

A Message From Suzanne

As I started thinking about what to say this month I kept thinking about a question that was asked of me when I first took office. It has been the driving force behind any and all changes the Board has implemented. That question is "what will ABWA do for me?" That is a very good question and as I began to ponder the answer the only thing I could come up with is that I have made some amazing friendships and I would even be so bold as to say lifelong friendships.

According to the National ABWA website this is the first thing it says about the benefits of being a member of ABWA:

"When women get together, amazing things can happen. And that's just what the American Business Women's Association's membership options are all about - women joining forces to further themselves both professionally and personally to amazing proportions. Not only do our members get the inside track on the issues facing their local communities, but they also are plugged into the trends and events that drive today's national businesses. Succeeding today is all about what you know, who you know and who knows you. And if you want to be successful, ABWA's chapters and networks give you the upper hand."

It also goes on to say how you can achieve these benefits and that is through development, networking, and recognition. ABWA also has an award-winning bimonthly national magazine that is loaded with such a wide range of information to help each of us in our careers and businesses. Plus, you have to check out all the sponsors who support ABWA by offering discounts through their businesses.

Again I pondered. I can honestly say that I personally have received recognition from the chapter (I love the attention!) even though I was not expecting it and feel there are so many others more worthy. I have also made this one of our goals for the chapter. I know there are more than 2 women in our chapter that deserve to be recognized each year. If you know of someone who needs to be recognized, please let me know and we will make it happen.

Networking is sometimes questionable. We have the networking table where you can put your business information. We have business spotlight speakers each month and we have just added the professional brag segment to our meetings. But do we remember to do business with our members first? Or do we refer someone to them when someone asks you if they know someone who...? Our goal should absolutely be that we choose and promote our fellow sisters in ABWA first.

Development. What is this? For starters, each month our program committee strives to provide us with speakers who will keep us up to date on the latest business topics and how to succeed as a woman in business. Next, the Women In Business magazine provides articles with a wide variety of articles including hints on how to balance a career and motherhood. You can also earn professional development credit hours by simply reading an article and answering the quiz at the back of the magazine. The September/October issue has an incredible article entitled "Good to GREAT".

The Board has set a few goals for the chapter this year that may seem a little extreme for some of our members but we say it is time for a change. It is time to be the chapter we are meant to be! We are proud women in business and we are here to stay!