

Membership News

By Cimi Douglass



Welcome New Member – Billie Harris!

Ladies, it is my pleasure to introduce to you Billie Harris. Billie was officially announced and welcomed as a new member at our May meeting. In an effort to learn more about our new members, we ask each new member to provide a brief biography. She looks forward to becoming more active within our club and within the Arts, Home Life and Public Issues community service programs. Below please find Billie's bio, and please give her a warm welcome when you see her at the June meeting.

Billie Harris was born and raised in Woodville, MS. She grew up helping her Grandmother run their family grocery store. She worked along side her Grandmother until she graduated high school in 1998. That year, when her Grandmother passed, Arbuthnot's Grocery closed its doors after serving the community for 53 years. She then accepted a full academic scholarship to Tuskegee University where she majored in Architecture and minored in English.

After studying at Tuskegee for 2yrs, she decided to venture into a new major as well as a new school. She then transferred to the Art Institute of Atlanta where she majored in Multimedia and Graphic Design, and finished with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Billie began working for ConAlliance Inc., a technology consulting firm, as an Information Tech from 2006-2009. After the company dissolved, Billie began working for Delta Airlines as a Customer Service Associate in May 2009. During that time she began to volunteer at charitable organizations. The first was Hands on Atlanta, as an academic tutor for elementary school children with Sickle Cell Anemia who missed time away from school. She also worked with Hosea Feed the Hungry Foundation during the holiday seasons.

While working at Delta, she met her husband, Flavius, and was married April 3rd, 2010. At that time Billie became the mother of 4, 3 sons and 1 daughter. Billie loved helping others and found herself dedicating more and more time to her volunteer work. With a suggestion from her husband that she pursue her passion rather than her occupation, she resigned from Delta to become an Event Coordinator and Philanthropist. Billie has organized several clothing, toy, and food drives over the past 4 years and donated her collections to such organizations as the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta Children's Shelter, Toys for Tots, and Coats for Kids to name a few.

In 2010, she also independently formed What's The Plan, LLC, an event planning company. With the support of her husband, she recently incorporated a non-profit organization called Helping All Women and Children Inc. (HAWC) in September 2012. Under HAWC, she organized a Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fundraiser in October 2012, as well as planned the Atlanta Children's Shelter's Annual Fall Festival in November 2012. A bouncy house, cotton candy machine, and 100 healthy snack bags were donated to the fall festival on behalf of her non-profit, HAWC Inc. Billie continues to dedicate her life to her family, as well as her community, because as she sees it "If I'm able to help, then why not?"

Please Help the Membership Committee Kick Off our 1st After Hour Program – July 11th doors open at 5:30, meeting begins at 6:15 pm.

To continue to be effective within the community with our charitable and philanthropic efforts, we need to continue to build our membership. Our club's ability to serve the community, and develop leaders capable of serving AWC in the future and beyond the Club level (GFWC) is directly related to the size and strength of our membership base. Good preparation and assistance will lead to a productive year. In May, our President Karen Clydesdale announced the creation/formation of the Membership Committee to assist in recruiting of new members and retention of current members. This Committee is chaired by Cimi Douglass, 1st Vice President of Membership, along with the wonderful guidance and assistance of Wendy Gill, Pamela Ashe and Judine Heard as membership committee members. The role of the membership committee is to develop and implement an action plan for the Atlanta Woman's Club's membership development. The obvious goals are: Continue with recruitment of new members, Retention of existing members, Greeting new members, Introducing new members to AWC membership during meetings, New member packet, Membership Directory, Organize AWC After hour programs, GFWC Orientation.

We need your help in achieving our goals. Developing our club's membership requires identifying and attracting potential members. New members bring fresh ideas and new energy to a club. Our current members are crucial to continuing our club's service and contribution to the community. **With that said, we would like to announce AWC's 1st After Hour Program held on Thursday, July 11th doors will open at 5:30 at the Club, program will begin at 6:15 p.m.** We enthusiastically encourage all of you to invite your female friends, co-workers, and family to this program.

Our thoughts for the program will focus on informing guests about our overall mission, what we do, who we are, etc. and getting to know each other a little bit better. We will mingle on the front porch, giving us some visibility to the traffic, place highboys in the foyer along with chairs in the foyer and piano room. In-House speakers will present in the Piano/foyer. We'll serve light snacks, lemonade/iced tea in the sun room, self-serve. Our President will welcome guests, introductions, etc., Membership Chair will speak about the purpose of the after hours gatherings, AWC brief history, our current mission, who we are and our affiliations with Federations, etc. and why we joined the club, what we enjoy most about the club. Our in-house speakers will be CSP Chairs. We plan to have Q&A and then ask folks to please mingle and get to know our members, etc. Everyone will leave with a postcard containing a Save the Date for the next general meeting, the next After Hours meeting, and blood drive date and any other event happening during a three month period, along with our Social Media verbage and buttons, contact info etc.

We certainly hope you are not only able to attend, but you bring a guest with you. The reason people are attracted to the Club is because of our rich history, mission and community focus, but the real reason why people join and remain members is because of YOU, our welcoming AWC Members.

Thank you for your support!
AWC Membership Committee