



## Welcome to NAWBO Houston

On behalf of the board of NAWBO Houston, I'm delighted you're interested in learning more about NAWBO, The National Association of Women Business Owners. NAWBO is the premier organization for women business owners across all industries.

NAWBO Houston is the local chapter of NAWBO National and is the only chapter in the Houston area. Our chapter website is [NAWBOHouston.org](http://NAWBOHouston.org) and the national website is [NAWBO.org](http://NAWBO.org). We invite you to visit both websites for additional information about the association, its history and its member benefits.

The Houston chapter meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at The Briar Club located at 2603 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027. The meetings are held from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and are a combination of ample networking time and informative programming. In addition to our monthly meetings, we also plan events throughout the year. Detailed information about both our lunches and our other scheduled events, as well as partners' events, can be found in the calendar section of the NAWBO Houston website at [NAWBOHouston.org](http://NAWBOHouston.org).

NAWBO Houston is a thriving chapter but we're always looking for enthusiastic, committed, professional women to help us grow even more. We have great plans for the future but we can't do it alone. We need your time, energy and ideas to further our local and national goals. In this packet, you'll find information about member benefits, the chapter board, our corporate partners, and how you can get involved.

I personally invite you to take a look at NAWBO Houston and see all that it has to offer you, both personally and professionally.

***If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. I can be reached at 281.655.5022, [Huverity@OfficeOrganizers.com](mailto:Huverity@OfficeOrganizers.com) or through the NAWBO Houston website at [Membership@NAWBOHouston.org](mailto:Membership@NAWBOHouston.org).***

Sincerely,

*Holly Uverity*

*Holly Uverity, CPO®  
NAWBO Houston Membership Director*



**NAWBO Houston 2009 – 2010 Board of Directors**

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## **Why Join??**

Membership has its privileges. NAWBO members are a part of the largest dues paying organization for women entrepreneurs and the voice of over 10 million women-owned businesses. As a member of NAWBO Houston, you will gain access to and become part of a significant pool of resources, including networking opportunities, local and national recognition, access to capital, leadership development, educational programs and member only discounts on a growing number of business products and services to help you and your business.

Membership in NAWBO Houston not only helps you grow as a business person, but as a whole person. Our NAWBO membership comes from all backgrounds and companies but all our members have the desire to succeed. As a NAWBO Houston member, you'll be part of a local community of successful Houston businesswomen who have learned from each other, taught each other and along the way become friends, business associates and allies.

### **Mission and Vision Statement**

NAWBO propels women entrepreneurs into economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide by:

- ⊗ Strengthening the wealth creating capacity of our members and promoting economic development within the entrepreneurial community
- ⊗ Creating innovative and effective change in the business culture
- ⊗ Building strategic alliances, coalitions and affiliations
- ⊗ Transforming public policy and influencing opinion makers

### **Diversity Statement**

In principle and in practice, NAWBO values and seeks a diverse and inclusive membership. NAWBO seeks full participation in the organization by all business owners who support our mission to empower women entrepreneurs, regardless of race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. NAWBO's goal is to effectively represent the full diversity of the women business owner community and to expand access to leadership opportunities across the full spectrum of our membership.



***NAWBO member benefits are constantly expanding and growing. Following is a partial list of benefits that NAWBO members enjoy.***

**NATIONAL & LOCAL MEMBERSHIP:** NAWBO membership offers a national and local platform to tap into the power of an already established community of women entrepreneurs.

- ⊗ Local, regional, national and international networking opportunities
- ⊗ Creation of long lasting personal and business relationships
- ⊗ Access a network of contacts in Houston and around the world via the online member directories
- ⊗ Leadership and business development training
- ⊗ Member pricing at conferences and seminars on the trends, regulations and new technologies that impact women owned businesses

**PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES:** NAWBO attracts corporations and affiliate partners that offer a rich base of resources and expertise.

- ⊗ Corporate and Affinity Partner discounts
- ⊗ Federation of Houston Professional Women member benefits

**COMMUNICATIONS and VISIBILITY:** NAWBO's electronic communications provide members with information they can use.

- ⊗ NAWBO's communications include updates on technology, best practices and business trends
- ⊗ Opportunities for members to participate in media interviews
- ⊗ National advertisement and promotion through RFP's and speaking opportunities
- ⊗ Recognition of achievement through local and national awards and publicity
- ⊗ Access to the NAWBO Speakers Bureau to promote training and speaking services

**ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER:** NAWBO represents a significant and united voice on issues that impact businesses. NAWBO members gather annually to collectively bring NAWBO's position on issues that affect women owned businesses to Capitol Hill.

- ⊗ Benefit from NAWBO advocacy for business issues in Washington, DC
- ⊗ Opportunities to prepare congressional testimony



## **NAWBO Membership Criteria** **NAWBO Membership Categories**

### **Membership Criteria**

- ⊗ NAWBO membership is open to individual business owners who own an equity interest and actively participate as a sole proprietor; an active partner of a partnership or active member of a limited liability company; and independent contractor; or individual owners of 5 percent or more of the stock of a corporation and who are involved in policy-making and day-to-day management of the corporation.
- ⊗ Members must join both NAWBO National and NAWBO Houston.
- ⊗ A NAWBO membership is recorded in the name of the individual, not the organization.
- ⊗ Membership dues are nonrefundable and are subject to change.
- ⊗ A new member's join date is the first day of the month NAWBO National receives payment.

### **Membership Categories and Annual Dues**

***NAWBO Houston's annual dues are \$85 regardless of the category of membership you choose. NAWBO National's annual dues vary with each category of membership and are detailed below. Your total annual dues are the total of your NAWBO Houston dues plus your NAWBO National dues.***

#### **At-Large Member (Voting Member)**

**\$170 New/\$155 Renewal**

- ⊗ Subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision
- ⊗ Business and residence are located outside of NAWBO Houston's territory (45 mile radius)
- ⊗ Owns an equity interest and actively participates in a business as a sole proprietor, an active partner of a partnership or active member of a limited liability company, an independent contractor, or a 5% or greater shareholder in a corporation
- ⊗ Files a schedule C or F, receives IRS Tax Form 1099 from client(s), or files corporate or partnership tax returns



- ⊗ Maintains an office (including home office) or a business facility
- ⊗ Is involved in the policy-making process and overall day-to-day management of the business
- ⊗ Has been a business owner for more than two (2) years

**Established Business Owner (Voting Member)**

**\$150 New/\$125 Renewal**

- ⊗ Subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision
- ⊗ Owns an equity interest and actively participates in a business as a sole proprietor, an active partner of a partnership or active member of a limited liability company, an independent contractor, or a 5% or greater shareholder in a corporation
- ⊗ Files a schedule C or F, receives IRS Tax Form 1099 from client(s), or files corporate or partnership tax returns
- ⊗ Maintains an office (including home office) or a business facility
- ⊗ Is involved in the policy-making process and overall day-to-day management of the business
- ⊗ Has been a business owner for more than two (2) years

**Emerging Business Owner (Non-Voting Member)**

**\$100 New/\$75 Renewal**

- ⊗ Subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision
- ⊗ A first time business owner with a new business less than two (2) years old, or who has not yet started her business

**Sustaining Member (Voting Member)**

**\$300 New/\$275 Renewal**

- ⊗ Subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision
- ⊗ Owns an equity interest and actively participates in a business as a sole proprietor, an active partner of a partnership or active member of a limited liability company, an independent contractor, or a 5% or greater shareholder in a corporation
- ⊗ Files a schedule C or F, receives IRS Tax Form 1099 from client(s), or files corporate or partnership tax returns
- ⊗ Maintains an office (including home office) or a business facility
- ⊗ Is involved in the policy-making process and overall day-to-day management of the business
- ⊗ Has been a business owner for more than two (2) years
- ⊗ Wishes to support the organization in a larger monetary way



**Supporting Member (Non-Voting Member)**

**\$150 New/\$125 Renewal**

- ⊗ A non-business owner who subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision and wishes to support to NAWBO through membership
- ⊗ Only paper applications are accepted for Supporting Membership and require chapter approval for acceptance. Please contact NAWBO's Membership Director to apply as a Supporting Member.

**Student Member (Non-Voting Member)**

**\$100 New/\$75 Renewal**

- ⊗ An individual who is registered full time at a school or university who subscribes to NAWBO's Mission and Vision and intends to start a business
- ⊗ Only paper applications with proof of full-time student status are accepted for Student Membership.



## **NAWBO Partners**

One of NAWBO's greatest strengths is our ability to build strategic alliances, coalitions and affiliations with corporate and affinity partners that help support and propel the growth and prosperity of women-owned businesses.

NAWBO partners with a variety of companies and organizations to provide resources, connections, information and opportunities to NAWBO members worldwide. NAWBO partners support the growth and success of our national network of women entrepreneurs and become a part of a dynamic community of women dedicated to building a legacy of entrepreneurial excellence.

- 🌀 ***To see a complete list of NAWBO Houston partners, please visit [NAWBOHouston.org](http://NAWBOHouston.org). To see a complete list of national NAWBO partners, please visit [NAWBO.org](http://NAWBO.org).***

### **Corporate Partners**

NAWBO Corporate Partners form strategic alliances with NAWBO because women entrepreneurs represent the fastest growing segment of the business community. NAWBO serves as the most effective and direct access to a community of successful women entrepreneurs and offers the ability to build mutually beneficial partnerships that strengthen the wealth creating capacity of its members.

- 🌀 ***NAWBO Houston Corporate Partners include Steven Kay Media, Sterling Bank, The Entrepreneur's Source, Aetna, Chase, j.riley creative, WalMart, and Wells Fargo.***

### **Affinity Partners**

NAWBO Affinity Partners provide exclusive member-only discounts and benefits that help our members increase their bottom line. Through these alliances, affinity partners reach out and influence decision makers and deliver workplace and at-home solutions for women business owners.

- 🌀 ***NAWBO Affinity Partners include American Express Open, Guardian Logn Term Care Insurance, Wells Fargo Home Financing, PR Newswire and UPS.***



## Strategic Alliances

NAWBO Strategic Alliances are with business and nonprofit organizations which provide resources, connections, information and opportunities to the women's entrepreneurial community and bring added value to our members.

- ⊗ ***NAWBO Houston Strategic Alliances include The Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, The University of Houston Small Business Development Center, The Women's Business Enterprise Alliance, The Women Contractors Association, and The NAWBO Texas Alliance.***

## Media Partners

NAWBO Media Partners work with NAWBO members to offer topical and timely information, resources, and connections that help propel women business owners to greater success.

- ⊗ ***NAWBO Media Partners include Small Business Television, Inc. Magazine, DivineCaroline, Enterprising Women Magazine, Entrespect, Pink Magazine, Professional Woman's Magazine, w2wlink.com, and Womenworking.com.***

## International Alliances

NAWBO builds alliances with international organizations to engage in meaningful collaborations and initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship around the globe.

- ⊗ ***NAWBO's International Alliance Partner is The World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM).***



## **NAWBO Houston Volunteer Opportunities**

Members are the lifeblood of any organization and it's because of our members' volunteer efforts that NAWBO Houston is a thriving chapter.

This is your invitation to get involved in the chapter and help it continue to grow and prosper. Volunteering is also the best way to get yourself known in the organization and make both new friends and valuable business connections.

NAWBO Houston offers many opportunities to get involved; please tell us which committees you're interested in working with. And don't worry, if your schedule doesn't permit you to volunteer now, there will always be room for you.

Return this form to Holly Uverity, NAWBO Houston Membership Director, via fax at 281.652.5701 or email at [Huverity@OfficeOrganizers.com](mailto:Huverity@OfficeOrganizers.com). Holly will ensure that you'll get connected to the right committee chair.

### **Jump in – we're waiting for your enthusiasm and new ideas.**

**Membership Committee**

This committee is responsible for recruiting and retaining new members to the chapter. The Membership Committee is also responsible for developing chapter events, acting as greeters at chapter events and overseeing contact with current, prospective and lapsed members. *If you like connecting to other members and prospective members or planning fun events, this is the committee for you.*

**Programs/Education Committee**

This committee is responsible for developing programs and educational offerings for the chapter. *If you like scheduling speakers for chapter meetings and planning educational events, this is the committee for you.*

**Public Relations Committee**

This committee is responsible for reaching out to the Houston business community, maintaining communications within the chapter and helping manage the website content. *If you are creative and like to write, this is the committee for you.*



**Public Policy Committee**

This committee is responsible for informing the chapter about the public policy issues and positions supported by NAWBO National. The Public Policy committee also informs the chapter about procurement and international opportunities available to members. *If you like working with government entities and are concerned about local and national legislation that impacts your business, this is the committee for you.*

- Corporate and Economic Development Committee** This committee is responsible for recruiting and retaining corporate partners at the chapter level. The Corporate and Economic Development Committee also works closely with the Membership Committee. *If you like connecting with companies who want to know more about partnering with NAWBO Houston, this is the committee for you.*

**Ad Hoc Committees**

The president may appoint Ad Hoc Committees as approved by the Board for specific tasks and durations. *If you are project oriented or have limited time to spend volunteering, this is the committee for you.*

## Thanks for volunteering – we appreciate it!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have an idea for a way to volunteer that's not listed on this form, please let us know; we're listening.

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