Boys sing "Wouldn't It Be Nice"

The US launches "Surveyor 1" to the Moon

The Raintree Chapter of ABWA was founded

Think about "the impact" each of these "happenings" still have today. What began in 1966 as a "sixties sensation" has skyrocketed into the many successes we know today.

As we gather on May 16th to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Raintree Chapter let us also recognize the 13 "visionary women" who unified their "vision" into what still "shines" today: 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.

These are the "true gems" that make our upcoming "Diamond Jubilee" possible!!! Plan to attend and join in the many "glittering surprises" awaiting your arrival!!!

Cheryl Blair
Raintree Chapter President



Scoop Blair
covering a
local story

April 2026 Meeting Agenda



ABWA Raintree Chapter Meeting Agenda April 16, 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-Jessica Crehan with West Springs Nutrition
7:45PM Business Meeting
 Secretary Minutes-March
 Treasurer's Report-March & SBMEF Memorial Clarification

New Business:

- Spring Conference Recap
- New Name Badges
- Just in Time Webinar-April 30
- Business Associate Application-Michelle Tinch (June 18)
- Data Sheet-Mary Cordle
- July on the Road-Leslie Mathewson

Old Business:

- National Approved Shirley as Treasurer-Additional Information Required
- Outright Grant Vote on Candidate-Leslie Mathewson
- Impact Scholarship Update-Leslie Mathewson
- Habitat for Humanity Update-Cheryl Blair
- Spring Membership Campaign March 1-May 31- Peggy Miller
- Indy 500 Race Booth Volunteers (May 24) Diane Sager & Shirley New
- DVP Luncheon (July 10-11)
- Summer Sizzler-(August 21-22) Shirley New
- Natl Women Leadership Conf (Sept 29-Oct 3-Sugarland, TX) Early Bird Deadline August 31
- Make, Bake & Buy (Nov. 7-8) Mary Cordle
- 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"- "Keeping the fabric durable with a strong backing maintains the quilts future"

8:15PM Benediction

Members on the Move

MARY'S DEDICATION EARNS TOP AWARD!



At Mary Cordle's March 31 sales meeting, Mary was presented with the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Leading Edge Society Award for 2025. The award recognizes the network's top eleven percent of residential sales professionals in production or transactions.

Mary remarked, "I'm thankful to do what I love, helping people buy and sell homes. This award was a goal of mine for 2025, and I'm truly thrilled to have achieved it. I'm so grateful to everyone who trusted me to guide them through buying or selling their homes this past year."



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HATHAWAY** | INDIANA
HOMESERVICES REALTY

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3420 N WHEELING AVE
MUNCIE, IN 47304

CELL: 765-621-7594
OFFICE: 765-284-6313

MARYCORDLE@COMCAST.NET
<https://marycordle.bhhsindianarealty.com>



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Secretary's Report

March 19, 2026

Raintree Chapter of the American Business Women's Association met on March 19, 2026, at the A Team Party Parlor, Muncie. Twelve members and one guest were in attendance. Members included Cheryl Blair, Donna Collins, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Roxie Puckett, Shirley New, Diane Sager, Elaine Study and Michelle Tinch. Kayla Kreigh was the guest.

At 6:15 p.m. President Cheryl Blair called the meeting to order. Janet Johnson led the Invocation, Pledge, ABWA mission statement and Raintree's vision statement. A Team Party Parlor provided the evening meal.

For the **networking event**, Mary Cordle distributed four questions with a spring related theme then asked the group to answer one question after introducing themselves.

PROGRAM: Program Chair Leslie Mathewson introduced this month's speaker **Kayla Kreigh with Ruoff Mortgage**. Kayla is a Senior Loan Officer and talked about women in home ownership and mortgage basics. She stressed getting preapproved before writing an offer or buying a home. Kayla can look at an application and see if you are preapproved in 15-20 minutes.

Secretary Elaine Study reported the February minutes had been printed in the last newsletter. There were no additions or corrections. Elaine gave each member their current perfect attendance status.

Treasurer Shirley New distributed the January and February treasurer's reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Woman of the Year Chair Cheryl Blair announced **Elaine Study** is Raintree's 2026 Woman of the Year! Elaine was presented with a vase of flowers, a framed Woman of the Year certificate, ribbon for her name tag and a Woman of the Year pin. Elaine also received a congratulations letter from ABWA Executive Director Elizabeth Johnson.

Nominating Committee chair Donna Collins announced Mary Cordle was the candidate for President. Shirley New moved the nominations be closed. Roxie Puckett seconded and motion passed. Ballot for Vice President was distributed with candidates Elaine Study and Shirley New. Roxie Puckett moved and Mary Cordle seconded the nominations be closed. Motion passed. Shirley New was elected Vice President. Ballot for Secretary included Cheryl Blair and Karen Johnson. Donna Collins moved and Shirley New seconded nominations be closed which passed. Cheryl Blair was elected Secretary. There were no candidates for Treasurer. After much discussion, Janet Johnson moved and Donna Collins seconded with National's approval Shirley New will stay in the Treasurer's position for a third year and Elaine Study will be Vice President. That motion carried.

Dates to Remember:

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

April 15: Coffee Connections

April 30: Just in Time Webinar—Sign up instructions are in email or YM platform.

OLD BUSINESS

Professional Development Chair Leslie Mathewson presented Shirley New and Elaine Study with checks as recipients of the **Business Skills Tuition Reimbursement**.

Leslie also reported on the **Impact Scholarship and Outright Grant** Raintree is sponsoring. Three applications are needed for the \$2000 Outright Grant and the district will announce one recipient. Share names of applicants with Leslie and she will share the appropriate link with them.

Cheryl is in contact with Gene from **Habitat for Humanity** and he will keep her posted on ways we can help with that community organization.

(Con't. on next page)



Secretary's Report

March 19, 2026 (con't. from previous page)

Membership Chair Peggy Miller reminded us we need more members which will count for the **Spring Membership Campaign**. She also encouraged us to view the new ABWA Membership Tool Kit which has all types of ideas to promote ABWA.

The Virtual Spring Conference will be held March 27-28. Cheryl Blair is presenting on one of the member panels.

Volunteers are needed to work at the fundraising **Indy 500 Souvenir Booth on May 24**. Shirley New has received an email verifying we will have 3 booths to fill.

DVP Luncheon (July 10-11) Quad Chair Shirley New reported the planning committee has been meeting on the first Monday of the month. Help is still needed.

National Women's Leadership Conference (Sept. 29-Oct. 3) Plan on being a part of the Raintree group attending the Sugarland, TX event!

2026 Make, Bake and Buy Fundraiser (Nov. 6-7) Chair Mary Cordle encourages members to be a part of the monthly planning Zoom meetings at 7 pm on the third Tuesday. Donna Collins is collecting items for the sunflower basket in honor of past member Lois Cook. Mary brought 3 "Adopt the Boxes" to fill with auction items.

Summer Sizzler (Aug. 21-22) Chair Shirley New invited members to join her on the third Monday at 7 for the Zoom planning meetings. This year's theme is: Activate, Elevate, Accelerate. Still need a new location.

Eight weeks until **Raintree's 60th anniversary celebration (May 16, 2026)!!** Chair Elaine Study distributed registration forms.

Registration fee is \$25 until April 25 and \$35 from April 26-May 1.

Raintree members need to register!

Please share the Facebook Event that will be posted soon.

Cheryl Blair is the Mistress of Ceremony.

DVP Renee Clement is the speaker.

The program will be based on the six decades of Raintree's highlights.

Raintree's quilt will be unveiled.

Raintree members are asked to wear purple and gold to signify our Diamond Jubilee.

Please share the emailed registration forms with past, present and future ABWA members!

Next Zoom meeting is April 7 at 7 pm and a representative from each committee should be present to report.

Best Practices Chair Janet Johnson reminded April 30 Just In Time webinar attendees get their attendance certificate to her.

Cardinal Crossroads Council Delegate Donna Collins reported the next meeting is April 25 at the REMC building. DVP Renee Clement will be reviewing the new Membership Toolkit for recruiting members.

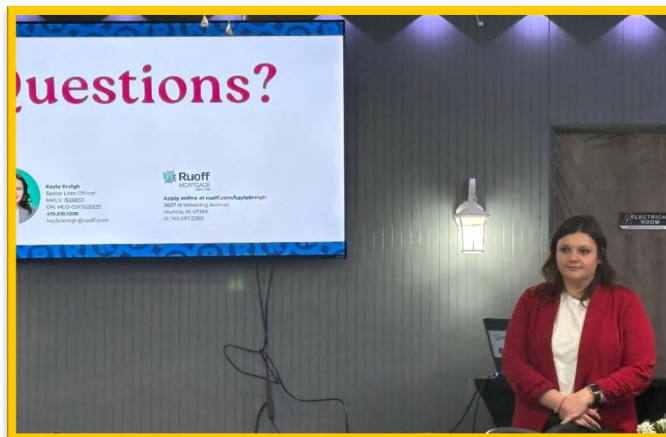
Tip on Creating a Member Quilt: "Strong fabric creates a strong sense of past reflections."

Janet Johnson led the Benediction, and the meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.

The next Raintree meeting is April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Henry County REMC, New Castle.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Study, Secretary



Speaker Kayla Kreigh with Ruoff Mortgage

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.

MULTI-CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE RAINTREE'S DIAMONDS!

Raintree Chapter is honored to have long-time ABWA members.

PEGGY MILLER, a 43 year ABWA member, has been a member of 4 different chapters. Whenever she would move to a different state, she would join a local chapter. She has attended many regional and national conferences.

SHARON WOODRUFF, a 40 year ABWA member, has belonged to 4 different chapters: Chief Muncie VIPs, Women of Muncie Express Network and Silhouette in Muncie, then Raintree in New Castle. She joined a new chapter after a previous one disbanded.

KAREN JOHNSON, a 31 year member, first joined Bur Oak Chapter, Dayton, OH in 1995. When that chapter disbanded in 2018, Karen accepted the offer to join Raintree. She has been regularly traveling from Dayton to New Castle for chapter meetings, chapter activities and council meetings.

DONNA COLLINS has been a loyal Raintree supporter. She originally joined Raintree in Sept. 1977 because her mother Rose Elliott and grandmother were members. After close to twenty years, she dropped out, but continued to support the chapter by attending special chapter activities. She volunteered to bring her mother to meetings and other events during the times Rose couldn't drive. Donna rejoined Raintree in 2022.

Members on the Move

ELAINE IS RAINTREE CHAPTER'S 2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR!



President Cheryl Blair, left, presents Elaine Study with the Raintree Chapter's Woman of the Year Award at the March chapter meeting.

Elaine displays her Woman of the Year pin, name badge ribbon, framed certificate and beautiful vase of flowers.



Members on the Move

CHERYL IS MISTRESS OF CEREMONY!



Cheryl Blair attends the 66th Anniversary of the ABWA DC Charter Chapter where she was the Mistress of Ceremony.



Cheryl & friend Ken enjoy a moment of ABWA togetherness.



Cheryl welcoming the attendees in "glittery" style!



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

DARE TO CARE™ PHRASEBOOK

12 Scripts for High-Stakes Moments

Activate clarity. Activate trust. Activate buy-in.



Quick language you can use immediately in real conversations.

> When you're interrupted:

"I'm going to finish my thought, and then I'd love to hear yours."

> When your idea gets ignored, then repeated:

"Yes. And I'm glad you brought it back. That's the point I was making. Here's the next step I'd add."

> When you want to disagree without escalating:

"I see it differently, and I want to understand your reasoning. Here's what I'm seeing from my side."

> When someone is defensive:

"I'm not here to blame. I'm here to solve it. Can we walk through what happened and what we want next?"

> When you need to reset the tone:

"Quick pause. My intention is clarity and progress. Let's get aligned on what matters most."

> When you need to set a boundary:

"I can't commit to that as stated. Here's what I can do, and here's what I'd need."

> When you need buy-in, not just agreement:

"Before we decide, what would you need to feel confident moving forward?"

> When you want to invite dissent:

"I want the real concerns, not the polite ones. What's the risk we're not naming yet?"

> When you're asking for support/resources:

"To deliver this well, I need two things: ____ and _____. Are you comfortable supporting that?"

> When you're negotiating (firm and warm):

"I'm flexible on the how. I'm not flexible on the outcome. Let's find a path that works for both."

> When you made a misstep and want to repair quickly:

"I want to own something. My intention was _____, but I can see how it landed as _____. I'm sorry. Here's what I'll do differently."

> When you want to close with clarity and momentum:

"Let's lock the next step. Who's doing what by when?"

To Stay In Touch, Please Connect Here



LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sylviabaffour/>

Compliments of Sylvia Baffour,

speaker at the 2026 Virtual Spring Conference.

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.

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!!

We have one last meeting to create the perfect celebration. Join us!!

May 5

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141470607?pwd=EiBxxNpLrZgpekVNtNKGqFk5CryJrx.1>

Meeting ID: 841 4147 0607

Passcode: 554343





Registration Fee:

- \$25 if postmarked by April 25, 2026
- \$35 if postmarked April 26 thru May 1, 2026
- Payment can be made by check to Raintree Chapter or Venmo.

Send payment and completed registration form to Shirley New:

- Address: 7178 W. State Road 38, New Castle, IN 47362
- Email: wcsanew@hrtc.net
- Phone: 765-620-8271
- Venmo: @Shirley-New



Questions? Contact Elaine Study: studyelaine@yahoo.com 765-969-8602



Detach and return this section to Shirley New

Registration Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Name of ABWA League: _____

If past or present Raintree Chapter Member list date joined _____

If you are past or present National Officer or TopTen, please specify title and dates: _____

Check One

____ Check to Raintree Chapter is included

____ Paid via Venmo



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

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





"Feedback is the breakfast of champions."

Sign up now for our April course from our ABWA Apex Campus (a \$35 value)!

Giving and Receiving Feedback - April 1 - 30th, 2026 -
(School of Leadership) Feedback is a process of communication aimed at helping individuals understand their strengths, areas for improvement, and how their actions and behaviors impact their work and organization as a whole. Although exchanging feedback can be a challenging process, there are best practices we can follow to make it easier. Learn the common types of feedback, the benefits of feedback and how to start giving and receiving effective feedback.

Login at www.myapexcampus.org under the **The School of Leadership** and register today!

Please call the ABWA National team at 913-732-5100 or email us at webmail@abwa.org, if you have questions.



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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