

Association *Facts*

■ **Our 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.

■ **History**

In the 1940s, workingwomen were making new inroads to the business world. Women were changing the face of industry and having a positive economic impact. Hilary A. Bufton Jr., a Kansas City businessman, recognized women's potential, and saw the need for an organization to support and empower them to reach their educational and career goals. As a result, in 1949, Bufton founded the American Business Women's Association. Professional development remains the cornerstone of ABWA today.

■ **The Board of Directors**

The National Board of Directors governs the affairs, policies and business of ABWA on behalf of its members. Board members also serve as trustees of the Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF), ABWA's national scholarship trust.

■ **Membership**

ABWA is a prestigious organization made up of workingwomen across the nation. A majority of members belong to local chapters and Express Networks®. Nearly 1,000 chapters and networks throughout the U.S. offer networking and professional development programs via monthly meetings.

Whether you are actively seeking to advance to the next level, or to stay current with business trends and skills; whether you dream of breaking out on your own or are running your own business; whether you are looking to stay active in retirement, are a stay-at-home mom ready to reconnect or are a full-time student looking to explode onto the job scene - ABWA has a membership option that is right for you. Regardless of which you select, your first step is to join the Association as a national member. When you pay your national ABWA membership dues, a whole world of opportunity will open up to you!

■ **Professional Development:**

The American Business Women's Association offers learning opportunities for women who are taking their business careers to the next level.

Regional and National Conferences:

ABWA offers conferences led by professional speakers and educators from many industries. Quality seminars and workshops feature topics relevant to the needs of today's workingwomen.

ABWA-KU MBA Essentials:

One outstanding and exclusive opportunity is the ABWA-KU MBA Essentials program, a product of a special partnership between the University of Kansas School of Business and ABWA. Each MBA Essentials course delivers critical business subjects at a master's degree level including "Accounting Tools for Financial Success," "Organizational Behavior and Management Principles" and "Human Resources: Principles and Practices." This exclusive program is only offered at the ABWA National Women's Leadership Conference.

ABWA-KU Management Certificate Series:

The ABWA-KU Management Certificate Series is designed as a series of business concentrations, each with specialized courses. Faculty from the University of Kansas School of Business instruct professionals on the information they need to leverage their careers. In 2007, courses included "Six Sigma", "Steps to Becoming an Entrepreneur" and "The Lean Thinking Revolution." This exclusive program is only offered at ABWA's regional conferences.

■ **Scholarships**

The Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF) has contributed to date more than \$14 million to women's professional success through education.

■ **National Publications**

ABWA offers a vast collection of informational tools to their members. *Women in Business*®, the award-winning national magazine of ABWA, offers articles on a blend of personal and professional development topics. Published six times a year, *Women in Business*® features a continuing education department focused on business and market-relevant topics.

Members also enjoy custom-designed online newsletters to serve the individual needs of different groups: Company Connection® for business owners, Leadership Edge for chapter and network officers, Express Network® for busy professionals and Council Communications for council officers. PrimeTime Connection® is mailed to retired and PrimeTime members.

■ **Annual Events**

Members have the opportunity to experience ABWA on a grand scale at the ABWA conferences. A schedule of up coming events is listed below.

Schedule of 2008 ABWA Regional Conferences:

April 4 - 5, 2008	District I	Myrtle Beach, SC
April 10 - 11, 2008*	District III	Kansas City, MO
April 18 - 19, 2008	District V	Frankenmuth, MI
April 25 - 26, 2008	District II	San Antonio, TX
May 2 - 3, 2008	District VI	Englewood, CO
May 16 - 17, 2008	District IV	Niagara Falls, NY

*Kansas City conference will be held Thursday and Friday.

Schedule of Future ABWA National Women's Leadership Conferences:

2007	September 20 - 22	Greensboro, NC
2008	October 2 - 4	Covington, KY - northern Kentucky - the southern side of Cincinnati
2009	September 24 - 26	Kansas City, MO

■ **Top Ten Business Women and American Business Woman Awards**

Every year, each ABWA group has the opportunity to nominate one of its accomplished members to represent it at the national level as a candidate for the Top Ten Business Women of ABWA. From the ten finalists, the American Business Woman of ABWA is chosen. The Top Ten are introduced to the membership at the National Women's Leadership Conference.

■ **National Event**

American Business Women's Day on Sept. 22 celebrates the important contributions more than 57 million American workingwomen and 7.7 million women business owners are making to this nation. This ABWA founding date was recognized in 1983 and 1986 by Congressional resolution and a proclamation issued by President Ronald Reagan.