



*The Rising Tide*  
May—July 2019

OCEANSIDE CHARTER CHAPTER

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Cindy Schmitt, President

The Forbes article continues about our need to reframe “networking.” Rather than feeling the pressure to network, by putting ourselves into environments that give us opportunity to meet with peers and get to know each other and share experiences, is a game changer. It is all about relationship! This really is what ABWA is all about!

Several of us from our chapter recently traveled to the ABWA Regional Conference in Safety Harbor. Attending the conference gave us an opportunity to be in a professional, supportive, learning environment with fellow business women from around the United States sharing experiences and learning from each other. The power of the pack does have impact, and as the Forbes article stated, “women who support women are more successful!” Thank you for your impact, and for the difference you choose to make!

~ Cindy Schmitt



Unleash your brilliance! This is the national theme for ABWA this year. I am one of those people who is always looking for the “how.” How do I help those around me to succeed? How can I achieve that? As I was thinking about this, I came across a recently published Forbes article about “The Power of the Pack: Women Who Support Women are More Successful.” One of my favorite quotes from this article is “Woman alone has power; collectively we have impact.” As women and as female business women, we impact the lives of so many people in our professional and personal lives. No matter where we are in our careers: starting out, climbing the ladder, starting over, at the peak of our career, or retired, each and everyone one of us has impact! To quote Jane Goodall, “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” What kind of difference do you want to make? What kind of impact do you want to have? Take some time to really think about this! It is worth it.

UNLEASH YOUR  
BRILLIANCE



IN THE AMERICAN  
BUSINESS WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

## MAY FEATURED SPEAKER

### *Jump That Hurdle Like A Track Star!*



**Dr. Joni Oglesby**

What do you do when certain obstacles diminish your ability to get ahead in your professional life? Dr. Joni Oglesby will discuss how to handle the hurdles preventing

some women from achieving their goal of becoming a leader at work.

Vice President for Resource Development at United Way of Brevard, Dr. Joni Francis Oglesby has worked diligently to encourage the community to support United Way and its partner agencies as they support the health, education and financial stability of Brevard County's most vulnerable citizens.

Prior to employment at United Way, Dr. Oglesby worked at Florida Institute of Technology where, over many years, she held positions as association vice president for human resources, vice president for support services, and chief diversity officer. Prior to

her career in higher education, she worked in retail, banking, and oil refining and marketing.

Dr. Oglesby earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Capella University, a master's degree in Management, and a master's degree in Human Resource Development both from Webster University. With earned certifications in diversity and human resources, she has provided numerous trainings, presentations, and consultations throughout Brevard County.

Please join us on Tuesday, May 28 to hear Dr. Oglesby's insights on how to get ahead professionally!

## JUNE FEATURED SPEAKER

Founded by retired NASA female engineers in 2015, Launch STEM Careers is a project under the not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) NASA Alumni League. The project was started to inspire, encourage, and support young girls grades 4 through college seniors to pursue careers in Science Technology, Engineering, and Math, STEM. STEM professionals across Brevard County provide female students with mentoring and hands-on experiences to help them excel in STEM. Rita will discuss the Launch STEM Careers Project objectives, including training and mentoring, and the exciting progress that has been made during the past four years.

Rita Willcoxon is a retired executive engineering manager, whose career spanned roles with the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and General Electric.

After retirement, Rita co-founded the Launch STEM Careers Project in Brevard County for girls in grades 4 through college seniors, primarily working with Title I schools. Launch STEM Careers engages girls in project-like, hands-on activities to give them a better understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Careers.

After retiring from a 24-year career at NASA at the end of the Shuttle Program in 2011, Ms. Willcoxon worked for General Electric in their Transportation Division and served as a Global Engineering Leader re-

sponsible for the design, development and deployment of train signaling and intelligent control systems for railroad and mining companies around the world.

Prior to retiring from NASA, Rita was the Director of Launch Vehicle Processing at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where she was responsible for processing and launching three space shuttles: Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour, processing the Constellation vehicles, and managing a work force of approximately 5,400 civil service and contractor employees.

Preceding that appointment, Rita served as Deputy Director of Shuttle Processing and in other key senior leadership positions at Kennedy. In those roles, among others, she developed advanced spaceport and range technologies and systems in support of the agency's Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Expendable Launch Services Programs and in support of future NASA programs. In addition, she led several agency teams, including Reinvention of Station and Shuttle Utilization and the development of agency capability roadmaps in support of NASA's Exploration Mission and more. Over the years, Rita earned numerous awards, including the Silver Snoopy award, two Exceptional Achievement Medals, the Outstanding Leadership Medal and an Exceptional Service Medal.

Rita graduated from the University of

Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and extended her education with a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering Management from the University of Oklahoma in 1986. She is married to Jim Willcoxon, former principal of Melbourne High School, and has a daughter, Erica, and a son, Grant.



**Rita Willcoxon**

## 2019 WOMAN OF THE YEAR



**Congratulations to Maria Sulick!  
Oceanside Charter Chapter  
2019 Woman of the Year**

Maria was born and raised on the Space Coast, where she graduated from Titusville High School and attended Eastern Florida State College (formerly Brevard Community College) and the University of Central Florida, where she studied Business Administration. After graduation, Maria moved to St. Paul, Minnesota for six years where she started a family.

Maria returned to Brevard County in 1998, residing in Indian Harbour Beach where she was very involved with the Brevard Public school system, serving in various positions on the Parent and Teachers' Organization at Ocean Breeze Elementary as well as volunteering regularly in the classroom and participating in the mentoring program. During this time, Maria and her sisters acquired a small business in which Maria held the position of Chief Financial Officer. This led to involvement with the Women's Business Center at the Florida Institute of Technology, where their company was one of the first to participate in the business mentor program now known as IGNITE 360.

After the sale of their business, Maria began her career in the financial services industry, and returned to school at Eastern Florida State College where she completed her Bachelor's Degree in General Business Management. Maria is currently employed at First-Wave Financial and holds several financial service licenses.

Maria joined the Oceanside Charter Chapter in 2017 and currently serves as Vice President, a position that she accepted during her first year of membership.

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## 2020 TOP TEN CANDIDATE

As a national speaker and trainer, Cindy Schmitt, has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of training, performance management and process improvement. Her experience includes motivational speaking, performance management training, and process improvement consulting for schools, non-profit organizations, businesses and governmental agencies across the United States.

Cindy earned a Bachelor's of Professional Studies from Barry University, a Master's in Computer Information Systems from Florida Institute of Technology, and has completed PhD coursework in Human Centered Design.

Currently, Cindy is the Senior Director of Continuing Education Programs at Florida Institute of Technology, where she is engaged in research involving instructional technology in the online learning environment. Her passion is discovering and experimenting with new learning technologies.

Cindy has been a member of Oceanside Charter Chapter since February 2015, where she has served or chaired the Membership, Hospitality, Fundraising, Program and Best Practices Committees. She has also served on the Executive Board as Secretary and Vice President, and is currently serving her second term as President of the Oceanside Charter Chapter. Cindy has sponsored nine new members since 2015, has served on conference committees at three national conferences and has completed seven Apex courses in addition to many other professional development courses and training certifications.



**Congratulations to Cindy Schmitt!  
Oceanside Charter Chapter  
2020 Top Ten Candidate**

## CHAPTER COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Membership

Please welcome new members, Sarah Ayers, Xzondra Bergman, Deborah Davis, Stephanie Dymora, Megan Hall, Jenn Klingensmith, Anna McHenry, Patricia Rosenthal, Mary Sharpe, and Shari Tabat.

Prior to our meeting on May 28, we will have our New Member Welcome Orientation at 5:30 p.m. in the yacht club lounge. All members are welcome to attend. Please email your attendance to Anita Carbone at acarbone@cfl.rr.com.

### Members in the News

Congratulations to Barbara Cheney on her recent promotion at Aerospace Corporation!

Congratulations to Laura Chiesman on her new volunteer role with the United Way! It is an honor and well deserved!

### Fundraising/Sponsorship

Promote your business by becoming a meeting sponsor! Please contact Cindy Schmitt at cschmitt@fit.edu to learn about the many benefits of sponsorship.

### Scholarship

Twenty-five candidates applied for the \$2000 scholarship and fourteen completed their applications. The Board of Trustees are currently reviewing the applications, and the recipient will be announced at the May meeting.



### May, June & July Birthdays

- Alexandra Larson—5/1
- Kathy Sorrell—5/14
- Lola Mitchell—5/15
- Patricia Rosenthal 5/16
- Elizabeth Breskot—5/26
- Tina Klump—5/29
- Anna McHenry—6/1
- Christina Glore—6/2
- Madeline MacDonald—6/19
- Kim Torres—6/23
- Geraldine Blanchard—7/3
- Maria Santiago—7/25

### Newsletter

The Oceanside Charter Chapter Newsletter, *The Rising Tide* is published quarterly at [www.abwaoceanside.com](http://www.abwaoceanside.com). Please send newsletter submissions to acarbone@cfl.rr.com. Submission deadlines are published in the Chapter Standing Rules.

### Publicity

Chapter monthly meeting information is published in Florida Today as well as the online Community Calendar of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce and Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce websites. Please email Laura Chiesman at [laurachiesman@gmail.com](mailto:laurachiesman@gmail.com), if you have photos or information for our Facebook page.



We're on the web!

[www.abwaoceanside.com](http://www.abwaoceanside.com)



ABWA—Oceanside Charter Chapter

## 2018 - 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Cindy Schmitt  
[cschmitt@fit.edu](mailto:cschmitt@fit.edu)  
 321 626-6703

### Vice President

Maria Sulick  
[mariasulick6@gmail.com](mailto:mariasulick6@gmail.com)  
 321 749-3635

### Secretary

Tenille Perry  
[tperry@mackinsgroup.com](mailto:tperry@mackinsgroup.com)  
 321 525-0266

### Treasurer

Christina Glore  
[christinaglore@gmail.com](mailto:christinaglore@gmail.com)  
 321 615-5421

## 2018 - 2019 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Audit

Anita Carbone: [acarbone@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acarbone@cfl.rr.com)

### Best Practices

Sheryl Glore: [sglore@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sglore@cfl.rr.com)

### Education

Anita Carbone: [acarbone@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acarbone@cfl.rr.com)

### Fundraising

Open

### Hospitality

Barbara Cheney: [beejaycheney@gmail.com](mailto:beejaycheney@gmail.com)

Maria Sulick: [mariasulick6@gmail.com](mailto:mariasulick6@gmail.com)

### Membership

Anita Carbone: [acarbone@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acarbone@cfl.rr.com)

Maria Sulick: [mariasulick6@gmail.com](mailto:mariasulick6@gmail.com)

### Newsletter

Anita Carbone: [acarbone@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acarbone@cfl.rr.com)

### Professional Development

Cindy Schmitt: [cschmitt@fit.edu](mailto:cschmitt@fit.edu)

### Publicity

Laura Chiesman: [laurachiesman@gmail.com](mailto:laurachiesman@gmail.com)

Anita Carbone: [acarbone@cfl.rr.com](mailto:acarbone@cfl.rr.com)

Megan Hall: [Megan@truehomeinspects.com](mailto:Megan@truehomeinspects.com)

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Amy Heath

Amy Heath has spent the last decade living overseas, working with the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education implementing and creating teacher training programs for Korean English teachers in South Korea.

In 2011 Amy earned her Master's in Education. In 2017, she relocated to Florida for a teaching position, and in 2018 she took a position at Florida Institute of Technology as a Project Coordinator. Amy was introduced to the American Business Women's Association by Cindy Schmitt in January 2019, and is very grateful for the opportunity to learn and meet new people. Her hobbies include singing, playing guitar and binge watching Jeopardy and Mystery Science Theater 3000 on Netflix. She looks forward to meeting all of you!

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Christina was born in Raleigh, NC and moved to Florida when her parents were transferred to Patrick Air Force Base.

She received her Associates Degree from Eastern Florida State College and completed her education in Orlando where she graduated from Sanford Brown College with a Bachelor's Degree in Retail Merchandise Management.

Christina relocated to Melbourne in 2017, and currently works as the Learning Management Systems Coordinator for the Florida Institute of Technology, where she builds and maintains online courses in Applied Behavior Analysis for the Continuing Education department of Florida Tech, serving approximately 3,400 students every quarter.

Christina joined ABWA in June 2017 and has served as the Chapter's Treasurer since August 2018.



Christina Glore



### National Women's Leadership Conference

October 2–5, 2019

Harrah's North Kansas City Casino & Hotel

Kansas City, MO

## ABWA EVENT CALENDAR

### May 8

Downtown Lakeland Chapter General Meeting  
Networking & Lunch from 11:30 to 1 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn, Lakeland  
Guest Speaker: Lorie Burch

### May 14

Space Coast Women Express Network Meeting  
Networking & Lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach

### May 14

Oceanside Charter Chapter Executive Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

### May 28

Oceanside Charter Chapter Dinner Meeting  
Networking at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach  
Featured Speaker: Dr. Joni Oglesby

### June 11

Space Coast Women Express Network Meeting  
Networking & Lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach

### June 11

Oceanside Charter Chapter Executive Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

### June 25

Oceanside Charter Chapter Dinner Meeting  
Networking at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach  
Featured Speaker: Ms. Rita Willcoxon

### July 9

Space Coast Women Express Network Meeting  
Networking & Lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach

### July 9

Oceanside Charter Chapter Executive Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

### July 23

Oceanside Charter Chapter Dinner Meeting  
Networking at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach  
Featured Speaker: Kelly Therrien

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### May 7



### Building Business Bridges

7:45 to 9:00 a.m. at the Melbourne Regional Chamber, 1005 E. Strawbridge, Melbourne. Join the Melbourne Regional Chamber's Small Business Council for its monthly meeting and Networking Event! Designed for organizations under 50 employees, this event provides an opportunity for Council Members to network, share information, and gather the resources they need to improve, grow, and flourish.

### May 13



**Intro to Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram** from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Brevard Adult Education-Cocoa Clearlake Educational Center, 1225 Clearlake Rd, Cocoa. If you are new to social media and would appreciate some guidance, this class is for you! Mr. Jeff Arnott, has plenty of experience using social media on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Whether you are interested in social media for personal or business use, this class will benefit you. Bring your computer, tablet or smartphone. For more information, visit: <http://www.brevardadulthood.com>. Cost is \$10.

### August 22



### BISK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AT FLORIDA TECH

**Impact Business & Leadership Summit** from 1 to 5 p.m. Venue to be determined. Individual Tickets - \$75. For sponsorship information call at (321) 674-7007 or email [weVENTURE@fit.edu](mailto:weVENTURE@fit.edu) for more information.



Oceanside Charter Chapter

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Melbourne Regional Chamber

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American Business Women's Association

Mission Statement

*The mission of the American Business Women's Association is 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.*

Oceanside Charter Chapter

Vision Statement

ABWA Oceanside Charter Chapter is dedicated to enhancing the personal and professional lives of local women. Building strong personal relationships between Chapter members provides a safe, supportive environment for members to grow and develop. The focus on leadership, continuing education and community involvement positions our Chapter as the premier women's business organization in Brevard County.

American Business Women's Association  
Set of Core Values

1. Giving Members a Voice
2. Treat People with Dignity (Proud Code of Conduct)
3. Lifelong Learning
4. Focus on Creating Value for Members
5. Achievement
6. Visionary Leadership
7. Focus on the Future
8. Focus on Results
9. Manage by Facts
10. Manage for Innovation

American Business Women's Association  
Proud Code of Conduct

1. All Members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women's Association.
2. Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA's Mission.
3. Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
4. Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter and Express Network Bylaws.
5. Members will not use their personal power to advance their personal interests.
6. Members will strive for excellence in their profession by maintaining and enhancing their own business knowledge and skills, and by encouraging the professional development of other members.