

ABWA Big Sky Chapter Meeting Agenda

(minutes in italicized text)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – Montana City Grill (Downstairs)



ABWA Mission Statement: 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.

Big Sky Chapter Vision Statement 2024-2025: To empower, support, and elevate our members while inspiring them to do the same for women in our community.

5:30 p.m.	Networking	
6:00 p.m.	Call to Order	<i>Breanna</i>
	Attendance	<i>Angie</i>
	Salute to Flag	<i>Chantelle</i>
	Read Mission Statement	<i>Shona</i>
	Read Vision Statement	<i>Krysten</i>
	Guests	
	Program	

As the Account Manager for American Red Cross, Nona Keeler is responsible for coordinating blood donations within her region, which spans Anaconda, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Lincoln.

Nona shared a few facts with the group, which were surprising:

- *Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood.*
- *A person in a car accident can need as many as 100 units, and it is the blood that is already on the shelf that can save their lives.*
- *Approximately 66% of our population is eligible to donate, but only 3% actually take the time to do so.*
- *Whole blood donors can give every 56 days while Power Red donors can give every 112 days. Power Red is similar to a whole blood donation, except a special machine is used to allow you to safely donate two units of red blood cells during one donation while returning your plasma and platelets to you.*

Blood donations are especially important during the summer months when the demand goes up and donations decrease due to vacations, etc. Therefore, the American Red Cross is working diligently to pack the shelves before the summer months begin. Blood donations are first distributed within Montana and then shared elsewhere in the Continental US.

Nona shared some of the common reasons why people don't give (e.g. fear of needles, afraid that it will hurt, etc) or why people may not be eligible to donate (e.g. certain medications, a low iron level, etc).

Nona encouraged everyone to donate blood because it only takes a few minutes (about five minutes for the actual donation). Also, the blood donation process is relatively painless (just a quick pinch). Donors have the option of giving blood at any of the three drives that are held at the Blood Donation Center every week, or they can sign up to give at a blood drive being hosted at a local business. Those who cannot give blood can still help by volunteering at a blood drive or hosting a blood drive. Hosting a blood drive is a great way for businesses to connect with their community and customers. Businesses that do not have enough space also have the option of hosting a blood drive at the Blood Donation Center.

Anyone who is interested in donating blood, volunteering at a blood drive, or hosting a blood drive can contact Nona Keeler at nona.keeler@redcross.org.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Auditing (Brittani & Patti)
 - *The annual audit will be done in July 2024.*

- Nominating (Chantelle & Becky)
 - *On motion of Angie, seconded by Brittani, and with all voting in favor, the following officers were elected for 2024-2025 with their term of office to begin in September 2024.*
 - *President: Kat Taylor*
 - *Vice President: Becky Zaharko*
 - *Secretary: Chantelle Nash*
 - *Treasurer: Erin Smith*
 - *The new officers will be installed on June 12, 2024, and paperwork will be submitted to ABWA National by June 30, 2024.*
 - *Becky presented the Woman of the Year Award to Breanna Carioto and expressed the chapter's gratitude for Breanna's untiring support and leadership this year.*

- Fundraising (Robyn, Chantelle, and Kat)
 - *Members were reminded that the ABWA 75th Membership Campaign ends on June 30, 2024.*

- Membership (Angie & Tawnia)
 - *Breanna shared an update from Robyn regarding her conversation with Charlie Gross (Carroll College, Athletic Director) about using the conference rooms in the Hunthausen Activity Center for ABWA meetings. Charlie is open to this possibility, but he is checking to see if the college can commit to all of the meeting dates.*
 - *The chapter members agreed to investigate additional locations, including the Broadwater Athletic Club, Missouri River Brewing, Helena College, and Kleffner Ranch. Breanna reminded the chapter that selecting a location with AV and WiFi capability would make it possible for the chapter to conduct hybrid meetings and connect with remote members.*
 - *Breanna asked the Membership Committee to reach out to those who attended the membership drive in March 2024.*

- Newsletter (Breanna & Brandy)
 - *The newsletter was distributed on April 30, 2024.*
 - *Members were asked to send their updates to Breanna/Brandy for the next newsletter, which will be published on July 31.*

- Education (Breanna & Erin)
 - *Breanna and Erin provided an update on applications for the 2024 scholarships. So far, 17 applications have been received for the \$2000 scholarship, but only two of the applications are fully complete. Additionally, there have been 4 applications started for the \$1000 scholarship, only one of which is complete.*
 - *The window for applications closes on May 15, 2024.*

- Professional Development (Chantelle & Shona)
 - *For the group event on July 10, 2024, the group decided to do another wood sign project at Hammer & Stain. Prices range from \$39 to \$70, and part or all of the cost may be covered by the chapter. Members also agreed to bring a potluck item to share starting at 5:30 pm.*
 - *See Schedule in the “Announcements” Section.*
 - *The chapter reviewed the following recommendations for future guest speakers/presentations:*
 - *Nomad Canna*
 - *Girls Thrive*
 - *Laura Clark (Opportunity Bank of Montana)*
 - *Governor’s Cabinet*
 - *Helena College*
 - *St. Pete’s Hospital*

- Publicity & Social Media (Robyn & Kat)
 - *Erin has started rebuilding the Big Sky Chapter’s website using the Weebly platform, which is much more user friendly.*
 - *Members were asked to continue providing updates to Robyn & Kat with as much lead time as possible so they can announce them on social media.*

OLD BUSINESS

- *Approve Minutes for April 2024 – stand as approved*
- *Approve Treasurer’s Report for April 2024 – stand as approved*

NEW BUSINESS

- *ABWA National News & Updates*
 - *Members were reminded of the courses that are available through www.myapexcampus.org:*
 - *Kata Applications and Case Studies*
 - *How to Run Virtual Kata in the Classroom*
 - *Resume Success Formula*
 - *POWER TIPS - For 365, Outlook, and Gmail Users (\$49)*
 - *Breanna relayed an invitation from the District VI President for Big Sky Chapter members to attend the “Celebrating Crown Jewels” event that will be held in Northern California on July 19-20, 2024. There will be a Meet and Greet on July 19, 2024 and a Celebration Luncheon on July 20, 2024.*
 - *A legacy member will be attending the ABWA National Conference, which will be held in Overland Park, KS on September 25-28, 2024, and she hopes to connect with others there. Breanna announced that there are funds available to help offset the cost if anyone who like to attend.*
- *The chapter paid its ABWA Chapter Administration fee of \$125 on May 3, 2024.*
- *The deadline for the liability Insurance premium is July 15, 2024, and the deadline for submitting the chapter’s National Website Listing Terms and Agreement is July 30, 2024.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Happy Birthday!*
 - *05/16 – Krysten Bohlman*
- *Member Announcements*
 - *Krysten Bohlman announced that she is relocating her business next to her mother’s business, Dinners Done Right.*
- *Other Announcements*
 - *50/50 Drawing – Congratulations to Breanna on winning \$35!*
 - *The next meeting will be held at the Montana City Grill; all meetings will be held downstairs from now on.*

Month	Speaker	Activity or Event
06/12*		Deadline for Annual Chapter Dues Installation of New Officers Deadline for Location Dues Invoice
07/10	Group Event	Audit of the Books Deadline for Best Practices Binder
08/14	President’s Picnic	Scholarship Awards – recipients are invited to attend
09/11*		ABWA Proclamation
10/09*		
11/13*		
12/11*		Holiday Sock Exchange