



**NAWBO**  
National Association of Women Business Owners

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# 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

NAWBO celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015 with a look back at the past four decades

**“Get a seat at the table or build your own table, and make sure to include other women.”**  
—NAWBO's Founding President **Susan Hagar**

**1975**

A group of a dozen like-minded businesswomen in the D.C. area gather to share information and create an atmosphere of professional community to further and strengthen their entrepreneurial interests. They incorporated as the Association of Women Business Owners (AWBO), which later became NAWBO.



**1976**

AWBO goes national as preparations for organizing a national network of chapters is successfully implemented. It is renamed as NAWBO and receives a \$20,000 grant from Equitable Life Assurance Society to publish a directory of 1,000 firms in the Baltimore area of which women are majority owners. NAWBO continues to publish an online annual member directory to this day.

**1980**

NAWBO National and chapter members attend the White House Conference on Small Business, testify before congressional committees and participate in task forces and small business groups. NAWBO also seeds the creation of the Committee of 200.

**1982**

**1985**

NAWBO holds its first conference in Houston, Texas. The first National Public Affairs Day attracts Vice President George Bush and nine members of Congress.



**THE COMMITTEE OF 200**  
*Success Shared*

NAWBO launches the Committee of 200 networking organization for top women entrepreneurs and corporate executives with the mission to share success through fostering and advancing women's leadership in business.

NAWBO organizes Project 2000 to direct where members want the organization to be in the year 2000. NAWBO also celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 21 chapters representing 30 states and membership in Les Femmes Chefs d'Enterprises Mondiales (FCEM), an international organization of 17 countries.

**1986**

**1988**

NAWBO National and chapter members participate in the White House Conference on Small Business.



HR 5050, the Women's Business Ownership Act, is passed with strong support from NAWBO and the law is signed in a White House ceremony with President Reagan.

**1990**

**1993**

NAWBO moves headquarters from Chicago, IL to Silver Springs, MD.

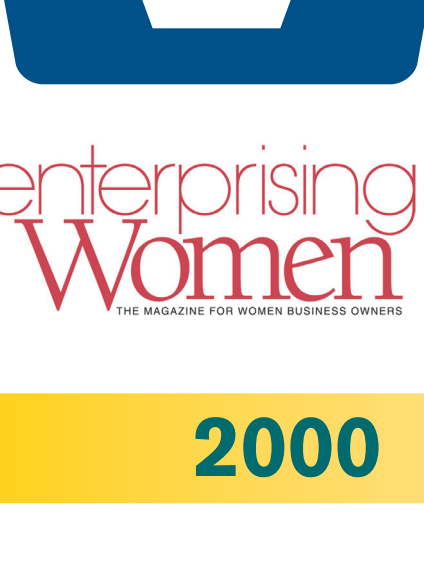
A delegation of 13 Russian women, attempting to establish a Soviet Association of Women Business Owners similar to NAWBO, fly to Washington, D.C. and meet with NAWBO members and President George Bush. They also visit NAWBO chapters in New York City, Miami, Houston, St. Louis and the Silicon Valley.

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME**

Past NAWBO National presidents are inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

**1995**

**2000**



NAWBO makes progress on many fronts—participating in the White House Conference on Small Business; pioneering a multi-billion-dollar women-owned business loan fund with partners Wells Fargo and Bank of America; launching *Enterprising Women* magazine; creating the NWBO Certification Program; leading a U.S. business delegation at the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing as well as trade missions to Europe; and collaborating with the U.S. President and House on issue like affirmative action and access to capital.

**2000**

**2002**

NAWBO moves its headquarters to Washington, D.C., sending the message that we're a player and an important organization representing the interests of the 9.1 million women business owners out there.



NAWBO signs on to the Women21.gov project and participates in four town hall meetings across the country with President Bush.

**2003**

**2004**

NAWBO incorporates the NAWBO Institute for Entrepreneurial Development, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to create educational experiences for established women entrepreneurs.



NAWBO hosts its first Summit of Women's Organizations, with 14 organizations participating. End results include securing government support to create a master calendar of women's business events and new alliances.

**2005**

**2006**

NAWBO forms WomenBizRelief to assist women entrepreneurs impacted by Hurricane Katrina, raising more \$40,000 in individual contributions within two weeks, all of which were granted to women business owners. The program later wins an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Association Executives.

NAWBO's Presidents Assembly is formed. NAWBO also helps to form and joins Network of Entrepreneurial Women



World Wide, a new organization dedicated to expanding global entrepreneurship.

**2007**

**2008**



NAWBO leads a Women in Business Trade Mission to the Netherlands and Belgium. The Mission receives a great deal of press coverage and is rated as "one of the most successful in the past five years" by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

NAWBO submits testimony to the House and Senate Small Business Committees stating its criticism of the proposed rules issued by the Small Business Administration for the women-owned business set-aside program.



**2010**

**2013**



NAWBO celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary by paying tribute to its history and the exemplary women whose achievements have propelled women business owners into economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide. The annual Women's Business Conference is held in Washington D.C. where NAWBO was founded and where NAWBO is currently advocating on issues that are most important to women business owners.

**2012**

**2013**

NAWBO joins with other trade groups representing the financial services and small business communities to call for the strengthening of small business lending. The NAWBO Institute for Entrepreneurial Development also receives a donation from The Sara Blakely Foundation to help launch the Institute's e-Learning webinar series that provides information and ideas to help women business owners grow.



NAWBO celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HR 5050, also known as the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988, and the instrumental role NAWBO played in its passage. NAWBO also partners with Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg and her LeanIn movement dedicated to combining practical education and focused discussion to give women the tools they need to realize their goals.

**2014**

**2015**



NAWBO launches an endorsement campaign supporting select candidates for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives with a history of entrepreneurship and/or public record of support for small business owners. The goal is to advocate for women business owners, shape decision-making in Washington, D.C., and build important relationships.



NAWBO heads back to Texas, the state that hosted the very first National Women's Business Conference. This time, in San Antonio, the conference includes a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of NAWBO's 40 years of impact.

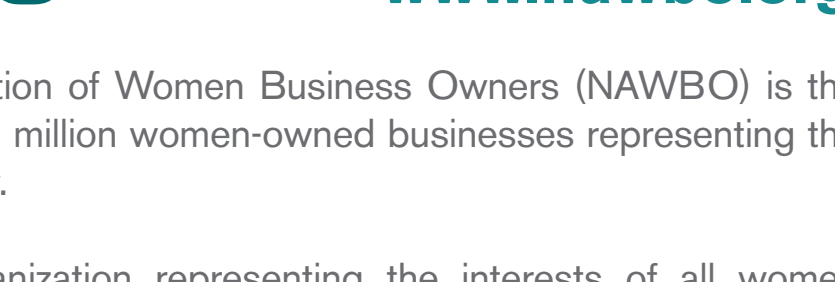
## U.S. Women Business Owners By the Numbers

More than **9.1 million** firms are owned by women



They generate **\$1.4 trillion** in sales

They employ nearly **7.9 million** people



## About NAWBO

[www.nawbo.org](http://www.nawbo.org)

Founded in 1975, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) is the unified voice of America's more than 9.1 million women-owned businesses representing the fastest growing segment of the economy.

NAWBO is the only dues-based organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs across all industries and boasts over 5,000 members and 60 chapters across the country. With far-reaching clout and impact, NAWBO is a one-stop resource to propel women business owners into greater economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.

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