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NAWBO KENTUCKY ANNOUNCES 2017 EPIC AWARDS WINNERS

*EPIC Awards Gala took place **Thursday, March 2nd***

Louisville, Ky. – The Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) awarded the 2017 EPIC winners at their annual EPIC Awards Gala on March 2nd at the Mellwood Arts & Entertainment Center.

The winners, along with the category of their award, are as follows:

- *Large Business:* **Diane Fischer**, L&D Mail Masters, Inc., New Albany
- *Small Business:* **JoAnne DeLorenzo Maamry**, The Entrepreneur's Source, Simpsonville
- *Humanitarian:* **Colleen Clines**, Anchal Project, Louisville
- *Member of the Year:* **Patricia Butler**, Patricia Butler Interiors, Louisville
- *Supporting Partner:* **Carol Coldiron**, BB&T Insurance Services, Louisville

In addition, immediate past President of NAWBO Kentucky and President of Michaelis Events Denise Jerome was presented with a surprise Leadership & Initiative Award. In her 2 years as president, Denise drove success, growing NAWBO Kentucky over 37%. She was an integral part in the launch of NAWBO GROW and helped initiate the organization's first ever symposium.

“These are such incredible women and we’re excited to recognize their success and accomplishments,” said Jesika Young, Vice President of MainSource Bank and President of NAWBO Kentucky. “Their innovation and drive throughout each of their journeys in business is impressive and empowering. The Commonwealth of Kentucky benefits tremendously because of these women.”

The 23rd Annual EPIC Awards celebrated all 13 finalists, as well as the 25th Anniversary of NAWBO in Kentucky. It began with a cocktail reception and a short speech from each finalist about their individual key initiatives. The night ended with an inspiring speech by Seema Sheth, Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual, about living by design, not default.

“It was an inspirational night for everyone in attendance,” said Henrietta Pepper, President of the pepper group, ltd. and President of the NAWBO Kentucky Foundation Board of Directors.

“What a fantastic way to celebrate 25 years of NAWBO in Kentucky and the power of women in business.”

Judges included Allison Ball, Kentucky State Treasurer; Dr. Stacie Grossfeld, President and Owner of Orthopaedic Specialists; Maggie Harlow, Founder of CliffDivers and CEO of Signarama Downtown; and Sadiqa Reynolds, President and CEO of Louisville Urban League. In addition, gala attendees had the opportunity to cast live votes after hearing the finalists speak.

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Note to Editors: Winners' headshots, quotes and one-on-one interviews can be made available.



Winner – Large Business

Diane Fischer

L&D Mail Masters, Inc., New Albany

Diane has an extensive background in direct mail that has enabled her to mold L & D Mail Masters into a technologically-advanced direct marketing company. In the past 29 years, she has expanded L & D's abilities to become a well-respected, full-size direct mail marketing resource. She specializes in Direct, Online & Digital Marketing, Lead Generation, Direct Mail Campaigns, Print & Communication Services, Campaign Design & Programming, Print & Data Management, Mailing Services, Web Fulfillment, Digital Media Services, Mobile & Email Marketing, etc.

"This was indeed an EPIC moment! Winning...is indescribable and I thank NAWBO for such recognition for our efforts in the women business community. I continue to be inspired by...this organization."



Winner – Small Business

JoAnne DeLorenzo Maamry

The Entrepreneur's Source, Simpsonville

JoAnne joined The Entrepreneur's Source because of her desire to help people explore business ownership as a vehicle to achieving their income and lifestyle dreams. She is a Registered Nurse with specialization in behavioral health and administration. She has over 20 years of executive leadership experience in healthcare, including being a hospital president/CEO. She has coached many leaders and has teaching and consulting experience. JoAnne is active in several community/service organizations.

"I was so very honored to be chosen...as there were so many deserving finalists. There was so much positive energy in the room – what an uplifting and empowering experience!"



Winner – Humanitarian

Colleen Clines

Anchal Project, Louisville

Colleen values how design can become a tool for sustainable solutions to gender inequality, social injustice and environmental degradation. She combines this passion as a social entrepreneur and impact designer at Anchal by leading the overall strategic and operational planning of programs, partnerships, expansion and execution of its mission. She earned her Master of Landscape Architecture from RISD. In 2013, she was named one of Public Interest Design's Top Global 100 designers.

"Our community is filled with talented and inspiring women...it's such an honor to have been selected amongst many deserving recipients...I am truly humbled by the recognition I have received."



Winner – Member of the Year

Patricia Butler

Patricia Butler Interiors, Louisville

Originally from Chicago, Patti has lived in Louisville for 21 years. She has a BA in English Literature, and now a BFA in Interior Design from U of L. Prior to returning to school, she owned a faux painting business, so Interior Design was a natural extension. Patti owns Patricia Butler Interiors, and is proud to be an independent contractor with Hubbuch & Co. She believes that working collaboratively with her clients yields the best results. Planning, attention to detail, and follow through are critical, as well as a little bit of fun and lots of creativity.

"Being included in this group, including those who have gone before, makes me feel like I have landed amongst the stars!"



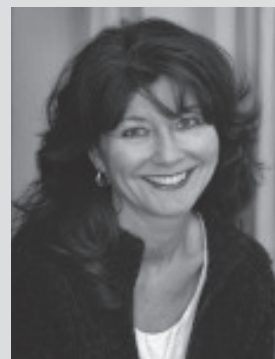
Winner – Supporting Partner

Carol Coldiron

BB&T Insurance Services, Louisville

Carol is an Assistant Vice President at BB&T Insurance Services. Having been involved in the insurance industry for over 20 years, she is licensed in Property & Casualty, Life & Health and holds a Certified Insurance Counselor designation. She's been involved with NAWBO for 3.5 years and served as co-chair for EPIC in 2016. She is also on the board of The Neighborhood House. Carol has a passion for golfing and hiking. She's married with 2 daughters and 3 puppies.

"It was an honor to be recognized by my peers, an amazing group of inspirational women. I am grateful to be involved with this organization."



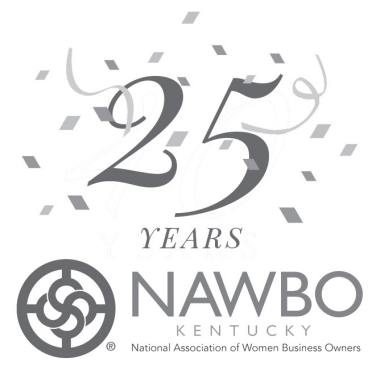
Leadership & Initiative Award

Denise Jerome

President, Michaelis Events, Louisville

Denise is the immediate past president of NAWBO. In her 2 years as president, Denise drove success across Kentuckiana. Growing our organization over 37%. She was an integral part in the launch of GROW. She helped initiate our first ever symposium. She fused partnerships with many of our supporters and from those partnerships has been able to provide resources and information to our members.

"I was completely surprised and overwhelmed...I've seen NAWBO's presence and influence grow so much over the last 2 years. It's great that the community and its members recognize it as well!"



NAWBO Kentucky's mission is to empower women by providing support, resources and opportunities to propel women entrepreneurs into economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide, at all stages of growth. It's about women helping women, forming partnerships and learning from each other.

NAWBO Grow was formed by NAWBO Kentucky as an answer to this call for action. Women often struggle at each stage in their businesses. Whether the business is "new-born," "middle-aged" or "silver," there are different challenges to be addressed. NAWBO Grow gives women the resources necessary to progress in a positive direction from one stage to the next.



Survive

"The Survive program gave me the tools to bring my business to life. I entered the program confused and unsure of how to start and run a business.

I left the program an empowered, successful business owner with a plan and the confidence to make my dreams a reality. If you want to be a business owner someday, join this cohort of strong, supportive women. You won't regret it!"

**Demetria Miles, Decide Diversity
Survive Class of 2016**



Strive

"Participating in the Strive Phase of the GROW program has been one of the smartest decisions I have made since starting our company twelve years ago.

The program allows me to interface with other business leaders in a structured yet conversational forum to share best practices and learn from outside resources the facilitator brings in. It has disciplined me to focus on the daily operations to run the business better while setting the strategic vision for their future."

Henrietta Pepper, President, the pepper group, ltd.



Thrive

"As successful women business owners, it is important that we continue to lift others and support them along their journey.

Thrive members are generally in a position to share their experiences and encouragement. We complete the circle by helping our peers grow and gain a sense of 'paying it forward' in the process."

Denise Jerome, President, Michaelis Events

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Silver

C&H, Katalyst Creative, ARGI, Hubbuch & Co., InGrid Design, Insider Louisville, Kentuckiana Nursing Services, Louisville Magazine, Mountjoy Chilton Medley, the pepper group, ltd., Pro Communications, Signarama Downtown, Strategic Communications, University of Louisville College of Business, Voice-Tribune

What is NAWBO?

Founded in 1974, the National Association of Women Business Owners - NAWBO - propels women entrepreneurs into economic, social, and political spheres of power worldwide. Today, NAWBO is still the only organization dedicated solely to representing the interests of women entrepreneurs in all industries. The organization's mission is to strengthen the wealth-creating capacity of its members and promote economic development; to create innovative and effective change in the business culture; to build strategic alliances, coalitions, and affiliations; and to transform public policy and influence opinion makers.

The Kentucky chapter was founded in 1992 and is now the 5th largest of 60 chapters nationwide. Chapter meetings and events feature information to help participants build successful businesses. Networking opportunities enable our members to establish professional relationships with other members as well as with our corporate partners and sponsors.

For more information about NAWBO Kentucky, visit nawbokentucky.org or contact director@nawbokentucky.org.



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