

## Congratulation's Tammy McDaniel

### Our Spotlight Member of the Month of February

#### What brought you to ABWA?

I lived in Navarre and my neighbor Betty Capps (Pampered Chef) brought me as a guest to my first meeting in March 1999. I was mesmerized and thought; "WOW" these women are amazing. It was quite intimidating. I worked part-time for a local travel agency and spent the rest of my time as a stay at home mom. I joined that evening and thought it would be a great way to meet women in the community. My sponsor did not attend another meeting with me and so I remembered having to force myself to introduce myself to the members and participate in Chapter activities. Although I have not seen Betty since moving from Navarre to Fort Walton Beach, I want to thank her for bringing me to that 1st meeting. ABWA has changed my life completely and my appreciation to the members who inspired me from the way I dress (Gayle Carmichael) and the leadership roles I started to take on because of asking me to attend the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber monthly events (Jeanne Rief). Later as a member I thank Desley Parker (former member) who helped me with success coaching to work on my visions and dreams. I was so happy Becky Belcher encouraged me to attend a Panhandle Area Council meeting. I do not think the Emerald Coast Chapter members realize just how beneficial and inspiring to have the opportunity to meet other ABWA sisters throughout Northwest Florida.



#### Are you involved in other organizations?

I have been involved in many community organizations since becoming an ABWA member. Currently I am serving as the 2012 Chair for the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women. I am still a Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber member and just recently stepped down from serving 3 years as the Chair of the Green Awareness Taskforce (now changed to Environmental Committee). I'm also a VISIT Florida partner and appointed to serve on the 2011-12 Cultural, Heritage, Rural and Nature committee. I just recently joined FAPAC (Federal Asian Pacific American Council) and working with this Council at Eglin Air Force Base.

#### What courses have you taken on WIN?

I have been awarded 2 years in a row APEX Awards (Achieving Personal Excellence) for taking personal marketing courses on-line. I encourage all members to take these courses on WIN plus the other courses you are able to take as part of your membership. I am currently enrolled in all 5 of the courses you get by paying your national dues. They are all under training once you access WIN. We are never too old to learn and to take what we have learned from WIN and use it as a mentoring tool for young women or other women in our community.

## *Member Spotlight Continued...*

**Finish this sentence...** My parents always told me... They "loved me". Those are words that have carried me through many tough times during my life and now. They have also given me the foundation: to Dream, Believe, have Faith and keep my Peace and Joy through all my darkest and most rewarding moments. Their Love has also enabled me to raise a son (Joe) as a single mother and watch him grow up to be a handsome and wonderful man and is attending the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is a sophomore and has maintained a 4.0 average and started his own band "Grande Manor". He writes, composes, plays and sings.

**Professionally** – Selected to be a 53<sup>rd</sup> Wing Honorary Commander for the 16<sup>th</sup> Electronic Warfare Squadron. The honor allowed me to fly in an F-15. I was able to push the throttle forward over the Gulf of Mexico to fly into supersonic sound. I also got to do a reverse loop and barrel roll. I really enjoyed being able to meet and learn how incredible professional and knowledgeable the men and women in the Air Force in the 16<sup>th</sup> EWS performed their duties.

**Personally** would be my vision/dream owning a Travel Agency (Tammy's Journeys) and continue to grow despite a down economy and my son (Joe) who I am so very proud of and being able to keep his dog "Skittles" (Keeshond) watered and fed.

## Woman of the Year

*Providing recognition for our members is an important part of ABWA's mission and is a qualifying standard for Best Practices in Group Management. It also provides your Chapter/Express Network® with an opportunity to celebrate the success of your most influential and revered members.*



*Woman of the Year program was designed so that every Chapter/Express Network can annually recognize a member who has made notable contributions and outstanding achievements. Being named Woman of the Year is a great honor – one that's highly respected by ABWA members.*