

empower MAGAZINE

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Thank you for being part of the first 25 years of the Women's Energy Network. Because of members, volunteers and supporters like you, this organization is living our vision and mission every day.

Now, let's see what we can achieve with the next 25 years!



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Since our founding in 1994, WEN has been a resource for women in the energy industry seeking opportunities to connect with colleagues, grow their professional networks, and gain valuable leadership insights and skills. As we look back at our phenomenal growth to become an organization of more than 6,000 members—and the countless volunteer hours that created our success—we cannot help but be humbled and inspired by those who came before us.

A special celebratory event, held September 24, drew several hundred women and men to Houston’s stunning Hotel ZaZa Museum District. As described in this special issue, highlights included a video interview with WEN Founder Karyl White, a celebration of the WEN Foundation’s Day of Sharing events to date, a keynote presentation from Maria Guy of GiANT Worldwide, and the presentation of the Founder’s Award to long-time WEN Houston and WEN Foundation leader Danna English Bland of Deloitte.

This special edition of *Empower* celebrates the hundreds of volunteer leaders and members who have contributed to WEN’s continued success, including the 25th Anniversary Planning Committee who worked tirelessly to bring together this amazing event.

And a special thank you to our sponsors who helped make the event possible!

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An Interview with WEN Founder Karyl White



Leading up to the 25th Anniversary Celebration, WEN National President-Elect Jana Grauberger sat down with WEN Founder Karyl White to learn about the launch of WEN 25 years ago and Karyl's vision for the organization's future. The [video interview](#) that captured her story was a highlight of the anniversary celebration.

Karyl's resolve to launch the Women's Energy Network in 1994 was inspiring. She recognized the need for women in the industry to be connected and supported, and without inhibition, she created the solution. Because Karyl took the first step, we are now part of a network of more than 6,000 members across 20 chapters.

Karyl's passion for the WEN mission was obvious, as she spoke of her proudest moments over the past 25 years. She beamed when reflecting on the organization's commitment to service and the development of its members that she's witnessed firsthand. She urged that we continue to seek female mentorship and aim to be those mentors for other women in the industry. After all, "empowered women empower women."

Karyl closed the shoot by encouraging members to get involved and stay involved. She shared that her relationships built through WEN have carried her through the highs and lows of being a woman in energy, and she encouraged members to find and grow their support systems within WEN as well.

Thank you to Karyl for taking the time to reflect back on the accomplishments of the past 25 years and look forward to what's to come. Her vision of an international organization that is a resource for women around the world is truly within reach.



Leadership Development Consultant • Speaker • Trusted Advisor



Lessons in Leadership: Maria Guy

Kicking off WEN National's new partnership with GiANT Worldwide, the inspirational Maria Guy shared her leadership journey through the construction industry, where she was the first woman (and only to-date) to be the President of the Associated General Contractors of New Mexico. Maria also challenged the WEN Community not only to continue to develop and evaluate your own leadership style, but also to intentionally become the 100x Leader who leaves an inclusive and diverse environment in their path of influence.

Maria is a Senior Partner with GiANT Worldwide, an organization dedicated to equipping individuals and organizations with exceptional leadership skills. With her executive background, Maria is familiar with the challenges leaders face. She helps people understand what it takes to be a leader worth following and coaches them to fight for the highest possible good in the lives of those they lead.

Maria shared her [presentation](#), which challenges us to be the 100X Leaders of the future.

Honoring Volunteer Leadership: The Karyl White Founder's Award

In honor of WEN's 25th Anniversary, the National Board of Directors created the Karyl White Founder's Award to recognize a member for her outstanding contributions to WEN over an extended period of time.

Karyl presented the inaugural Founder's Award to Jeannie Gardner from Shell in March at the National Conference in Denver, Colorado. A force of nature, Jeannie served as the first National President, is a past president of the Houston Chapter, and will lead the WEN Foundation next year.

In September, at the 25th Anniversary Celebration in Houston, Jeannie presented the second Founder's Award to Dannetta English Bland from Deloitte. Dannetta is also a past president of the Houston Chapter, currently chairs the WEN Foundation, and led the 2017 National Conference.

Both women are tireless advocates of women in energy and diversity in all forms. Even while their career and personal trajectories continue to climb, Jeannie and Dannetta remain willing to volunteer for virtually any task at any time. Their contributions to WEN are too extensive to list, but both honor the organization that Karyl founded 25 years ago.

Thanks to Karyl, Jeannie, and Dannetta!





We Love Volunteers

As many of you know, the success of WEN hinges on the time and commitment of our volunteers. The WEN 25th Anniversary Celebration is no different. The many hours of work this inspiring team put in led this team to great success in an evening to remember! Thank you for all of your energy and inspiration.

Sponsorship: Stephanie Sirt & Alma Shields
Marketing: Jessica Noesser
Speaker Chair: Katherine Molly
Volunteer Chair: Carlissa Burt
Event Chair: Alicia Taylor
Registration Chair: Jenny Childers
Day of Event Volunteers: Katie House, Farah Petit, Maria Connolly, Aleena Ross, Laura Manley, Alisa de Bruyn Kops, Susan Knight, Larismar Roman

And a very special thank you to the hard-working 25th Anniversary Chairs:
Kara Byrne & Tamara Saront Eisner



Members Support WEN Foundation Day of Service Challenge



In support of a challenge issued by the Foundation for the Women's Energy Network, the charitable and philanthropic arm of WEN, chapters became involved in honoring the anniversary year by holding Days of Service and promoting the history, value, and contributions of WEN. The Foundation set an ambitious goal for WEN members to provide 2,500 hours of community service during 2019 in celebration of the organization's 25 years. Chapters across the country enthusiastically answered the call.

Thus far, WEN members have been active in more than 15 events—supporting Girls, Inc., Girl Scouts, and/or a variety of charitable organizations focused on key areas of concern, such as women in transition and STEM topics. Relatedly, chapters launched charitable giving campaigns supporting scholarships and other worthy initiatives, and the Foundation has seen new donations across all fund categories. If you would like to donate, please use the WEN Foundation's new donation site.

Day of Service activities will continue throughout the remainder of 2019, as we continue to progress toward the WEN Foundation's goal.





CHEERS TO 25 YEARS!



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LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS FOR WEN MEMBERS

- **Individual Leadership Development**
 - Performance Coaching (i.e. 1:1 Executive Coaching)
 - Annual Leadership Cohort
 - Begins 2020
 - Hosted in Houston (virtual attendance available)
- **Discounted Team Building and Retreats**
- **Chapter Mentoring Program Support**



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Want more pics?

Visit the [25th Anniversary website](#) for more resources, including:

- > [View our photo slideshow](#) from the 25th Anniversary Celebration
- > [View the interview video](#) with WEN Founder Karyl White
- > [View and download photos](#) from the event

