

WABC Scholarship Goes to Local Student Entering U-Md.



Lillian Kahl, this year's winner of the WABC scholarship competition, holds her check for \$4,000. With her, left to right, are WABC members Michelle Wittig of Mechanical Engineering & Construction Corp., Anita Sheckells of KatzAbosch, and Martha Elliott of CAM Construction.

ABC members and guests flocked to the annual Summer Network Aug. 18 at Oregon Ridge Park, for a day of good food, fun and fundraising. The crowd feasted on barbecue and desserts from the Miss Twist ice cream truck, and bid on auction items that raised more than \$8,000 for the Women in ABC Committee's scholarship fund.

WABC presented a ceremonial check to this year's scholarship winner, Lillian Kahl, who begins studying sustainable agriculture this fall at the University of Maryland. Then WABC replenished its scholarship fund by auctioning off such prizes as art, food, wine, weekend getaways, Orioles and Ravens tickets, power tools and restaurant passes. It was the committee's sixth annual auction and raised more than any previous event.

ABC would like to thank the local businesses that provided auction items: Butler Gallery, Into the Woods, The Boxwood Collection, Route One Apparel, Giant Food, Smyth Jewelers, Chesapeake Theatre Co., 10 Clark Place B&B, Inn at Osprey Point, Ladew Gardens, Mullan Nursery, Gertrude's Restaurant, Baltimore Museum of Art and Harley Davidson of Annapolis.

Thanks also to the generous ABC members who made the auction and network possible: Bill Kleinfelder, Martha Elliott, Dave Cardwell Sr., CAM Construction, NLP Enterprises, KatzAbosch, Weil Akman Baylin & Coleman, Lewis Contractors, Ruppert Landscaping, Mahogany Inc., Oak Contracting, PSA Insurance, TEI, Skillforce, Advanced Heating & Cooling, Southway Builders, Hertzbach & Co., Rommel Cranston, Southern Maryland Insurance, D&L Cleanup, Wright Constable & Skeen, and Mechanical Engineering & Construction Corp.

Last year's WABC scholarship winner spent this summer interning at an ABC member firm – see story on page 20.

Maryland in Top Five for Construction Employment

Construction employment improved nationally in July, with Maryland coming in fourth in the nation for lowest unemployment in construction. Only Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota had lower construction unemployment rates, according to figures released by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Recent hiring jumped Maryland to fourth place from its 11th place finish in June. West Virginia had the highest construction unemployment rate in both June and July.

Maryland's July unemployment rate for construction was 2.1 percent, a significant improvement over June's 3.5 percent and the 4.8 percent registered a year ago in July 2014. Wyoming had the lowest construction unemployment rate in the nation with 1.3 percent in July, while West Virginia was highest at 8.4 percent.

Court Decision Opens Superblock Development

Long stalled development of the so-called Superblock site in the city's downtown west side is underway following a recent court decision. The Baltimore Development Corp. is seeking new proposals for the parcel bounded by Fayette, Lexington and Howard Streets and Park Avenue.

In 2013, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake canceled a 2005 deal with Lexington Square Partners. The developer sued the city, losing its case in May 2014. Two appeals courts decisions earlier this year and again in August upheld the ruling in favor of the city, opening the way for new development. Another suit filed by Orioles owner Peter G. Angelos was dismissed in 2012.