



**The National Association of Women Business Owners Chicago-area Chapter
Recognizes Sandra Schneller and Sharan Tash with Prestigious Awards**

Schneller Named Woman Business Owner of the Year and Tash Selected as Member of the Year

CHICAGO – May 13, 2008 – The National Association of Women Business Owners Chicago-area Chapter (NAWBO Chicago) today announced the selection of Sandra L. Schneller, Apex Business Link LLC, as the 2008 NAWBO Chicago Woman Business Owner of the Year and Sharan Tash, The Professional Networker Inc., as 2008 Member of the Year.

“NAWBO Chicago is proud to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of two amazing business owners,” said Deborah Chambers Chima, president of NAWBO Chicago. “These women are the crème de la crème – those who stand out even in a crowd of standouts.”

Woman Business Owner of the Year recipient Sandra L. Schneller founded Apex Business Link in 2004, taking the leap from a successful career in post-secondary administration to follow her ambition. She created her dream company, an executive conference suite of rental meeting space with full service amenities, business support, and training and development services. Schneller aimed to improve on-demand services for small businesses. Over the past two years, her firm has experienced a 55 percent increase in revenue. Her latest initiative is providing ongoing complimentary educational webinars to help business owners strengthen operations to grow their businesses and enhance interpersonal skills.

Member of the Year recipient Sharan Tash has been involved with NAWBO since 2004. Contributing significant time, energy and resources to committee and board leadership, and to personally recruiting new members, Sharan has helped to increase membership in the Chicago suburbs, which now compose 60 percent of chapter members; launched a leads group in Northbrook, which has generated several spin-off leads groups in other areas; helped to establish the Empowerment Team, NAWBO’s newest initiative; and served as Corporate Retention Committee Chair.

“These members are the quintessential advocates for NAWBO Chicago and small business owners everywhere,” said Sheila Gidley, executive director of NAWBO Chicago. “They truly live the NAWBO mission to propel women business owners into political, social and economic spheres of power.”

The NAWBO Chicago Woman Business Owner of the Year Award recognizes a woman who is a successful entrepreneur, is willing to take risks, maintains the ability to overcome obstacles and has an eagerness to give back to the community. The NAWBO Chicago Member of the Year Award recognizes a woman who constantly and selflessly

projects an identity as a NAWBO ambassador through her ideas, initiative and follow through – working on everyone's behalf with a most generous spirit.

More information about NAWBO Chicago may be found at www.nawbochicago.org.

About NAWBO

NAWBO was founded in Washington D.C. in 1974 by a group of businesswomen who met regularly to discuss mutual experiences, exchange information and develop business skills. They began recruiting other members in 1976 and the first chapters were formed in 1978. The Chicago Area Chapter is among the largest of NAWBO's more than 90 chapters in the U.S. The Chapter's more than 600 members represent businesses in all major industrial, service and retail sectors. Formed in 1978, the Chicago Area Chapter provides women business owners with leadership, education, procurement and networking opportunities, with the goal of propelling women entrepreneurs into economic, social, and political spheres of power.

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