



July 2026 | Vol. 60, Issue 11

Raintree Rambler

**Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN**

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



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July 16 Meeting Reminders

- ♦ Contact **Leslie Mathewson** by phone, text or email to *cancel* your standing reservations *or make a guest reservation* by 5 p.m. July 12.
- ♦ **765-587-4526 or leslie**
- ♦ **@mathewsonlawpc.com**
- ♦ Meeting at NEW CASTLE: BeeHive Body Company
- ♦ Program at 6:00

PROGRAM: ON THE ROAD FUN

BRING:

- ♦ \$30 to make lotion
- ♦ Food you signed up to share
- ♦ Your own drink



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Johnson-Aug. 19

Elaine Study-Aug. 30

ABWA ANNIVERSARY

Karen Johnson July 18, 31 yrs.

Donna Collins July 21, 4 yrs.

Mary Cordle Aug 1, 10 yrs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * July 9—DVP Zoom call 7 pm
- * July 10 & 11—DVP Luncheon
- * July 16—Raintree On the Road meeting
- * July 20-Summer Sizzler planning Zoom 7 pm
- * July 21-Make, Bake, Buy planning Zoom 7
- * July 23-Just in Time webinar-7 pm see email
- * July 25-Cardinal Crossroads Council 10 am
- * Aug. 3-Summer Sizzler planning Zoom 7
- * Aug. 5-Raintree planning meeting-6 pm
- * Aug. 18-Make, Bake, Buy planning Zoom 7
- * Aug. 20-Raintree meeting 6 pm
- * Aug 22-23—Summer Sizzler, Muncie
- * Sept. 15—Make, Bake, Buy planning Zoom 7
- * Sept. 17—Raintree meeting 6 pm
- * Sept 29-Oct 3—National Women's Leadership Conference
- * Oct. 15—Raintree meeting 6 pm
- * Nov. 6, 7— Make, Bake and Buy



Thursday, July 16, 2026

Beehive Body Co

1335 Broad St, New Castle IN 47362

Beginning at 6:00 p.m.

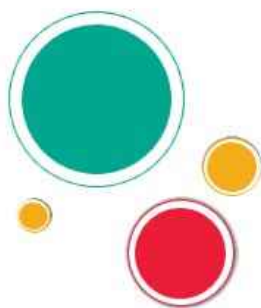
Meeting on the Move

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

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



We will be meeting at Beehive Body Co. to make lotion. The cost per person is \$30.00. Food and drinks are able to be brought to the event. Please bring a food item of your choosing along with a drink.

Please RSVP your guests by Sunday, July 12 by phone, text or email to guarantee their reservation to Leslie Mathewson at 587-4526 or leslie@mathewsonlawpc.com



BELIEVE. BELONG. BECOME.

American Business Women's Association



Scoop Blair Reporting

"Time Flies When you Are Having Fun".... I have been Raintree President for approximately 730 days and yes that time has "flown" by. Today as I write my final "Scoop Blair" newsletter article I am happy and excited to reflect on the many moments experienced during this leadership journey.

Moment number 1 was at my first Executive Officer's meeting. The mentoring and support I received from my fellow officers Mary, Elaine and Shirley immediately created a feeling of confidence. This same support transferred into my second term, allowing me to serve with an "aura" of "yes, I can"!!!

Moment number 2 was the attention and excitement I experienced at each monthly meeting. All members participated, you spoke up and you added many "moments" of laughter along the way...when I needed it the most. Yes, I always had an agenda...but it was the unplanned agenda items that created the outcome of a great meeting.

Moment number 3 is most certainly Raintree's 60th Anniversary Celebration. This was a joint effort supported by many as we combined our talents to create a "Diamond Jubilee". A shining "moment" to recognize the past and prepare for the future. The surprise "unveiling" of the "members" quilt made me so proud of each of YOU. And this leads me to..

Moment number 4 "Members Quilt"-Yes, I did have to remind several members to complete their quilt square with their name, date joined along with "one" word why they joined. In the end all squares were received, and the designing of the quilt began. This quilt remains a reminder of the outstanding "moment" in Raintree's history.

Moment number 5 turns into the "moment" Mary Cordle was elected as Raintree's next President. We all have the opportunity and honor of supporting and mentoring Mary with the same "Raintree Style" which was given to me!!!

Thanks to each of you for a "momentous" double term as your President!!!!

Cheryl Blair,

Raintree Chapter President



Scoop Blair
covering a
local story

Secretary's Report

June 18, 2026

The annual Raintree Chapter **Business Associate/Education Event** was held on June 18, 2026. The location was the A Team Party Parlor in Muncie, IN.

Thirteen Raintree members in attendance were: Donna Collins, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Roxie Puckett, Diane Sager, Elaine Study, Michelle Tinch, Marilyn Upchurch, Jennifer Wilson and Sharon Woodruff. Guests included Ralana Abraham-Miller and Nikki Manor.

Michelle Tinch, Chair of the Business Associate/Education Event Committee, welcomed attendees at 6:15. Secretary Elaine Study led the Invocation, Pledge and ABWA Mission Statement. For networking, Vice President Mary Cordle asked everyone to introduce themselves, then share the number of years in ABWA and what type of business they are involved in.

Dinner was provided by member Jennifer Wilson, A Team Party Parlor complete with patriotic table decorations. Floral centerpieces were provided by Ralana Abraham-Miller.

Professional Development/Education Committee Chair Leslie Mathewson was next on the agenda with the **Education Moment**. Leslie explained Raintree's Outright Grant applicant was Courtney Study since her scholarship application had been completed on time. Unfortunately, she was not chosen as the Outright Grant recipient. The Impact Scholarship has not been awarded yet.



Treasurer Shirley New read the list of Past Business Associates and their sponsors who were in attendance. Raintree Chapter has presented this award annually since 1967. Raintree's 2025 Business Associate was Sharon Grubbs of Foister's Flowers. Since Sharon could not attend, her employee Ralana Abraham-Miller was present. Ralana discussed the atmosphere of acceptance and love in Sharon's shop and how Sharon was a deserving recipient of the award.

Event Chair Michelle Tinch read the nomination letter submitted for this year's Business Associate of the Year. Nikki Manor owner of Chocolate Drizzles LLC is **Raintree's 2026 Business Associate of the Year!** Her nomination letter was submitted by Michelle Tinch, Jennifer Wilson and Leslie Mathewson. Nikki began her business in 2022, is known for her delicious cake pops and her business recently became an LLC. Nikki was presented with an engraved plaque.

The 2026-27 Raintree officer Installation was postponed until the August 2026 meeting since not all incoming officers were present.

Donna Collins explained Raintree's **Good Guys and Gals** are volunteers who have previously helped our chapter with fundraising projects, especially working the souvenir booth at the Indy 500 races. There were no new volunteers to recognize this year.

Peggy Miller explained the criteria for Raintree's Protégé Award which is presented to a member completing their first year of Raintree membership. **Raintree's 2026 Protégé Winners** are Leslie Mathewson and Roxie Puckett! They received a framed certificate and a Protégé ribbon for their name tag.

Peggy also congratulated **Woman of the Year** Elaine Study. There was not an eligible Top Ten Nominee this year.

(Con't. on next page)



Secretary's Report

June 18, 2026 (con't. from previous page)

In the absence of President Cheryl Blair, Vice President Mary Cordle held a brief business meeting. She reviewed items on the distributed **Special Announcement** sheet.

***2026/27 planning meeting** is July 7 at 6 pm at Shirley's office in Mid-dletown. All members are invited to attend.

*Cheryl needs to know your color preference for the new Raintree polo shirt and verbiage for your new name badge ASAP.

*ABWA National address: 4001 W 114th St., Suite 115, Leawood, KS 66211.

*Watch email for ABWA membership renewal notice. Chosen payment option can be changed in YM portal or calling ABWA National Office.

*Return **Member Interest Survey** to Mary Cordle by July 6th.

***Just in Time Webinar**—July 23 at 7 pm EST. Register on YM portal or watch email.

***Summer Sizzler**—Aug. 21-22 at Muncie Knights of Columbus. Registration soon.

***July 16 "On the Road Trip"**—BeeHive Body Co., 1335 Broad St., New Castle. Leslie Mathewson distributed sign-up sheet for food & drinks. We will make a scrub, lotion or soap depending on member preference.

***Make, Bake and Buy**—Nov. 7 at Fort Wayne. More info to follow.

***Achieve newsletter** is now available on YM platform. Check out the article & pictures on Raintree's 60th anniversary celebration!

Council Delegate Donna Collins reported the eligible candidates for Council Woman of the Year had been tallied. Donna moved we accept Cheryl Blair as **Raintree's Council Woman of the Year candidate**. Shirley New seconded the motion which passed. Donna will submit the application and accompanying letter to the appropriate Council member.

The next Raintree meeting will be the annual On the Road gathering on July 16 at 6 p.m. at BeeHive Body Co, 1335 Broad St, New Castle.

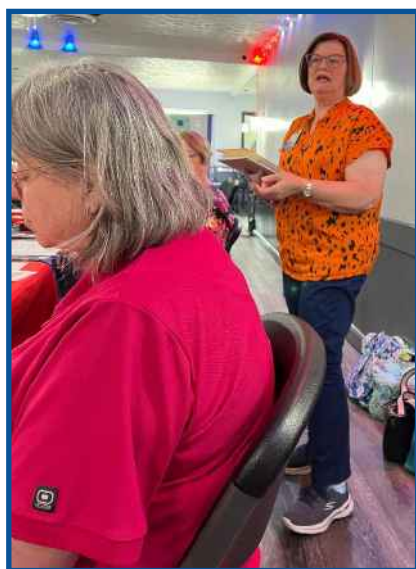
Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Study, Secretary



Ralana Abraham –Miller explains to Shirley New and the group she was the designer of the colorful centerpieces.

LESLIE AND ROXIE WIN PROTÉGÉ AWARD



Peggy Miller announces Leslie Mathewson and Roxie Pucket are Protégé Award winners!!



NIKKI MANOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR

Michelle Tinch presents Nikki Manor with Raintree's Business Associate of the Year.



Leslie Mathewson, Michelle Tinch and Jennifer Wilson nominated Nikki Manor for the award.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAWN POKORNY



NAME: DAWN POKORNY **YEARS IN ABWA:** 7

REASON I JOINED ABWA: Started cooking for them and decided to join

REASON I WILL CONTINUE MY ABWA MEMBERSHIP: I enjoy cooking for you gals and learning new things; opportunities.

INTERESTING INFO ABOUT ME: Still trying to figure me out! I have been exploring different opportunities/activities.

THIS IS HOW I USUALLY SPEND MY DAY: Get up at 3:15 on workday; leave for work 4:50 a.m., work, come home, feed chickens & dogs, fix husband supper, go to bed. Not working-up at 5:30, mop floor, read Bible, fix husband breakfast, feed animals, exercise & see what day brings; crocheting, reading, running after kids.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Warm places & discount stores

MEMORABLE ABWA EXPERIENCE: Working 500 booth & Christmas exchange

MEMORABLE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: Showing cattle when I was young; doing open heart surgery; going to Cabo-all inclusive resort; going on a cruise with my daughter; visiting daughter as nursing instructor at Miami University

THINGS I COLLECT/LIKE TO DO: Collects angels. Like to cook, read, garden, cake decorating

FAVORITE QUOTE: Psalm 51:10 — *“Create in me a pure heart O God and renew a steadfast spirit in me*

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Flashdance*

FAVORITE BOOK: Books by Sarah Hale

FAVORITE SONG: *What a Feeling*

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SAY: Thank you for letting me cook for you! Thank you for being my friend!

Members on the Move

INDY 500 SOUVENIR BOOTH



Raintree members from left: Marilyn Upchurch, Peggy Miller, Roxie Puckett, Cheryl Blair, Diane Sager, Shirley New, Michelle Tinch, Elaine Study



5-24-2026 Indy 500 Pagoda...
calm before the race



5-24-2026 6:00 a.m. Fireworks...
the track is now open!

Members on the Move

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE INDY 500!

This year we decided to **track** where **our visitors** to our souvenir booth were from. We discovered people from **37 states** and **20 countries!**

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Florida

Georgia

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Nebraska

Nevada

New Mexico

New York



North Carolina

Oklahoma

Ohio

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Virginia

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Argentina

Australia

Austria

Brazil

Canada

Columbia

Cuba

England

Germany

Greece

Guatemala

India

Italy

Japan

Mexico

Portugal

Scotland

Sweden

Switzerland

Uruguay

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025-26 ADVERTISERS!!

Raintree Chapter appreciates you!

To advertise in the 2026-27 Raintree Rambler, contact Editor Elaine Study 765-969-8602 by August 1.

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



MIDDLETOWN BARBER CO.

Good Time Good Cuts

ESTD 2025



New Heating And Cooling

N

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Taxes, Payroll, & Bookkeeping Services

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Accountant

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Middletown 47356

Fax: 765-232-3784
wesaneu@hrtc.net
www.shirleynewaccounting.com



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT NANCY BROWN



NAME: NANCY BROWN

YEARS IN ABWA: Many!?

REASON I JOINED ABWA: Dorothy Strohm, a member in the early years (maybe a charter member?), asked Raintree to put my name in for an education grant and interest free loan. She sponsored my membership.

INTERESTING INFO ABOUT ME: I value the friendship I had with Dorothy, and I value Raintree Chapter. I miss her, and I miss seeing you!

THIS IS HOW I USUALLY SPEND MY DAY: Taking care of my friend Don, and of my dog, Mack.

MEMORABLE ABWA EXPERIENCE: The Speedway booths, those exciting early a.m. trips to Indy with a van full of Raintree sisters, long but fulfilling days working at the track for our projects. And the excitement of Shirley's election to National Office! She paved the way!

MEMORABLE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: So many! Back when air travel was more fun, travelled many places with family and friends – Canada, NYC, Florida, California, Maine, Hawaii, and more. Thinking about this question is fun – there was the time I took my nieces and nephews to an Eagles concert. Tickets in the Midwest were sold out, so we packed up and I took them all to Little Rock to see them.

THINGS I LIKE TO DO: I love to sew and read. I promised myself I would take time for both when I retired. But guess what – retirement takes up more time than working!

FAVORITE MOVIE: It has to be an old one, maybe Raising Arizona or any Coen Brothers film

FAVORITE BOOK: "Hospitality" by Leslie Hay. Leslie grew up in New Castle, now lives in Austin TX .

FAVORITE SONG: "Up A Lazy River" by the Mills Brothers

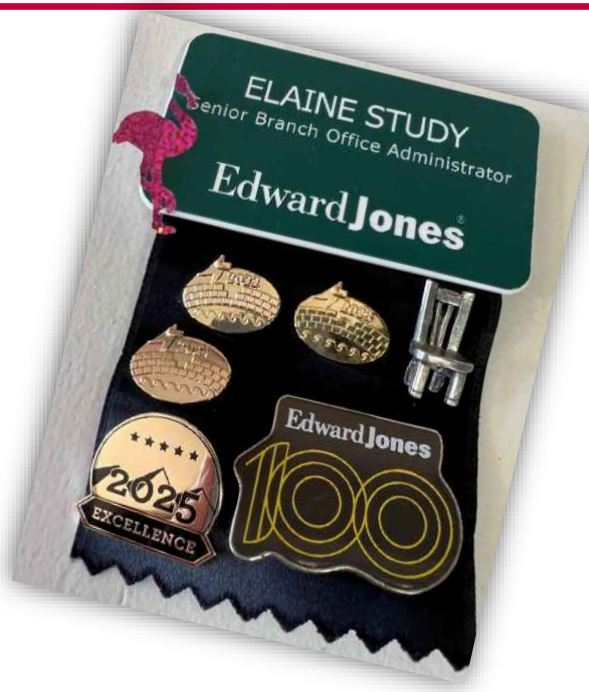
NOW I WOULD LIKE TO SAY: My favorites change from day to day

Members on the Move

ELAINE HONORED AT WORK EVENT



Elaine Study was honored to give the "Toast to Ted" at a recent Edward Jones branch recognition event where she also was acknowledged for her client support leadership role.



Elaine stands with her Regional Leader Michelle Frazier, left, and her Financial Advisor Erika Hayes at a recognition event.



On March 27 and 28, 2026, Cheryl Blair, Shirley New and Elaine Study attended the ABWA Spring Conference. Here are their thoughts about the annual event.

By Cheryl Blair

Thinking back on my attendance at ABWA's 2026 Spring Conference it truly "Activated my Ambition" in so many ways. Starting with **Christen Strags'** opening keynote presentation—"Getting Chosen Doesn't Mean Success". It takes "CHIP" to succeed: COMMITMENT, HABITS, IDENTITY & POWER. Easy to remember but sometimes harder to enact!!

Next I enjoyed hearing ABWA members presenting information on fundraising, league development membership and leadership development topics. I also enjoyed hearing **KiKi L'Italien** present information about AI and the availability of "Working Smarter with AI-Reference Card" an essential tool for today. **Borzou Azabdaftari** from Vibes>Key Performance Indicators related the various steps taken when creating ABWA's rebranding based on "purpose-based brands". The final keynote presentation by **Sylvia Baffour** opened the door to "Influence with Emotional Intelligence" based on self-awareness combined with influencing others. A virtual conference can sometimes seem very long and drawn out, but not the case with ABWA's 2026 Spring Conference. Time zoomed by.

I learned a lot including the date, time and place of this year's ABWA's **National Women's Leadership Conference....Sugarland, Texas here we come-September 30th-October 3rd**. Guaranteed to "Activate my Ambition" to another level!!!!



Attendees thoughts
continued.

By Shirley New

First, I want to thank Raintree Chapter for supporting the officers to attend Spring Conference. My Spring Conference take away will be very familiar with the others that attended. We all attended most of the same things and heard most of the same speakers. You don't want to hear the same thing over and over.

Throughout the two days of the conference, we had many Keynotes Speakers. They talked on many topics. I could do pages of information to cover everything. Here are my highlights of each one:

Christen Strags = You have to take care of yourself first. 2

Workouts per week, 4 meals with protein per day, 6 water breaks per day, 8 hours of sleep per night and 10 minutes of meditation per day.

Jarrett R Ransom = Fundraising with Confidence when everyone understands why it matters, knows their roles and donors are treated as partners not ATM's.

KiKi L'Italien = Showed us how to get the most out of using AI.

Ricky Banks = Helped with difficult conversations with your team.

He stressed the PREP process: Purpose, Respect, Examples and Path Forward.

Bozou Azabdaftari = Purpose based brands grow faster and will less friction.

Sylvia Baffour = Dare to Care - Emotional intelligence directly fuels



Attendees thoughts
continued.

By Shirley New, con't.

influence, leadership, and culture. Use emotions intentionally to build trust, engagement and buy-in.

The ABWA workshops were made up of several topics and put on by ABWA members. You had to choose the workshops you would attend. The three I did was:

Fundraising by **Marsha Green** = Marsha gave hints and examples of how to prepare to ask business for donations and publicity strategies to increase attendance at your fundraisers. She gave ideas on small nonprofit fundraisers. She also gave sample letters to use for donors and especially said to be sure to thank those donors when event is over.

Getting to Year 3 by **Renee Clement and Charlotte Osborn**. They discussed the ways the chapter can make the members feel valued and involved in years 2 and 3. Look at 2 or 3 members that stayed active for three years or more and find out what helped them stay.

Stepping up to Leadership by **Past National Presidents Anne O'Neil, Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes and Cheryl Blair**. They talked about their paths to leadership and how that could help all members. Leadership is about bringing other with you. Be dependable, be teachable and be willing to serve.

The conference over all was very well worth it. I learned many new things and had many ideas and suggestions reinforced.

Please consider attending next year, it is very well worth it.



Attendees thoughts
continued.

By Elaine Study

Attending a virtual spring conference is something I look forward to. I always learn so much information. The 2026 two-day spring conference was no difference. All the keynote speakers had great messages. I especially enjoyed **KiKi L'Italien's** discussion on "Working Smarter with AI: Practical Skills for Confident Business & Marketing Communication." Since I had no real experience with AI tools, this session was well over my head and taught me that I have so much to learn about AI!

The last session of day one was led by the founder of **NickelBronx Marketing**. We learned the hows and whys behind the new ABWA branding and colors. As a fifteen-year ABWA member, the explanation was quite helpful to understand the reasoning behind the drastic changes. Look for all the Branding Guidelines on the YM portal.

New this year were 9 breakout sessions led by ABWA members. It was disappointing we could only choose 3 because they all sounded so good! The most meaningful material I learned was: 1) Raintree needs a more vibrant social media content if we want to encourage prospective members to check us out and 2) Raintree needs a more intentional leadership transition plan which includes officers and committee chairs. If anyone is interested in learning more about these topics, please let me know because I have lots of notes and ideas!!

Most importantly of all, Thank You Raintree Chapter for paying for my registration to this conference!! I am very grateful!!

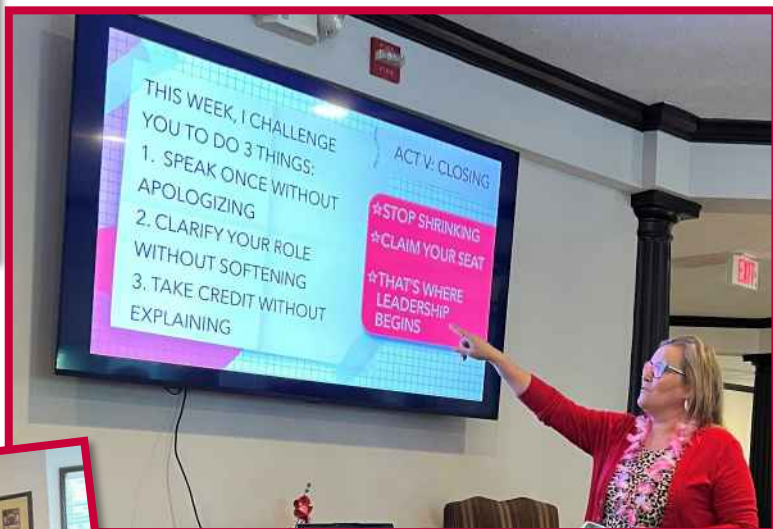
Members on the Move

CHAMBER NETWORK FOR WOMEN



Elaine Study attended the June 5 Henry County Chamber Networking for Women. Guest speaker was Angie Rogers Howell owner of Farmhouse Creative & Roho's Martini Bar of Muncie. Angie's topic was "Who's the Boss? Owning Your Seat at the Table."

Angie stated, "Being quiet is not the same as incapable!"



ABOVE: Cindy Brooks, Chamber Office, emphasizes a point.



LEFT: Elaine Study and Kathy Planton enjoyed networking together.

MUNCIE ON THE MOVE

Meeting for Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce

Raintree is a paid member of this
Chamber

MEETING DATES

*August 5

*October 7

*December 3

Contact Cheryl Blair or Mary
Cordle to attend.



Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce

10h · 🌐

New to the Greater Muncie Chamber? Looking to maximize your membership?

Join us for Chamber 101—an informative session designed to help members make the most of their Chamber investment.



Wednesday, August 19, 2026



9:00 – 10:00 a.m.



Greater Muncie Chamber of Commerce

Whether you're a new member, a new employee of a member business, or simply looking for a refresher, Chamber 101 will introduce you to the many programs, events, marketing opportunities, and networking resources available through the Chamber.



Free to attend, but registration is encouraged.

Register today: <https://business.munciechamber.org/events/Details/chamber-101-1539200?sourceTypeld=Website>

We look forward to helping you get connected and engaged with the Greater Muncie Chamber community!



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

AT PARKVIEW FIELD, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

FEATURING A BUFFET,
LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS, & A BAKE SALE.
STAY TUNED FOR INFO ON OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SPECIAL PRIZES!

HOSTED BY RAINTREE CHAPTER & WOMEN OF
MAGNITUDE EXPRESS NETWORK





"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."

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

Self-Awareness- July 1 - 31st, 2026 - (School of Leadership) Studies show that individuals who are self-aware are more fulfilled and more effective in their personal and professional lives. Self-awareness is the conscience knowledge of 10 aspects of ourselves, including our thoughts, feelings and emotions, motives and behaviors. Developing self-awareness requires reflection, observation and listening to feedback. Learn simple techniques we can start using to develop our self-awareness and improve relationships, communicate clearly, make better decisions and reduce stress.

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

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<http://abwa-raintree.com>



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