

# A MINUTE WITH MEMBERSHIP

AWM'S MEMBERS-ONLY NEWSLETTER

*December 2022*

## AWM Member Spotlight



Valerie Blackburn  
Principal  
VKB Media Consulting

### **You recently received the AWM Legacy Leadership Award. What does that honor mean to you?**

Receiving the Legacy Leadership Award was such an incredible moment for me. It's difficult to articulate what AWM has meant to me both personally and professionally through the years, as it's been such an intrinsic part of both worlds. I've been honored to play a few roles within AWM from Chairing the Board and the Gracies to being Interim Executive Director at one point. I'm just so incredibly proud to have a Gracie in my house!

### **Are organizations like the Alliance for Women in Media important today?**

Absolutely! AWM provides a network for women to connect, be recognized, as well as be supported in media. Thinking about just the Gracies – we've had 47 years of recognizing excellence in content, where winning a student Gracie has been a confidence builder and launching pad to so many young women....and our National and Local winners where their Gracies have been much needed affirmation and appreciation of their work.

### **What is your greatest advice, to women or men, no matter where they are in their career?**

There are a couple of philosophies which I have firmly embraced over the years. The first is to be as authentic as possible! It's impossible to maintain a persona who you aren't, and you'll be much happier and better at what you do when your true self shines through (and it's infinitely less stressful). The second is to be curious about everything -- not only what is in your purview, but about surrounding areas as well. I'm always a little suspect of someone who isn't at least a little curious about how to be better at their job or how someone else might handle a situation; there's always some new trick to pick up!

## Member Spotlight *continued*

### Valerie's Bio

Valerie has achieved notable success in project management, and financial and strategic planning in broadcasting and digital media. In addition to her work with AWM, Valerie serves on the Board of Visitors for the Bob Schieffer College of Communication at TCU as well as having a leadership role in local politics in Denver where she resides.

### Knowledge Areas

Finance, Strategic Planning, Change Management, Communications, Team Building

### Want to connect with Valerie?

Email her at [valerie@valerieblackburn.com](mailto:valerie@valerieblackburn.com) or connect on LinkedIn, [www.linkedin.com/in/valeriekblackburn](http://www.linkedin.com/in/valeriekblackburn).

## Membership News

### Applications Open for 2023 AWM Board of Directors

The Alliance for Women in Media (AWM) is accepting applications for the 2023 AWM National Board of Directors. Serving on the board provides the opportunity to be proactive in driving positive change and promoting progress for women in all forms of media. You are eligible to nominate yourself or recommend others. Deadline to apply is December 16, 2022.

[Apply Today!](#)

## Gracies News

### The 2023 Gracies Entries Early Bird Deadline Approaching!

The Early Bird Deadline to submit Gracie entries is December 15, 2022. We encourage Gracie Award submissions from all walks of media life, from creatives such as writers, broadcast journalists, and actors to technical categories, including producers and directors. The 48th Annual Gracie Awards entry eligibility air dates are January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Start your entry [here!](#)

### Gracies Judging Applications Are Now Available

We are looking for media professionals interested in being a Judge for the 2023 Gracie Awards! Please share this with your friends and colleagues who would enjoy being part of this amazing process.

While judging is a volunteer activity and no compensation is offered, fully participating in the judging process entitles you to either one complimentary ticket to The Gracies Luncheon or half-off the regular rate to The Gracies Gala (tickets are non-transferrable)

[Apply Today!](#)

# Foundation News

## End of Year Donations

Since 1960, the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation has been committed to creating positive change in media by supporting educational programs, recognition events, and scholarships that benefit student pursuing careers in media and allied fields. We still have work to do. Help us continue our mission of advancing women in media by donating today.

Donations can be made [online](#) or through Venmo (@awm-foundation). Every donation, no matter the size, is appreciated and needed. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

## Membership Offer

### Gift a Membership in AWM

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for a woman in media? Wow someone on your list this year by gifting a one-year professional membership to AWM. Members enjoy an expanded network, a robust media community, and access to extra resources and content, like recordings of our entire Gracies Interview Series. Email [info@allwomeninmedia.org](mailto:info@allwomeninmedia.org) to set up your gift membership for the holidays!

## Upcoming Dates

### December:

- AWM Connects Virtual Event (December 14)
- 2023 Gracie Awards Early Bird Deadline (December 15 at 11:59pm ET)
- AWM Board of Directors Application Deadline (December 16)

### January:

- 2023 Gracie Awards Judging Application Deadline (January 5)
- 2023 Gracie Awards NCTA Entry Scholarship Deadline (January 6)
- AWM Membership Renewals Open (January 18)
- 2023 Gracie Awards Virtual Judging #1 (January 30-February 13)

### February:

- 2023 Gracie Awards Virtual Judging #2 (February 8-22)
- 2023 Gracie Awards In-Person Judging (February 25-26)
- Last Day to Renew Your AWM Membership (February 28)

Follow AWM on Social Media:

@allwomeninmedia on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook

## Career Center

In each issue of *FastForward*, we spotlight the openings posted to the AWM Career Center. Since job postings change frequently, the archived versions of *FastForward* do not include specific links. Please visit [allwomeninmedia.org/career-center](http://allwomeninmedia.org/career-center) to see the current postings.

The AWM Career Center is a premier online resource that allows staffing agents in the media industry to post job openings and receive resumes from candidates, while allowing job seekers to view job postings and upload resumes. AWM Members receive a discount on all job posts. Visit [allwomeninmedia.org/career-center](http://allwomeninmedia.org/career-center) today to learn more.

## AWM Affiliates

The Alliance for Women in Media (AWM) is committed to supporting women across all media segments, to expand networks, and to educate and celebrate accomplishments. The AWM leadership and task forces are continuously evaluating ways to add value at a national level. Additional networking, creating valuable connections and educational opportunities are available on a local level through informal groups gathering as well as AWM Affiliates. There is invaluable benefit to gathering and reaping what is only available with connecting to those in a community.

AWM currently has six Affiliates, which are listed below. If you are in these areas, we encourage you to reach out to the list contact. If there is not an Affiliate group in your area and are interested in learning about how to start one, please contact [latonya.jackson@allwomeninmedia.org](mailto:latonya.jackson@allwomeninmedia.org).

### Affiliate Contact List

- Austin: [president@awmaustin.org](mailto:president@awmaustin.org)
- Dallas/Ft. Worth: [kalbright@ashermedia.com](mailto:kalbright@ashermedia.com)
- New York City: [emily.a.eldredge@gmail.com](mailto:emily.a.eldredge@gmail.com)
- Oklahoma Media Network: [alisonhooks@yahoo.com](mailto:alisonhooks@yahoo.com), [oklahomamedia.network@gmail.com](mailto:oklahomamedia.network@gmail.com)
- San Antonio Media Alliance: [erika.grimm@3qmp.com](mailto:erika.grimm@3qmp.com)
- Southern California Affiliate: [awmsocal@gmail.com](mailto:awmsocal@gmail.com)

Have questions about your AWM Membership?  
Email [amy.burton@allwomeninmedia.org](mailto:amy.burton@allwomeninmedia.org)