



American Business Women's Association
Crescent City Connections Express Network

UNLEASH YOUR
BRILLIANCE



IN THE AMERICAN
BUSINESS WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

An Exciting Year Ahead!

Crescent City Connections Express Network

Inside this issue:

National Conference Inspires
CCCEM Delegates.....2

Women Can DRIVE: Achieve
Your Peak Performance.....3

Nov 21st Meeting Features
Entrepreneurship Talk.....2

Meet the New Executive
Board.....4

Mission Statement 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.

NEW LUNCHEON MEETING LOCATION

The Forum
3131 Veterans Blvd
Metairie, LA 70002
3rd Thursday, 11 am—1 pm

A Powerful Look Ahead for CCCEN!

Message from Your President

Greetings, Crescent City Connections Express Network! I am truly humbled and honored to serve as your President for the 2019/2020 board term. There are so many exciting changes and opportunities ahead of us this year in and around New Orleans! This summer was full of excitement as we collaborated in small groups to transition our board and solidify plans for our goals and mission this year. Anything can be accomplished when we work together for the greater good. We thrive because of our local network members, and our passion to fulfill these missions together by supporting one another!



ABWA members -- we are listening!

After every monthly program we send a survey for member feedback. We tally the results, share them at our board meetings, and create a plan of action to implement and/or provide feedback to our membership. Just as important, our Member Interest Surveys were sent in August/ September. These help us to establish our annual business plan, membership retention and growth strategies, and overall vision for this board year.

We began the summer by increasing our social and networking opportunities. A tremendous "Thank You!" goes out to Sylvia Kamp for her valiant efforts to create this process and make it happen!! We have planned upcoming alternating breakfast and lunch meetings in 2020; and relocated our monthly program to The Forum, at 3131 Veterans Blvd. in Metairie, to accommodate more of a central city meeting spot and accommodate our members from every city limit in the Greater New Orleans area.

Continued on page 2

A Powerful Look Ahead for CCCEN!

Cont'd from page 1

Let us #UnleashOurBrilliance and continue to inspire and support other women to take the leap outside of their comfort zone and achieve the goals of their dreams!

In early October, I was grateful to have the opportunity to attend **ABWA National Leadership Conference** with some of our Executive Board members from 2018/2019 as well some who have remained steadfast to the challenge and joined me for another board term this year! We shared laughter and fun, vulnerabilities and visions; we connected on many levels, collaborated on goals and plans to execute, and ultimately enjoyed our time together with an extended amazing group of ABWA women, from literally across the world! #ABWastandsTOGETHER

We grew professionally with leadership education; let our hair down to have fun at the disco celebration; and were honored for our servant leadership efforts during the #ABWACCEN 2018/2019 board year, by achieving Best Practices Level 2 under the Leadership of our 2018/2019 President, Christi Felder. I am proud of our executive team for pulling together through the many challenges encountered, to achieve this award! You ladies are amazing and #TogetherWeAreBetter! -- Christi Felder, Cindy Osmer, Lori Jackson, Rebecca Livaudais, Liz Glaser Broekman, Mckenzie Hogan Ellis, and Amy Landry. I would love to see as many of our members possible join us next year in April 2020 in Sugarland, Texas, for Regional Conference and/or in October 2020 in Denver, Colorado, at our ABWA National Leadership Conference. You will leave empowered and would only regret not making an effort to attend! Our annual fundraising initiatives help to support sending our members to conference. Get with one of us for more information and to get registered!

With sincerity,
Amanda Polkey
President, 2019/2020

ABWA Core Values

Giving Members a Voice
Treat People with Dignity
Lifelong Learning
Focus on Creating Value for Members
Achievement

Visionary Leadership
Focus on the Future
Focus on Results
Manage by Fact
Manage for Innovation

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/20 Happy Hour sponsored by Amy Landry—Picnic & Provisions 5 pm—7 pm

11/21 November Monthly Program, followed by New Member Orientation The Forum 11 am—1 pm Luncheon and Program 1 pm—2 pm Orientation

12/12 December Monthly Program, The Forum 11 am—1 pm—Dress for Success accessory collection

1/6/20 January Monthly Program, The Forum 8 am—10 am

2/13 February Monthly Program, The Forum 11 am—1 pm

3/12 March Monthly Program, The Forum 8 am—10 am

Nov 21st Meeting Features Entrepreneurship Talk



When CCCEN meets on Thursday, Nov. 21, members will have a special treat: hearing Carol Ahn Markowitz (shown at left) as guest speaker. Recently named chief operating officer of Loyola University, she will talk on “Turning an Entrepreneurial Vision into Reality.”

The meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Forum, 3131 Veterans Blvd, Metairie, LA. To register for the meeting, see the CCCEN website. <https://abwaneworleans.org/events/>

Before joining Loyola, she was the founding executive director of the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute. The Los Angeles native has worked for companies such as SBC Communications and Liz Claiborne in positions ranging from controller to vice president of finance. Markowitz moved to New Orleans in 2011 and spent a year as entrepreneur-in-residence at The Idea Village before joining NOCHI.

National Conference Inspires CCCEN Delegates



CCCEN was well represented at the 70th anniversary ABWA National Women’s Leadership Conference (NWLC), held October 2-5 in Kansas City, Missouri! A fantastic time was had celebrating a history of milestones and achievements elevating professional women. Six delegates, Amanda Polkey (Cindy Osmer, Liz Broekman, Becky Kostik-Livaudais, Amy Landy, and Christi Felder) received the coveted Level II Best Practices Award on the National Stage for excellence in league management.

Each delegate had the opportunity to vote for and meet the National Board of Directors and participate in one of three Learning Tracks designed to provide competitive skills in the workplace from renowned experts in the fields.

Key takeaways and learning points

Track A: “For the Entrepreneur in You,” delivered by Erin Joy (“When ‘No’ Leads to ‘Yes’”). Cindy Osmer: “For my first National Conference, I was not sure what to expect. What I experienced reminded me of the reason why I joined ABWA in the first place – to meet women who want to encourage each other to find their gifts and use them. I left the conference energized with many new ideas and a renewed vision in what I wanted to accomplish in ABWA. I am looking forward to attending our Regional Conference in April!” This track is accredited for .4 CEUs by the University of Kansas.

Track B: “A New Way of Thinking”-- delivered by Patricia Lambert from

FranklinCovey, and Ron Pereira, “The Toyota Kata Experience.” We learned the power of teamwork to create a tall structure out of spaghetti and leading at the speed of trust through the 4 cores of credibility. Christi learned that it is critical to surround yourself with strong resources, ask lots of questions, take the time to study what you’ve observed, and to be patient with yourself. This track is accredited for .8 CEUs by FranklinCovey.

Track C: “Women as 21st Century leaders,” presented by Laurie Dipadova-Starks, Kay Barnes, and Linda Moore. This track highlighted the characteristics of women in history who have made a difference and how those qualities can be put to use in your development path. It offered .4 CEUs by Park University.

And, we all had a chance to get down, grooving in a throwback to the 70s with Disco Dick and the Mirror Balls. We were blown away by world famous illusionist and YouTube sensationist, Resa Branson Edge of Illusion (<https://www.youtube.com/user/Rezallusionist>).

It was an humbling and inspiring opportunity to share memories and connect with ABWA sisters from around the country on many levels, collaborating on goals for this coming year, and enjoying our time together!

If you’re interested in attending the next national events, email us at abwaneworleans@gmail.com.

2019/2020 Crescent City Connections Express Network Executive Board

Amanda Polkey

President

Business Development

Consultant SE US - People 2.0

Founder/Coach/ Consultant –

Business and Career Transitions,
LLC

Cindy Osmer

President-Elect

Vice President, Treasury

Management, Hancock Whitney
Bank

Lori Jackson

VP of Finance

Director, Empower Your Cents

Liz Broekman

VP of Programming

Director of P.O.W.E.R., Fidelity
Bank

Dana Johnson

VP of Marketing

FSOP Regional Key Account
Manager, Coca-Cola Bottling
Company United

Wendi Smith-Lloyd

VP of Communications

Partner & Senior Consultant,
Smithworth Consulting

Melissa Buras

VP of Membership

Financial Services Professional,
New York Life

Christi Felder

Past President/Advisory

Project Manager, Microsoft
Corporation

Women Can DRIVE: Achieve Your Peak Performance



For the fifth year, the Crescent City Connections Express Network of ABWA will present the Women Can Drive Business Symposium on Tuesday, October 29. The theme for 2019 is “Achieve Your Peak Performance” and centers around providing skill training that our attendees can apply to their jobs the following day.

Tickets are still available for this outstanding event, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at NOLA Motorsports Park, 11075 Nicolle Blvd. in Avondale, Louisiana. For ticket information, see <https://abwaneworleans.org/events/abwa-women-with-drive-conference/>

Our Checkered Flag partners, Fidelity Bank’s POWER, Ochsner Health Systems, Chase for Business and Ultimate Software join with us to provide our first full day of training, networking and support.

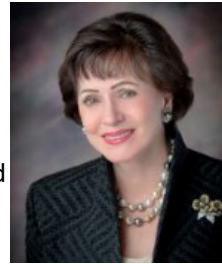
The morning leads off with breakfast and networking tips from ABWA member, Mary Jane Walsh. Mary Jane will help us overcome our fears and introduce our ice breaker for the day. Everyone who completes the ice breaker will be entered into a chance to win a one-night stay at the Hyatt Centric downtown.

After a welcome by committee co-chairs, Cindy Osmer and Jeanne Bergeron, our ABWA CCCEN president, Amanda Polkey, will educate our attendees on the history of ABWA and the benefits of joining.

We are offering three breakout sessions this year, and each breakout session will further enhance our goal of helping our attendees to achieve their peak performance. Speakers will focus on topics such as improving public speaking techniques, making sure your voice is being heard,

medical technology updates, improving focus and making sure that inclusion is really being practiced at work. Microsoft is also going to educate us on the latest Microsoft 365 products that can help us to work smarter, not harder.

Our keynote speakers are dynamic, well-known women in our market. **Gayle Benson**, shown at left, will share with us her story from an entrepreneur to becoming one of the few women who own both an NFL team and an NBA team – the New Orleans Saints and the New Orleans Pelicans. After our third session, Valerie Grubb, who is one of the most energetic speakers we have ever hosted, will fire us up with her entertaining and educational insights about working in a multi-generational environment.



Finally, we end the day with Shelly Molaschi, who will offer a fashion show and teach us some tips and tricks about how to create a powerful wardrobe. Then we will award our parade of prizes and finish up with Happy Hour, sponsored by Edna Fuentes, ABWA member and manager of la Madeleine, 3300 Severn, in Metairie.

Contact us at:
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www.abwaneworleans.org

Follow Us on Social Media:

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ABWA-Crescent City Connections
Instagram:
[@abwanola](https://www.instagram.com/abwanola)

ABWA’s Proud Code of Conduct

All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women’s Association.

Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA’s mission.

Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.

Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter and Express Network By-laws.

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.

