



International Women's Day

March is an important month for all women. Women's History month was created by Congress in 1987. International Women's Day, however has been celebrated on March 8 since the early 1900s. In 1975, The United Nations adopted the date as International Women's Day. It is a global day celebrating the **social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.**

ATHENA International put a special video together for International Women's Day and we want to thank everyone in our **Northeast Florida Affiliate Community** for their participation! We were thrilled to join in with other communities around the world to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. **Enjoy this wonderful video and celebrate the women in your part of the globe! Click [here](#).**

Women's Business Ownership Act, H.R. 5050



In honor of Women’s History Month, NAWBO is shining a spotlight on the 30-year anniversary of The Women’s Business Ownership Act, H.R. 5050 with the release of the white paper:

“Spotlight on H.R. 5050: The Bill that Changed Everything for Women Business Owners,”

This link to the white paper, sponsored by PNC, reflects on the provisions that transformed the course for women business owners and highlights the current areas for improved policy and better women involvement.

The report includes anecdotes from NAWBO leaders who were involved with H.R. 5050 as well assessments of the current status of women business owners.

Noteworthy parts of The Women’s Business Ownership Act included:

- Establishing the Women’s Business Center (WBC) program,
- Creating the National Women’s Business Council (NWBC)
- Requiring the Census Bureau to include women-owned c-corporations

Areas for future involvement and policy include:

- Expanding access to capital,
 - Providing for research that assesses and meets the needs of women business owners
 - Targeting support for women of color and women in technology
 - Giving WBCs the tools to create more of an emphasis on business expansion
 - Providing an avenue for more women involvement in procurement
 - Increasing the number of women on corporate boards
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A Success Story

A persistent and focused entrepreneur that looks for ways to overcome and prevent obstacles? That's **Kimberly Deas**, owner of two franchise territories with Murphy Business and Financial Services. Kimberly started her career as a field engineer and was determined to make a difference in the world. "The Jacksonville Women's Business Center has been a critical cornerstone of my success. From the classes they offer to the mentoring programs and so much more," said Deas.

Continue reading her story [here](#)



Keynote Speaker & Entrepreneur, Teresa Meares

Breaking Down Barriers to Communication

Amazing. Inspiring. Uplifting. JWBC was proud to host a luncheon with Teresa Meares, a global advocate for women. Teresa shared her thoughts on leadership, communication and the power of storytelling. Author Jeannette Walls, who captured her own story in the book, *The Glass Castle* was in attendance.

A big thank you to Liz Grenamyre for her delicious cuisine and the perfect setting at Bella Sera. We were so happy to see so many of you there!

Kristina Aranilla of the JAX Chamber created this beautiful video of the event, click [here](#) to view.

To quote Teresa Meares, "Yesterday was an amazing day! One of those days where things come together and you feel unstoppable and have great love from friends! To give a keynote in your hometown is such an honor! But to give a keynote with the awesome Jeannette Walls, the author of *The Glass Castle*, being a guest was amazing! What an honor...and to have her tell me how much she appreciated my message and encouraged me to write a book was enough to make me want to cry! Thank you [Ellen Sullivan](#) for showcasing Jacksonville! And to all of my WBO Girls and Jax Angels for supporting me in everything I do, what an amazing city I live in with some pretty awesome women!"

Upcoming Programs & Events



Venture Leadership

This unique six-part program will teach participants how to develop and leverage their own leadership style with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Each participant will master the capability to motivate, innovate and educate within their organization to establish a winning culture.

Program dates:
April 25
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$300 per person
Location: JAX Chamber

To register, kindly call Ashlea Justice at 904-366-6600 or email at ashlea.justice@myjaxchamber.com.



JWBC & SBA 2nd Annual Small Business Summit

You are cordially invited to attend the Jacksonville Women's Business Center and the US SBA North Florida District Office's 2nd Annual Small Business Summit.

Theme: "Small Business Growth & Collaboration."

Date: Tuesday, May 8 at 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Location: SBA NFDO 7825 Baymeadows Parkway, Suite 100B, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Join government, industry and SBA staff for training, panel discussions, networking and supplier diversity exchanges. The event is free but a reservation is required. Please click [here](#).

IRS Refund Status

Using your Social Security number, filing status and amount of your refund, you can find your refund status.

Should You Call the IRS?

The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, although some require additional time. You should only call if it has been:

- 21 days or more since you e-filed
- 6 weeks or more since you mailed your return, or when
- "Where's My Refund" tells you to contact the IRS

Helpful links:

www.irs.gov/refunds

[IRS2GoApp Mobile App](#)

Check your refund status, make a payment, find free tax preparation assistance, sign up for helpful tax tips, and more! IRS2Go is available in both English and Spanish.

Taxpayers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit may experience a refund hold. According to the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, the IRS cannot issue these refunds before mid-February. The IRS expects the earliest EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or debit cards starting February 27, 2018, if these taxpayers chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their tax return.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and tag us on Twitter with the hashtag #jaxwbc



STAY CONNECTED



For more information, please contact the Jacksonville Women's Business Center at (904) 366-6600 ext. 7795 or jaxwbc@myjaxchamber.com