



August 2026| Vol. 61, Issue 1

Raintree Rambler

Raintree Chapter
New Castle, IN

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

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Johnson-Aug. 19
Elaine Study-Aug. 30

Donna Collins-Sept. 20
Janet Johnson-Sept. 27

AWBA ANNIVERSARY

Mary Cordle Aug. 1, 10 yrs.

August 20 Meeting Reminders

PROGRAM: Raintree Chapter 101:
Ready. Set. Grow

BRING: \$24 Raintree dues
\$15 Meeting fee
Ideas to Activate our Ambition

LOCATION: A Team Party Parlor, Muncie, IN

RESERVATIONS: Due to Shirley New by
Sunday before the meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Aug. 17-Summer Sizzler meeting Zoom 7 pm
- ❖ Aug 18-Make, Bake, Buy planning Zoom-7 pm
- ❖ Aug. 20-Raintree meeting-Muncie 6 pm
- ❖ Aug 21-22-Summer Sizzler, Muncie
- ❖ Sept. 10-DVP Zoom Call, Renee Clement, 7 pm
- ❖ Sept. 15- Make, Bake, Buy planning Zoom-7 pm
- ❖ Sept. 17- Raintree meeting-New Castle 6 pm
- ❖ Sept. 22-American Business Women's Day
- ❖ Sept. 29-Oct. 3-National Women's Leadership Conference
- ❖ Oct. 15- Raintree meeting-Muncie 6 pm
- ❖ Oct. 17-Cardinal Crossroads Council 10 am
- ❖ Oct. 22- Just In Time Webinar

Keynote Presentation



Raintree Chapter 101:

Ready. Set. Grow!!

Join Raintree members as we determine methods to Activate our Ambition for the coming 2026-2027 chapter year.

We will also put plans into action to reach our chapter goals and promote ABWA Raintree Chapter.

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.

AUGUST 20



Raintree Chapter

**A Team Party Parlor
4000 N. Broadway Ave.
Muncie, IN**

Networking 6-6:15 pm
Dinner, Program, Meeting 6:15-8 pm

Meeting with dinner--\$15

Meeting with no food--\$5

**RSVP your guests by Sunday,
August 16 using phone, text or
email to Shirley New
765-620-8271 or
wcsanew@hrtc.net.**

Members have auto reservations.

**Please cancel by August 16 if you
are not attending.**

For more information about Raintree
Chapter, contact President Mary Cordle
at marycordle@comcast.net
or visit our website at
<http://www.abwa-raintree.com>

MOMENTS WITH MARY



Dear Raintree Members,

Welcome to another exciting chapter in the life of our Raintree Chapter! It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your President, and I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me.

As I begin this journey, I am reminded that ABWA is so much more than a professional organization. It is a place where women encourage one another, build lifelong friendships, develop leadership skills, and inspire each other to grow personally and professionally. The relationships we build here often become some of life's greatest blessings.

This year, I hope we will continue to embrace opportunities to learn, lead, and serve together. Whether you are a longtime member or attending your very first meeting, I encourage you to get involved. Join a committee, volunteer at an event, attend our programs, or simply introduce yourself to someone new. Some of the most rewarding experiences in ABWA begin with a single "yes."

Together, we will celebrate one another's successes, support each other through challenges, and continue the proud tradition of excellence that has made Raintree such a special chapter. Our strength comes from the unique talents, experiences, and perspectives each member brings, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Thank you for being a part of Raintree. I am excited for the year ahead and can't wait to see all that we will achieve—together.

Here's to a year of growth, friendship, service, and success!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mary Cordle". The script is cursive and fluid.

President, Raintree Chapter
American Business Women's Association

August 2026 Meeting Agenda



AUGUST 20, 2026

- 6:00 Sign in and Register
- 6:15 Call the meeting to order – Mary Cordle
Opening Word & Pledge
Mission Statement / Vision Statement
Dinner
- 6:45 Networking – Elaine Study
- 6:50 Program – Raintree Chapter: Ready, Set, Grow
Installation of new officers – Peggy Miller
Secretary Minutes – Elaine Study – May, June and July
Treasurer's Report - Shirley New – May, June and July
- NEW BUSINESS
- Gracie Herron – Impact Scholarship Recipient & Presentation of \$2000 check – Cheryl Blair
Proposed 2026-2027 Budget – Shirley New
Raintree Standing Rules – Elaine Study
Introduction of New Committer Chairs – Mary Cordle
Gap Analysis Report – Elaine Study
Muncie Chamber Update – Cheryl Blair
New Castle Chamber Update – Shirley New
Audit Committee Report – Elaine Study
Karen Johnson update
Raintree Dues – Pay by September 1 (\$24)
Raintree Brochure – Cheryl Blair
Shirts & Name Badges – Shirley New
Ads in newsletter – Elaine Study
- OLD BUSINESS
- Make, Bake and Buy – Mary Cordle
DVP Report – Shirley New
Summer Sizzler Report – Shirley New
NWLC - September 30-October 3 – Sugarland, Texas
Best Practices – Janet Johnson
Council Report – Donna Collins
- 50/50 Diane Sager
- Next Meeting – September 17 – New Castle REMC
- Closing Word

Secretary's Report

July 16, 2026

The annual Raintree Chapter **On the Road Event** was held on July 16, 2026. The location this year was the Bee Hive Body Co. at 1335 Broad St, New Castle, IN.

The 6 p.m. meeting was attended by eight Raintree members: Donna Collins, Mary Cordle, Janet Johnson, Leslie Mathewson, Peggy Miller, Shirley New, Elaine Study, and Marilyn Upchurch. Guests included Lisa Miller and Missy Dellinger.

The evening began with discounted shopping in the business part of the store. The group then ventured through the maze of huge jars and bags of supplies, passing by trays of products in various stages of processing to the rear of the building where the workshop classes take place. After enjoying a pitch in meal provided by members, the group was introduced to Bee Hive Body Co. owner Mary Hobbs, "Captain of the Shipwreck" as her business card states.

Mary explained that her background in the mass production catering business combined with her jet mechanic background in the U. S. Air Force blended perfectly to create her homemade products like goat milk soap, bath bombs and sugar scrubs. Using quality ingredients, Mary partners with other local businesses to offer custom products. While explaining how every product sold is handmade, Mary stated, "All this is, is chemistry!" The group was surprised to learn her cold process soap needs to set 30 days before it's ready to be sold.

With the history lesson over, Mary distributed supplies. Each member was able to choose the scents and colors wanted in their final product. Following Mary's instructions attendees created their own Silky Body Schmear and Emulsified Body Sorbet.

The next Raintree meeting will be the first meeting of the 2026-2027 ABWA year. Meeting times and dates for the remainder of 2026 are listed below.

August 20, 2026, at A Team Party Parlor, Muncie, IN.

September 17, 2026, at Henry County REMC, New Castle, IN

October 15, 2026, at A Team Party Parlor, Muncie, IN

November 19, 2026, at Henry County REMC, New Castle, IN

December 17, 2026, at Team Party Parlor, Muncie, IN.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Study, Secretary



July's On the Road meeting was held at the BeeHive Body Co in New Castle.

< Greater Muncie Chamber of Co...

All Photos Reels More ▾

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?sourceType=Website>

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



Cardinal Crossroads Council Report

Cardinal Crossroads Council meeting was held July 25, 2026 at the REMC building.

Amy Elberfeld opened meeting and Dawn Pokorny provided a great brunch.

All attendees divided into 3 groups to discuss:

- 1) **Membership growth.** Ideas were one on one conversation and finding out what they are looking for. Gifting memberships. Letting them know no attendance requirement to join
- 2) **Member expectations for CCC and chapter.** Themes per quarter for speakers, want to attend, be active, not met- rotation of officers.
- 3) **Finding speakers and programs.** Look into Ambassador Speakers bureau, Local Chamber of Commerce. Asking for interested topics from chapter.

Cardinal Crossroads Council League happenings:

Gem City, new board installed in July, Pres. Angie Snowball, VP Deanna Nesbit, Treasurer Liz Knecht, secretary Sandra Wild. They are proudly supporting Renee Clement's approved candidate for NWLC secretary/treasurer. They are starting to plan Mingle and Jingle for December 8, 2026. They are planning an ABW day event at the Indiana Fever WNBA game on September 22 , 2026.

Indianapolis Charter Chapter, had a successful year at Indy 500 booth. They have begun planning for their 75th anniversary celebration for March 6, 2027. They are selling Crew Carwash coupons as a fundraising event for their celebration. They have installed Andrea Moore as returning president, Ann-Marie Rohe as VP, Cindy Bedell as returning Secretary, and Cheryl Cramer as treasurer. They have added 4 new members this past year. They have their Annual planning meeting August 2 to discuss member surveys results and goals, gap analysis and budget and writing vision statement for the year.

Successful Women in Hancock County, new officers, President Dianne Hoover, VP Karen Bradbury, Secretary Alexandria Donaldson, treasurer Sharia Campbell. They have had their planning meeting and are setting goals.

Cardinal Crossroads Council Report, con't.

Queen City, working on a leadership packet, they have created a Welcome info sheet to give to guests and new members. July program was 4 Paws for Ability. Talked about training dogs for service dogs for various duties. Officers for new year, President Kay Fittes, VP Amy Elberfeld, secretary Stacey Cole, treasurer Melissa Sherif.

W.O.M.E.N, New board: president Cheryl Schmandt, president elect Christina Adkison, VP finance Shirley New, VP communications Jamie Wilsey-Heckman, VP of Programming Leigh Roberson, VP of membership Nancy Miller. They worked a booth at the Indy 500.

Upcoming events: Summer Sizzler, Friday evening event on August 21, 2026. Sizzler on August 22, 2026, at Knights of Columbus in Muncie. Items being collected for Isaiah 117 house: new items, twin sheets, comforters, bed in a bag, Axe body spray and girls body spray

Next CCC meeting is October 17, 2026

Donna Collins,
Raintree Council Delegate



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 RAIN TREE CHAPTER & WOMEN OF
MAGNITUDE EXPRESS NETWORK



Members on the Move

District V Vice President Celebration

Quad Chairs, Diane Nixon,
Shirley New, Marcia
Greene, Amy Elberfeld



Raintree attendees:
Shirley New, Elaine
Study, Cheryl Blair,
Mary Cordle



Cardinal Crossroads Council attendees



National officers: Dr. Deborah
Johnson-Blake, Barb Pederson,
Renee Clement, Kristena
Haskett, Leslie McMillin



SAVE THE DATE!!
WHAT: SWIHC Chapter Fashion Show
WHEN: Thursday evening, October 22
WHERE: The Lodge on Main
 818 Main St., Lapel, IN

We hope you will join us for our inaugural fashion show! You'll enjoy a delicious dinner. Then see some of Fall's trendiest fashions that can take you from desk to dinner and more!

ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct

1. All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women's Association.
2. Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA's mission.
3. Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
4. Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter and Express Network Bylaws.
5. Members will not use their personal power to advance their personal interests. Members will strive for excellence in their professions by maintaining and enhancing their own business knowledge and skills, and by encouraging the professional development of other members.