

Leading Women Express Network

Bryan-College Station, Texas



An Express Network® of the American Business Women's Association

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.



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August President's Letter



My first point of business is to thank you for the opportunity to lead this amazing group of women for the year 2010-2011! I have to admit that being President of LWEN has been on the top of my list of goals since I joined this group. One of the new board members recently asked me what my plan as President will be this year and I thought I would share my answer with you.

My plan is to keep this organization running smoothly, efficiently, and without a lot of bumps in the road. I also want to exceed the high expectations we all expect from this organization..

I have the following goals:

1. Communicate with the members and always be available to them;

(continued Page 3)

Congratulations!

2009 - 2010 Network Woman of the Year
Cindy May

2011 Top Ten Candidate
Geanna Kincanon

2010 Protegé
Jessica Lavender

2010 District II Conference Newsletter Winner

Level 1 Best Practices



2010 - 2011 Executive Board

President

Debbie Waskow
D.Waskow@yahoo.com

President-Elect

Debbie Holladay
Debbie_Holladay@yahoo.com

VP-Administration

Jennifer Burnett
J.Burnett@CCCreationsUSA.com

VP-Communications

Rebecca Von Gonten
Rebecca@VoGoDesigns.com

VP-Education & Resources

Cindy May
Cindy.May@westwebblaw.com

VP-Finance

Lina Lawson
Lina@twinzco.com

VP-Hospitality

Pamila Johnson
Pamilaj@aol.com

VP-Marketing & Arrangements

Victoria Greene
Victoria_Greene@ml.com

VP-Marketing & Membership

Desarie Hobbs
DHobbs@legacytexasmortgage.com

VP-Marketing & Publicity

Geanna Kincanon
Geanna03@yahoo.com

VP-Networking

Denise Joiner
DJoiner@firstvictoria.com

VP-Programs

Brandi Ring-Cooper
Brandi@brandiring.com



The kaleidoscope was chosen as our *Leading with Vision* icon because it uses “mirrors and colored glass shapes working together to create beautiful, shifting symmetrical patterns” much like ABWA’s National Team, members, chapters, networks and councils work in unison for the continued success and perpetuation of the American Business Women’s Association.

*Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.*
~Joel A. Barker



2010 - 2011 Executive Board

(Front Row, left to right) Debbie Holladay, Debbie Waskow, Desarie Hobbs,
Jennifer Burnett (Back Row, left to right) Lina Lawson, Pamila Johnson,
Denise Joiner, Brandi Ring-Cooper, Rebecca Von Gonten,
Cindy May, Victoria Greene, Geanna Kincanon



August President's Letter *(continued)*

2. Retain LWEN membership through communication, mentoring and leadership;

3. Start a LWEN Sponsor Program: A member who sponsors a new member will be asked to continue mentoring the member throughout the year to insure the new member enjoys all of the opportunities LWEN has available to her. You will hear more about the Sponsor's Program in the future; and

4. Encourage members to "Shop LWEN Businesses First." In our Membership Interest Survey, 92% of the members who took the survey said they joined LWEN because it appeared an excellent source for generating business. 54% of the members said their highest priority was to grow their business. That is a very important reason why I will be reminding LWEN members to support one another and their businesses. Before you email the membership for a business referral, or to give a business referral to a friend or family member, please check your membership listing on www.abwalwen.org for the Member

Business Directory. Another great location to find member and business information, are the member profiles on WIN at www.abwa.org where you update your own information!

Finally, our LWEN 2010-2011 Annual Board Retreat was recently in August. These dedicated board members spent their time and effort to organize a whole year of meetings, educational programs, finances, educational information, networking opportunities, opportunities to plug your business, insure local and national recognition, continue following ABWA Best Practices, and much, much more. When you see members of the Board with their heads together, it is because they are working for you to make your LWEN year the very best, both personally and professionally. Thanks again, and I look forward to a great year! ■

Debbie Waskow
President, LWEN

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AUGUST

Alyssa Carrigan

alyssacarrigan@gmail.com
979.492.5590

Sponsored by Jennifer Burnett

Diane Carmichael

DoubleDave's Pizzaworks
dcarmichael213@gmail.com
979.492.8556

Sponsored by Lina Lawson

Debbie Johnson

Heartland Payment Systems
djaggie90@yahoo.com
979.777.1601

Sponsored by Jan Coates

Jana R. McDonald

Texas A&M University
Telecommunications
jana.mcdonald@gmail.com
979.492.5590

Sponsored by Dara Neyland

Wendy Wood Hencerling

Law Office of Wendy Wood
wendyannewood@hotmail.com
979.779.9663

Sponsored by Tracy Stewart

Hannah Ward

The Management Connection
hannahward@gmail.com
832.922.7500

Sponsored by Denise Joiner

Let's Celebrate LWEN Birthdays!

AUGUST

- 3 - Terri Tolson
- 7 - Elizabeth Archer
- 24 - Kathy Swaldi
- 28 - Mandy LaCombe
- 31 - Martha Opersteny

SEPTEMBER

- 13 - Cortney Tenhet
- 22 - Jennifer Diaz
- 24 - Grace Calbert-Vrooman
- 25 - Jana McDonald
- 25 - Sharon McLewis
- 29 - Jennifer Burnett

August LWEN Membership Meeting Minutes

Member and Guest Arrival / Networking (Meeting agendas and meal contracts available at check-in)

Visit Member Resource Table and Pick Up Professional Development Articles

Meeting was called to order at 11:50 A.M. by Debbie Waskow. Debbie Waskow welcomed members and guests and read the ABWA Mission Statement.

Debbie Waskow read the ABWA Proud Code of Conduct and asked for a motion to accept the code of conduct. Pam Green made the motion and Debbie Holladay seconded the motion. Membership voted and adopted the ABWA Proud Code of Conduct for 2010-2011.

Desarie Hobbs asked Members to introduce themselves and guests for the Member and Guest Introductions portion of the meeting.

Victoria Greene presented the LWEN Audit Report which was reviewed by the Auditing Committee that consisted of Victoria Greene and Rachel Dunham - Tatum. The audit was for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year in which Lina Lawson was the Vice President of Finance. Victoria reported that all moneys are in order.

Lina Lawson presented the 2010-2011 Budget. Debbie Waskow asked for a motion from the floor. Brandi Ring Cooper motioned the approval of the budget and Cindy May seconded that motion. The members voted and approved the 2010-2011 Budget.

Brandi Ring Cooper introduced the Professional Development Speaker, Tina Gandy, District II VP, American Business Women's Association. Tina reviewed the many professional development features on the Women's Instructional Network. Tina covered courses, the Library, News and Home page and how to update your profile. She shared the benefits of keeping your profile updated. Tina closed the secession by listing five ways to embrace your ABWA/LWEN membership:

1. Be Different, Be Authentic
2. Listen – be a good listener and pay attention to what the inner message is
3. Be Committed – believe and achieve
4. Always be a role model
5. Take Risks and Seize Opportunity

Tina Gandy, the District II Vice President installed the 2010 - 2011 Executive Board in accordance to the National Bylaws of ABWA.

Denise Joiner presented the Featured Business of the Month. Sharon McLewis with Wellmann Insurance Agency spoke about her excellent customer service as an agent and prides herself in building relationships with all of her clients. Sharon loves her job and builds her business on referrals.

Denise Joiner and Debbie Holladay presented the Door Prizes giving recognition to the member and business that donated the door prizes. Pam Johnson presented the 50/50 Drawing in which Donna Lamarche was the winner.

Lina Lawson presented the gift basket for members who submitted their Local Annual Dues before or on July 14, 2010. Greta Messarra was the winner!

Debbie Waskow adjourned the meeting. ■

www.abwaLWEN.org



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Let's Celebrate LWEN Anniversaries!

AUGUST

Brandi Ring-Cooper - 2003

Edwina Marshall - 2008

Liz Ylitalo - 2008

Jennifer Burnett - 2009

Brooke Duhr - 2009

Wendi Ghassemi - 2009

Shelly Humphrey - 2009

Natalie Kidd - 2009

Natalie Pine - 2009

Miriam Rieck - 2009

SEPTEMBER

Grace Calbert-Vrooman - 1992

Cindy May - 2003

Victoria Greene - 2008

Kathy Norwood - 2008

Kori Rich - 2008

Terri Tolson - 2008

Elizabeth Archer - 2009

Candace Hollis - 2009



Tina Gandy, District II Vice President and program speaker for August presents Women's Instructional Network (WIN)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

8
Membership Meeting
and Luncheon,
11:30 AM Christopher's World
Grille

22
Recognition of American Business
Women's Day

OCTOBER

7
Fall Membership Drive and Social,
5: 30 PM, Carino's Italian
Restaurant

13
Membership Meeting
and Luncheon,
11:30 AM Christopher's World
Grille

28 - 30
ABWA National Women's
Leadership Conference,
Chattanooga, TN

NOVEMBER

3
New Member Orientation,
11:30 AM, Location TBA

3
Houston Area Council Quarterly
Membership Meeting,
6:00 PM, Houston, TX

8
Board Meeting

10
Membership Meeting
and Luncheon,
11:30 AM Christopher's World
Grille



Get Noticed
Advertise YOUR Business with LWEN

LWEN 2009-2010 Advertising Form

WEN Member Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please check ad size and duration :

1/8 Page (3.5"x2.25") 1 Month (\$20) 3 Months (\$40)

6 Months (\$60) 1 Year (\$100)

1/4 Page (3.5"x4.5") 1 Month (\$30) 3 Months (\$60)

6 Months (\$100) 1 Year (\$150)

1/2 Page (7.5"x4.5") 1 Month (\$50) 3 Months (\$90)

6 Months (\$150) 1 Year (\$250)

If you want your ad to run specific months, please list them here: _____

Please COMPLETE and MAIL this form with your CHECK to: LWEN Ads, P O Box 10915, College Station TX 77842-0915

Provide hi-resolution (300 dpi) ad via email (.jpg, .pdf, High Res/300 DPI, Color) to rebecca@VoGoDesigns.com

Newsletters are distributed monthly via the LWEN Yahoo Group, posted on ABWA WIN, hard copies are placed in membership folders, and this year ads will also be placed on the Website for no additional charge.

Contact Rebecca Von Gonten for availability and questions.

www.abwaLWEN.org

AUGUST FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

SHARON McLEWIS, CIC
Agent
smclewis@wellmaninsurance.com
979.846.3500



Jennifer Burnett, VP-Administration



Rebecca Von Gonten, Denise Joiner

2010 - 2011 Executive Board Retreat, August 7-8

*(Left to Right) Rebecca Von Gonten,
Denise Joiner, Debbie Holladay*



DOOR PRIZE DONORS

AUGUST

Denise Joiner
First Victoria Bank

Lina Lawson & Tina Gandy
Twinz Co. Marketing

Debbie Holladay
B-CS Tax Group

Sharon McLewis
Wellman Insurance Agency

Jennifer Burnett
Post Oak Mall

Kathy Norwood
K. Norwood Portaiture

Dara Neyland
Dara May Photography

Shelly Humphrey
Prosperity Bank

Diane Carmichael
Double Dave's Pizzaworks

Judy Rekieta
First Victoria Bank





Professional Development Presentation
September 8, 2010
Christopher's World Grille
11:30 a.m.

Leading Women Express Network of the American Business Women's Association Presents



Christy Angel
CEO of Rock Your Purpose
Professional Singer/Songwriter, Author & Speaker

TOPIC

From Potential To POWER

Christy Angel, singer/songwriter, author and speaker, is bringing us a live presentation to our monthly meeting and is showing us how to go from potential to POWER. She's going to gently nudge us out of our comfort zones as she takes us on a journey of self discovery and teaches us how to maximize our innate gifts and **Rock Our Purpose**.

Christy Angel, CEO of Rock Your Purpose is a Professional Singer/Songwriter, Author, and a one-of-a-kind Speaker who specializes in personal and professional reinvention. For 14 years she has used her incredible gifts to inspire, motivate, and entertain audiences around the globe.

Christy passed up golden opportunities in the music industry and later in the corporate world, choosing to be true to herself and blaze her own trail. With unlimited gifts of creativity and humor, she helps people uncover their authentic selves and move their lives from the realm of impossibility to possibility!

Through her personal journey from heartache and grief to freedom and success, she discovered universal principles that work for anyone. Mixing truth and down-to-earth humor, Christy's "Never Quit" philosophy and stories of resilience encourage people everywhere to take responsibility and discover their innate power.

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Rebecca Von Gonten with VoGoDesigns



ABWA's Mission:

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.

Please RSVP to Victoria Greene at victoria_greene@ml.com by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 6, 2010.
Vice President of Programs: Brandi Ring - Cooper • Brandi@BrandiRing.com
Leading Women Express Network • abwalwen.org and ABWA.org

September President's Letter

I want to thank all of you that attended the August, 2010 LWEN meeting and installation of officers. We were fortunate to have our District II Vice President, Tina Gandy, home for a few days so she was able to install the new board. We had a great meeting and it was fun! If you weren't able to attend, I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Today LWEN received a message from the ABWA Executive Director, Rene Street, who announced to Pam Green, our Past President, that we have once again received Level One, Best Practices, which recognizes teams for their excellence in chapter management. By achieving Best Practices, LWEN ensures the future of its team by focusing on the elements that create a strong and vital Express Network.

ABWA recognizes Chapters/Express Networks for a variety of management practices that set the standard of excellence for ABWA. ABWA National has defined three levels of Best Practices for ABWA Chapters/Express Networks. Chapters and Express Networks receiving all levels of Best Practices awards will be posted on the National Website for one Award Year and will be recognized at the annual National Conference. All members of LWEN who attend National Conference have the opportunity to go on stage as a group to accept the award. Additionally, those Chapters/Express Networks that qualify for Best practices will receive the official ABWA seal of approval in recognition of Best Practices in group management and will be authorized to display the seal on their Web sites and Chapter/Express Network materials for a period of one year.

The criteria for this award is very high. You may wonder why the LWEN Board does certain things, such as adopting the ABWA Code of Conduct every year, asking the members to complete simple surveys on WIN, recognizing a Top Ten, or publishing at least 6 newsletters a year. For one thing, we are professionals and that is what we do! The second reason is because we want our Level One Best Practices seal every year!

So, congratulations Pam Green for leading your 2009-2010 Board and membership to Level One Best Practices! We all worked hard to earn the recognition! ■

Debbie Waskow
President, LWEN

*Teamwork is the ability to work together
toward a common vision.
It is the fuel that allows common people
to attain uncommon results.
~ Andrew Carnegie*



The key to getting the most out of your membership in ABWA is to stay engaged so that you don't miss an opportunity to make a networking connection, learn something new, or grow your professional repertoire. Thanks to technological advancements like WIN, staying connected to these opportunities is easier than ever! Here are a few important tip[s] for making your place in ABWA's online community count:

- Visit WIN frequently. The **NEWS TAB** provides the latest news, events, and opportunities especially for members
- Participate in discussions in the **TEAM TAB**
- Peruse the **LIBRARY TAB** for leadership and training toops
- Complete interactive leadership training inside the **COURSES TAB**
- Update your **WIN PROFILE**

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 Personal Interests.
6. 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.





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979.219.9002 Cell

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(Left to Right) Tina Gandy, Cindy May, Victoria Greene
August Meeting



(Left to Right) Cortney Tenhet, Pam Green, Grace Calbert-Vrooman
LWEN Lunch Social at Johnny Carino's



New Member Orientation at Blue Baker

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Geanna C. Kincanon, Director of Membership, Brazos Valley Human Resource Management Association recently earned certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR).

The certification, awarded by the HR Certification Institute, signifies that Geanna possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the body of knowledge in the field.

“Certification as a human resource professional clearly demonstrates a commitment to personal excellence and to the human resource profession,” said Mary Power, CAE, Executive Director of the HR Certification Institute.

To become certified, an applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience.

The HR Certification Institute is the credentialing body for human resource professionals and is affiliated with the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world's largest organization dedicated exclusively to the human resource profession.



LWEN VISION STATEMENT

To Recruit Positive, Energetic, and Supportive women willing to help themselves and other women in business succeed.

LWEN MEETINGS

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Christopher's World Grille
 5001 Boonville Road
 Bryan, TX

TO ATTEND MEETINGS

RSVP to Victoria Greene,
 VP-Marketing & Arrangements
 Victoria_Greene@ml.com
 979.220.7477
 before 10:00 am on the 2nd
 Monday of the month

**TO SUBMIT INFO
 FOR NEWSLETTER**

Contact Rebecca Von Gonten
 VP-Communications,
 Newsletter Editor
 Rebecca@VoGoDesigns.com
 979.324.8330

HOW TO REACH LWEN

Snail Mail
 PO Box 10915
 College Station, TX 77842

Website
www.abwaLWEN.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/abwalwen

2010
 National Women's
 Leadership Conference
 Chattanooga, TN

October 28-30

Don't miss the next opportunity to advance your professional portfolio and network with hundreds of ABWA members from across the country.

In addition to another dynamic line-up of keynote and professional development speakers you will also have the opportunity to vote for your 2010-2011 National Board of Directors and join us as we honor the 2011 Top Ten Business Women of ABWA.

Take these 3 easy steps to invest in yourself:

- ✓ Register online at www.abwa.org or by using the registration form found in the June issue of *Women IN Business*® magazine.
- ✓ Make your housing arrangements at the Chattanooga Marriott 1-800-841-1674 using the reservation code ABWABWA
- ✓ Book your travel now!



American Business Women's Association
Leading Women's Express Network