Welcome from the 2016 AAWBC President

Dear AAWBC Members,

I am happy to be writing to you as the president of the Arab American Women’s Business Council for 2016. I am honored to serve as the President for this outstanding organization.

My vision for the AAWBC is simple: to be the organization to advance the aspirations and achievements of Arab American business and professional women.

The AAWBC had a successful year 2015 offering a variety of events to attend as well as the kick-off of our mentorship program. We are committed to remaining relevant to our members and audience as we present high quality networking events and educational programs with meaningful content and people that will inspire and stimulate. Keep an eye out for communications on upcoming events and opportunities with the AAWBC. I look forward to an even better 2016.
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 2015 executive committee and board of directors for their commitment to the organization and hard work that made 2015 such a successful year. Additionally, I welcome and thank the 2016 board of directors for their support and personal time commitment to the AAWBC. I look forward to working with the members of the 2016 board as we continue to bring the highest level of service to the community. For a full listing of board members please visit us at www.aaawbc.org.

I look forward to serving as your president,
Sincerely,
Jumana Judeh

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**Welcome New Board Member**

**Taharah Saad**

You might remember meeting Taharah Hachem Saad in the September 2015 AAWBC Scene in our Member Profile column. At that time, she was taking a major role in moving the AAWBC's unique program “Her Path to Success” forward and that she was soon to give birth to her first child.

Well, the AAWBC has some exciting news about Taharah. She indeed gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Nabil Saad on September 20th. She also agreed to join the board of directors of the AAWBC in January, lending her expertise, enthusiasm and professionalism to help our members.

Congratulations, Taharah, on both counts! Welcome to the board, Tahara, and welcome, little Nabil, to the world! If you’d like to read the original article about Taharah, please click here.

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**Former AAWBC Board Member Receives Honor**

Congratulations to Mona Hammoud, one of the AAWBC's founding board members, for her appointment to the Wayne County Ethics Board for a four-year term ending Dec. 31, 2018.

Mona is a vice president for PNC bank, where she has worked since 2003. She
She is a former president of the League of Women Voters Dearborn-Dearborn Heights, and is active in Child Safe Michigan and the AAWBC.

Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak nominated her, saying, "Mona Hammoud will be a strong addition to the Wayne County Ethics Board. Her integrity and her involvement in community organizations indicate to me that she will serve the residents of the county well on the board."

The Ethics Board is the enforcement arm of the county’s ethics ordinance, established to receive and consider complaints filed for possible violations of the ordinance.

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The AAWBC has many great opportunities for members to be involved, network and learn alongside our board members as we plan and execute our activities for 2016. Opportunities include:

- Mentorship Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Membership Committee
- Sponsorship Committee
- Annual Breakfast Committee
- Networking Events Committee
- Annual Golf Outing Committee
- Business Woman of the Year Committee
- Grants Committee
- PR/Marketing Committee

If interested in joining one of these committees, please email info@aaawbc.org for more information.

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Laila Alhussini recognized as 2015 Arab American Business Woman of the Year

The AAWBC held their 9th Annual Networking breakfast on November 5, 2015 at Byblos Banquet Center in Dearborn, MI. Attendees received an inspiring speech from Theresa Ghafari,
the keynote speaker who told a story of overcoming adversity and creating a successful career. Also, the AAWBC, with the support of Haifa Fakhoury, Mike George and Ford were able to give scholarships to 5 aspiring professional students. Additionally, more than 200 professional and business men and women came to congratulate Laila Alhusinni for being recognized as the 2015 Arab American Business Woman of the Year.

The Arab American Business Woman of the Year award is an award that recognizes women who are in leadership positions within their profession or business and those who possess a record of consistent professional or business accomplishments and community activism, involvement or leadership.

Laila is an award-winning journalist. Born in Damascus, Syria, Alhusinni graduated from The University of Damascus and worked for a number of local Syrian newspapers from 1990-2000. Alhusinni immigrated to the US in 2001 and launched her show.

Laila founded and is the spirit of U.S. Arab Media and U.S. Chaam Radio and is also a founding member of the National Arab American Journalists Association. She grew U.S. Arab Radio and U.S. CHAAM Media from a mere concept into one of the most successful and influential ethnic radio stations in the Arab American communities. She provides experts in Arabic and English to inform the Arab American community and provides thoughtful commentary where no other journalist does.

She has earned local recognition both within Michigan’s Arab community and outside. She has received multiple awards, including, the Women of Achievement Award from YMCA Western Wayne County and American Arab Community Network Award. Recently, she has also produced educational programs to build bridges between the Arab Americans and the American Society for better understanding of both cultures. She was also a Goodwill Ambassador for TMIPU in Media & Women’s Rights on behalf of the Multipurpose Inter Parliamentary Union Middle East Region.

She is one of the very few Arab American Media voices and greater participation of Arabs in the US media is a subject dear to her heart. Laila is an inspiration to all women and we are proud to have our as our 2015 recipient.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay tuned for more newsletters and information.