

Professional Clubs & Organizations

Compiled by Katie Harger



Ad Club of West Michigan

www.adclubwmi.org
Contact: 459-9196 or email info@adclubwmi.org
Purpose: For advertising and marketing professionals. Activities include industry advocacy, social and community events and educational programs.

Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE)

www.awe-westmichigan.org
Contact: 719-5382
Purpose: Encourages, supports and provides a voice for women who own and operate businesses. Provides an excellent opportunity to network, develop sales leads and receive guidance.

American Society of Women Accountants

www.aswa.org
Contact: Mary Parker, chapter president, 784-0500, ext. 270 or email mary.parker@rapidengineering.com
Purpose: To help women in all accounting and related fields achieve their full potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession.

Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC), West Michigan Chapter

www.abcwmc.org
Contact: 942-9960 or (800) ABC-BUILD
Purpose: An association of general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and associates who work together to improve the construction industry.

Association of Information Technology Professionals

www.wmaitp.org
Contact: Rick Visser, 459-6681 or email rvisser@kentrecords.com
Purpose: To facilitate awareness and effective use of information technology and provide members with leadership opportunities.

Economic Club of Grand Rapids

www.econclubgr.com
Contact: 454-1883 or econclubgr@aol.com
Purpose: To promote interest and enlighten members on governmental, economic and social issues that affect the local economy.

Grand Rapids Association of Realtors

www.grar.com
Contact: 940-8200
Purpose: Advancement of the west Michigan real estate community.

Grand Rapids Bar Association

<http://www.grbar.org>
Contact: 454-5550
Purpose: A climate in which lawyers and judges work together to improve the delivery of legal services. The association has been the vehicle through which lawyers have worked to address challenges demanding flexibility and change, such as lawyer advertising; increasing specialization; increasing numbers of lawyers; the economy; the need to encourage and welcome women and minority lawyers into the practice; and the increasing use of technology to run law offices and conduct legal research.

Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW)

www.growbusiness.org
Contact: Patricia Duthler, executive director, 458-3404

Purpose: This nonprofit economic development organization provides women with opportunities to develop skills and acquire knowledge to become economically self-sufficient. GROW provides training and business support services to women who are starting or expanding businesses.

Greater Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

www.grandrapids.org
Contact: 771-0300
Purpose: To create opportunities for business success.

Greater Grand Rapids Association for Human Resource Management

www.ahrm.net
Contact: Audrey Pimpleton at 752-2278 or email apimpleton@wnj.com
Purpose: To promote the growth and development of sound human resource practices in business and in the community.

Greater Grand Rapids Home Builders Association

www.hbaggr.com
Contact: 281-2021 or (800) 305-2021
Purpose: Networking opportunities, educational programs, insurance and group benefits, legal advice and more.

Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

www.ggrwhc.org
Contact: 234-3603
Purpose: Dedicated to educating the community and celebrating the legacies of local women, preserving knowledge of their past, and inspiring visions for their future.

Inforum*

www.inforummichigan.org
Contact: Judy Welch at jwelch@inforum-michigan.org or call 913-0206
Purpose: Provides networking opportunities for businesswomen to connect, discuss civic and business issues and advance as leaders.

Interchange/Association for Professional Communicators

www.interchangewmi.org
Contact: Andrea Groom at grooma@wondergem.com or call 235-7467
Purpose: Open to all interested in professional communication, the group addresses issues related to the communication field.

International Association of Administrative Professionals

www.iaapgrmich.org
Contact: Tracy Green at tracy.green@amway.com
Purpose: To promote excellence for administrative assistants, executive secretaries, office coordinators, information specialists and related administrative professionals.

Center for Community Leadership (formerly Leadership Grand Rapids)

www.cclgr.org
Contact: 771-0334

Purpose: To develop and engage an effective, diverse network of community trustee leaders serving for the betterment of the entire community.

Michigan Nurses Association

www.minurses.org
Contact: 888-MI-NURSE or 888-646-8773 or Carol Feuss at carol.feuss@minurses.org

Purpose: To provide educational opportunities and comprehensive services that advance the professional and economic interests of registered nurses.

Michigan Restaurant Association

www.michiganrestaurant.org
Contact: 800-968-9668 or 517-482-5244

Purpose: To assist, represent, promote and educate the foodservice industry.

Michigan Small Business Development Center

www.gvsu.edu/misbtcd/
Contact: 331-7370

Purpose: To provide services and support to the Michigan small business community in the areas of counsel, training, research and advocacy. Serves Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties.

Michigan Women's Foundation

www.miwf.org
Contact: 734-542-3946 or (800) 404-4372

Purpose: To promote economic self-sufficiency and personal well-being for women and girls, to maximize their contributions to society.

Multiracial Association of Professionals (MAP)

www.grandrapids.org/diversityinitiatives/map/
Contact: Latricia Trice, 771-0332

Purpose: Dedicated to making people of all races and ethnicities comfortable living in west Michigan. Hosts networking, cultural and educational events. Events and membership open to all.

NALS of West Michigan (National Association of Legal Secretaries)

www.nalsowfmi.org
Contact: Lisa Boyd; 774-0672

Purpose: Enhancing the knowledge of its members through continuing legal education, certifications, resource materials, and networking opportunities.

National Association of Social Workers, NASW Michigan Chapter

www.socialworkers.org
Contact: (517) 487-1548

Purpose: To enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), GR Chapter

www.nawic194.org
Contact: Heather Lambertson at 696-8323
Purpose: To enhance the success of women in the construction industry.

Rotary Club of Grand Rapids

www.grrotary.org
Contact: Coleen Downey at 459-5640

Purpose: To provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Grand Rapids Chapter

www.sme38.com
Contact: Brian Van Haitma at 556-5001

Purpose: To provide manufacturing solutions through education and professional growth opportunities for current and future members.

Toastmasters International

www.grandrapids.freetoasthost.ws
Contact: Swaroop Bhushan or email

vppr@grandrapids.freetoasthost.ws
Purpose: Members learn to improve their communication and leadership skills by attending weekly meetings. Various chapters located throughout greater Grand Rapids.

The Urban League

www.grurbanleague.org/
Contact: 245-2207

Purpose: To enable African-Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.

West Michigan Public Relations Society of America (WMPRSA)

www.wmprsa.org
Contact: 336-0678

Purpose: To help public relations professionals develop the knowledge and skills needed for effective management of organizations.

Women's Connection and After Five Club

www.stonecroft.org
Contact: grandrapidsafter5@hotmail.com
or (800) 525-8627

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for women to give themselves a treat through a monthly brunch, luncheon or dinner meeting designed for professional women.

Women's Resource Center of Greater Grand Rapids**

www.grwrc.org
Contact: Sharon Caldwell-Newton at 458-5443
Purpose: A career development agency that serves women of all economic and social backgrounds. Services include comprehensive employment preparation and career development services, one-on-one career guidance, job leads, a resource library with information on many occupations, information and referrals to community resources and personal counseling.

Zonta International

www.zontagr.org
Contact: president@zontagr.org

Purpose: A worldwide organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women. Meets monthly.

"When you find a job you love, you'll never have to work a day in your life."

- Anonymous

Inforum*

Inforum is a Michigan-wide business forum for women with more than 2,200 members. Founded in Detroit in 1962 as the Women's Economic Club, the forum has since expanded to include affiliates in Grand Rapids and Lansing. Enabling networking that allows women in business to further their careers and form a collective voice, Inforum connects its members through leadership training, research and education. Specialized committees and informal "Affinity Groups" based on shared interests and hobbies give women a chance to connect on both professional and personal levels, while mentorship opportunities and leadership awards allow members to learn from the experiences of women who demonstrate success in business.

Recent Inforum events have included "Election 2008: What's in it for YOU?," a luncheon program featuring a debate between Republican Andrew Card, former White House Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush, and Democrat Paul Begala, political strategist and former adviser to President Bill Clinton. The discussion centered specifically around Michigan's business environment and interests in the upcoming presidential election. The state's businesswomen were given the chance to question the speakers on topics from potential vice presidential candidates to the media's portrayal of Hillary Clinton.

Women's Resource Center**

The Women's Resource Center has been providing invaluable services to west Michigan since 1973. Originally designed to help women make the transition from the home to the workplace, the center now offers a wide range of career and job placement services designed to help women achieve economic success and employment education. Sharon Caldwell-Newton, executive director of the Grand Rapids Women's Resource Center, says that the center's mission over time has remained the same. "But now," she said, "we are helping more disadvantaged women, women in poverty, and women who have challenges in making the move as a means to self-sufficiency."

In 2007, 922 west Michigan women received services such as skills and interests assessments, job training and education, employment counseling and coaching, help with job applications and resumes, basic computer training, and professional attire from the center's donation-supported Clothes Closet. All assistance offered by the center comes at no cost to those who request it, and volunteers and fundraisers are critical to the center's continuing operation. **On Sept. 24, the second annual "Wine, Women, and Chocolate" reception will offer chocolate and wine-tasting and a silent auction, with proceeds supporting the center. Tickets are \$40 or two for \$75 and can be reserved by calling the Women's Resource Center at 458-5443.**