



GAWN Chair August Message: What does Nonprofit Status mean for GAWN?

We've made a fuss over GAWN's new nonprofit status as of May 29, 2007. The paperwork that had to be filed with the state to achieve this change took considerable effort. Thanks are due to members Janye Hendricks and Beth Davies, legal counsel and CPA, respectively, for their efforts on our behalf. Are you curious about why we bothered to become incorporated as a nonprofit?

Incorporation as a nonprofit is the first and necessary step to be eligible to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status as a business organization, also known as being a 501(c) (6). Once GAWN is a 501 (c) (6), members who serve in leadership positions will be shielded from personal liability such as unpaid organizational debts or lawsuits against the organization. Because GAWN is now incorporated, it has a separate legal existence that goes beyond the involvement of the people who began it or have managed it. GAWN's operating rules in the form of its new Bylaws, which are on our web site, are clear and specific, making it easier to conduct the organization's business.

On a practical level, nonprofit, tax-exempt status means that the managers in local stores, such as Publix, will authorize GAWN's posters to be mounted on their public bulletin boards. And future members who work for certain businesses in town will be sponsored by their employers to join GAWN. So "GAWN, Inc." will be more flexible and relevant in our business community.

You know GAWN's many benefits for your career. Bring a friend to lunch to share the friendliest networking in our area—an enduring quality no matter how you define GAWN's legal status!

Helen Kornblum,
2007-2008 GAWN Chair

2006-2007 Chair Closing Remarks

I am writing this in the last 2 days of my term as Chair of GAWN. I have enjoyed my term as Chair and hope that I have made a difference in the organization. As the past Chair, I will remain on the Board as Ambassador so I will continue to serve all the members of the organization for another year..

I would like to thank everyone on the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment to the organization. A number of BOD members put in extra effort in planning both Speed Networking events. I would like to thank them..Helen Kornblum, Stephanie George, April Fitzgerald, Shawna Mansfield, JoAnn Wilkes, Joan O'Steen, Nancy Griffin, Lalla Gallagher, Kathy Newman (I hope I didn't miss anyone). I would especially like to thank Helen Kornblum for trying to keep me on the straight and narrow.

To everyone in GAWN, thank you for allowing me to represent the organization. It has been a great honor.

Beth Davies

Ready, Set...GO! Assemble a 'grab & go' emergency preparedness bag

by Linda Richards, Professional Organizer

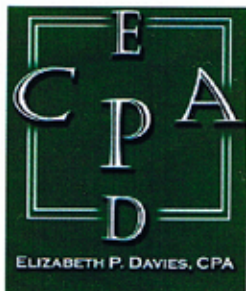
Have you ever had a twinge of uneasiness when you heard a news report about wildfire or hurricane evacuation somewhere in Florida and thought "Hmm, guess I should think about getting prepared someday but I'm busy so...I'll do it 'later.'" Now pretend that a hurricane IS projected to hit near your town and evacuation

is a possibility, what would you take with you? What is important to have for both your family and your business? Then the big questions... if you knew what to take, would you know where to find the items AND be able to find them quickly?! Even if the storm swerves and misses your area, the associated wind and rain could possibly knock out power to your neighborhood, or a tree could fall on your office, making part of it inaccessible. Finally, could you be self-sufficient for a day or two (or longer) staying in your home if you had no electricity or water and the roads were temporarily closed?

After living in Gainesville for 20 years, I've seen people experience the above and would like to encourage GAWN members to take a few minutes to start getting prepared.

Having a stocked 'grab & go' bag with essential items in it will help you better weather any of these potential emergencies. Since I regularly work with clients who say "I'll do it later" for many aspects of their lives, I've found that having short lists, with reasonable goals on them helps them get started. The questions and (cont on pg 5)

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