



Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance  
CONNECT • ADVANCE • LEAD

The mission of AFWA is to enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional and economic potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession.

## President's Message

Millie Culpepper



In February, 2013 I had the honor of representing AFWA-OC at the Vital Link Regional Advisory Board on Accounting; other business professionals on the panel represented Business Technology, Entrepreneurship and Marketing/Ecommerce.

Vital Link collaborates with the Orange County Department of Education and knowledgeable professionals within the business industry to act as advisors to the Career Technical Educators in the school systems throughout Orange County ROP, High Schools and Community Colleges.

Join us on **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** as Kathy Johnson, Executive Director at Vital Link will share with us how we can play a vital role in Orange County students' career paths while enhancing our own. [www.afwaoc.org](http://www.afwaoc.org)

There is still time to sign up for the Southwest Regional Conference in Denver, Colorado on **May 30-31, 2013**. Earn 12 CPE units. It is also a great time to catch up with other chapters in our region and share ideas for the upcoming "new year".

Please mark your calendars to save these dates:

### June 19 - Monthly membership meeting and CPE

- "Rebrand Launch Party"
- Installation of 2013-2014 Board of Directors
- Scott Hamilton - The Crucial First 100 Days of New Leader & Beyond.

### July 13 - 2013-2014 Annual Planning Meeting 9am - 3pm

- Board of Directors, Committees and Members invited.

### July 18 - Summer Time Networking Mixer

- TBD

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## Upcoming Events

5/15/2013  
Dinner Meeting  
6 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

05/30-31/2013  
Regional Conference  
Denver, Co

06/19/2013  
Dinner Meeting  
6 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

07/13/2013  
Annual Planning  
9am - 3pm TBD

07/18/2013  
Networking Mixer TBD  
5:30 pm

08/21/2013  
Dinner Meeting  
6 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

[Visit our chapter website for more details](#)

## Board of Directors

President  
Millie Culpepper

President-Elect  
Open

V.P. Membership  
Alison Aldrich, MBA

V.P. Special Events  
Kristina Diaz

V.P. of Communications  
Open



## Please join our LinkedIn group

Connect and network online with other professionals, start discussions and more!  
[Click here to view our group profile.](#)

For additional AFWA networking click links below:

[AFWA Orange County Chapter's Website](#)

National [Website](#)  
National [Facebook](#)  
National [Twitter](#)  
National [Blog](#)

## May Dinner Meeting

Play a part in a student's career path while enhancing your own!  
Guest speaker Kathy Johnson, Executive Director at Vital Link

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**  
**6:00pm to 8:30pm**  
**Registration at 5:30pm**  
**Doubletree Hotel**  
**201 East MacArthur Blvd**  
**Santa Ana, CA 92707**

**Salad: Caesar Salad with Shaved Parmesan & Croutons**  
**Main Dish: Lemon Thyme Chicken with Mixed Vegetables**  
**Side Dish: Rice Pilaf**  
**Dessert: Carrot Cake**

**Three convenient ways to register:**

Online: [Via PayPal](#)  
Email: Contact [reservations@afwaoc.org](mailto:reservations@afwaoc.org)  
Phone: AFWA voice mail at 949-862-0777

**Pre-registration Price by noon Monday May 13, 2013:**

Members: \$41 / Non-Members: \$51 / Student Members: \$30 / Student Guests: \$35

**Late or No Registration Price:**

Members: \$46 / Non-Members: \$56 / Student Members: \$35 / Student Guests: \$40

Recording Secretary  
Lynn Parker

Treasurer  
Alison Aldrich, MBA

### Directors

Immediate  
Past President  
Irene Mack, CPA

Director  
Lynn Parker

Director  
Gail Campbell





**Kathy Johnson**  
**Executive Director, Vital Link**  
P.O. Box 12064, Costa Mesa, CA 92648  
949-646-2520

Kathy Johnson is President/Executive Director of Vital Link, a non-profit organization, which provides career exploration programs and support services for high school and community colleges in Orange County, California. Kathy has provided the leadership and creative energy to the program development and growth of the organization since 2002. As the CEO of the organization Kathy is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the organization and the strategic planning for its vision and growth. The organization has expanded under her leadership over the past 11 years from serving 250 students to over 24,000 students per year. Kathy is considered the go to person in Orange County when a school or business wants to start a business and education partnership. In addition to her leadership with the organization's program development she also manages a regional collaborative between the high schools, ROPs, and community colleges in Orange County. This group supports professional development for the Career Technical Education instructors and provides for a regional Advisory Board meeting to assist the instructors in keeping their curriculum current and relevant.

# Recap AFWA Tea Time Held April 20, 2013

Kristina Diaz



Hope you can see how much Fun we had!





## AFWA Orange County's 2013 - 2014

Irene Mack

The 2013 nominating committee, comprised of Irene Mack, Alison Aldrich and Millie Culpepper, is proud to present the following slate of officers and directors for the Orange County chapter of the Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance for the upcoming year.

Congratulations to all of our nominees, and thank you for volunteering to guide our chapter in the coming year! If you are interested in any of the open Board positions, please reach out to any one of the nominating committee members for further information.

President: **Millie Culpepper**

Treasurer: **Alison Aldrich**

President-Elect: **Open**

VP - Membership: **Open**

2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Communications: **Karen Espinoza McGarrigle**

3<sup>rd</sup> VP - Special Events: **Gina Webber**

Recording Secretary: **Open**

Director: **Jessica Clarke**

Director: **Doris Cerna**

Director: **Cindy Taylor**

We are currently reaching out to all AFWA members who are interested in joining the 2013-14 Board of Directors. The Board meets once a month, separately from our regular meetings. Not sure if you are qualified? There are plenty of experienced members who will be glad to show you the ropes.

The following positions are available, and include a brief description of responsibilities:

President-Elect: This role focuses on finding great program speakers for our monthly dinner meetings and preparing to take over the reins in 2014-15.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP - Membership: Help us welcome new members and grow our chapter, as well as focusing on retaining our current members.

Recording Secretary: Your great organizational skills will be a plus in recording the monthly meeting minutes of our Board meetings.

### **Officer Responsibilities**

#### **President-Elect**

- Attend Board Orientation & Annual Planning Meeting (Retreat)
- Attend all Board and Membership Meetings
- Fill in when President is not available or for special assignments
- Select a gift for outgoing President
- Send in "slate of new officers" to National after the election

#### **2nd VP- Membership**

- Work with other officers and chapter chairs to develop strategies in many different areas in order to reach the chapter's goals
- Attend all Board and Membership Meetings
- Process new member applications and highlight new members in the monthly newsletter
- Monitor and report on all the different activities relating to membership
- Review qualifications of prospective AFWA members and present to the Board for membership approval

#### **Secretary**

- Attend Board Orientation & Annual Planning Meeting (Retreat)
- Attend all Board and Membership Meetings
- Record minutes of all Board Meetings and submit to Board for approval

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Millie Culpepper at [president@afwaoc.org](mailto:president@afwaoc.org) or Alison Aldrich at [vp.membership@afwaoc.org](mailto:vp.membership@afwaoc.org) as soon as possible for further details. Come join us and make a difference!

## AFWA National News



Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance  
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Dear AFWA Member,

It's never been so easy to win an iPad or a Kindle Fire. All you need to do is recruit one (1) AFWA member and your name will be added to a drawing for 2 iPads and 2 Kindle Fires. Recruit more members and increase your chances to win! There is no limit to how many members you can recruit, and your name will be added to the drawing each time that a member indicates your name as a sponsor on their membership application.

Please note that in order to sponsor a member, your name should be included in the "referred by" line on the online membership application between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. For the full details on this "Individual Stargazer" competition, [click here](#).

Hurry, there are less than 2 months remaining in the fiscal year!

### SAVE THE DATES:

**Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance Annual Conference**  
**\*\*1938 - Celebrating 75 years - 2013\*\***  
**October 20-23, 2013**  
[Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis, IN](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to network with other women in accounting and finance from across the country. Join us this fall in Indianapolis and learn from leading experts on ways to develop a variety of your skills. The Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance Annual Conference will be loaded with opportunities for networking, leadership development, education and fun!

**Online Registration** and the **Program Schedule** are coming soon. Stay tuned!

**Hotel Accommodations:** For hotel reservations at the [Hyatt Regency Indianapolis](#), please call 1-888-421-1442 no later than **September 27, 2013** and be sure to mention "Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance" to receive the group rate of \$159/night.

**Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities:** [Click here](#) to view the sponsorship prospectus, please contact Kathy Bradley, Director, Fundraising & Partnerships at AFWA's National Office, 703-506-3265 or [kbradley@afwa.org](mailto:kbradley@afwa.org) for more information.

## 2013 Member of the Year Nominees

### Millie Culpepper

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the pleasure of announcing this year's Member of the Year Nominees. Each of these remarkable AFWA members has given generously of her time and talent, contributing richly to the ongoing growth and development of our chapter.

Please join us in congratulating two outstanding members of our chapter who have been recognized as this year's nominees:



**Kristina Diaz**

Kristina Diaz started to participate with AFWA in early 2011 and immediately became a member of the Orange County Chapter. Kristina volunteered to join the scholarship committee that year, continued volunteering her time with AFWA and became a board member in 2012. As VP of Special Events, Kristina has had a full year of planning and organizing networking events, the 2012 student night, a fabulous holiday party, and most recently the spring tea. She has also contributed to the local universities and colleges meeting with the business advisory board and volunteering for various job fair events and mock interviews, making sure to communicate the mission and purpose of AFWA to the students and faculty alike.

As Business Development Manager for Volt Accounting & Finance, Kristina provides leadership to the chapter by way of assisting those in transition, as well as sharing local employment market information. Outside of work, Kristina enjoys family time with her two teenage sons, Kristopher and Gavin, as well as volunteering within her community at the food bank and helping underprivileged children.

Kristina is honored to be nominated as AFWA's Member of the Year amongst this impressive group of accounting and finance professionals and looks forward to continuing as a member in the Orange County AFWA Chapter for many years to come.



**Alison Aldrich**

I don't know where 19 years have gone, but that's how long I've been a member of ASWA, now AFWA! I am a Past President, and I'm the current Treasurer and VP of Membership. I am also a past recipient of the Member of the Year award, back when it was called the Accountant of the Year award. It is an honor to be nominated again, but I feel that my fellow nominee, Kristina, is especially worthy of the honor this year.

My background is in accounting, although my BS is in Finance from CSULB. I received an MBA from a small private school. Over the years, I have worked at Boeing, ConAgra, and Kelley Blue Book. Currently, I am very fortunate to be the Senior Accountant at Georg Fischer Piping Systems- a Swiss multinational company. And yes, someone brought in Swiss chocolates on my first day!

Voting for Member of the Year is open to registered AFWA members and will take place in-person via confidential ballot at the May 15<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Results will be announced during the June installation. If you are unable to attend the May meeting and still wish to cast your vote, please contact Millie Culpepper by phone (714) 402-5535 or e-mail: [president@afwaoc.org](mailto:president@afwaoc.org) no later than Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. You may also contact her for more information.

## **AFWA Southwest Regional Conference**

**Millie Culpepper**

**Please join us on May 30-31 in Denver, Colorado**

We are offering 12 hours of CPE and a Fun Night at the Colorado History Museum included in your conference fees of \$175.

**Where: Metropolitan State University of Denver - Tivoli Building, Denver, CO**

Registration: Link will soon be provided

### **Hotel Information**

Block of rooms is available at special conference rate of \$149 until May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Marriott Spring Hill Suites (right next door to the university)

See link with the attached flyer to reserve your room.

Hope to see you in May!

Heather Russ  
SW Regional Conference Chair  
[heatherafwa@gmail.com](mailto:heatherafwa@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 303-567-7285

Sandy Purdy  
Denver Chapter President  
[sndypurdy@yahoo.com](mailto:sndypurdy@yahoo.com)  
Mobile: 303-489-9021

## **April Opportunity Drawing Winners**

**Kristina Diaz**

### **ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART**

Won by Member Millie Culpepper

### **BEAUTY BASKET FROM MARY KAY**

Graciously Donated by Millie Culpepper

Won by Member Donna Bernbrock

### **BEAUTY BASKET FROM AVON**

Graciously Donated by Lisa Bolen

Won by Member Jessica Clarke

## Membership Corner

### Alison Aldrich VP Membership & Treasurer

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, Gerlinde Sunbury. Gerlinde was able to join us at the April 20<sup>th</sup> tea, so several of us got to meet her and returning member Jessica Clarke was also able to attend. Glad you both could join us!

#### Member Benefits

- Prestigious status of professional affiliation
  - National contacts for networking and professional information
  - Forum for CPE
  - Scholarships
  - Leadership opportunities in supportive arena
  - National and regional conferences at a discounted rate
  - Access to AFWA's • **LinkedIn** group
  - National online membership directory
  - Discounted membership to the Institute for Management Accountants (IMA)
- Discounted products and services through affiliation agreements (CCH tax & accounting books, Long Term Care insurance, Bank of America credit card and more)

If you are interested in becoming a member of AFWA, please fill out a registration form at [www.afwaoc.org](http://www.afwaoc.org)

*Members: Keep our records current--log in to AFWA National at [www.afwa.org](http://www.afwa.org) to update your contact information.*

**Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance Chapter #73  
949-862-0777**