



Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA

FEDERAL ADVOCACY • LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS • MEMBER ACTION

End of Summer Newsletter

WCOE Is on the Move

WBENC CONFERENCE • SALT LAKE CITY

Thank You, WBENC and Cheri Butler

Thank you [WBENC](#), [Cheri Butler](#), Vice President, Programs at WBENC, for your partnership with [National WCOE Women Construction Owners and Executives USA](#) and bestowing WCOE and [The Barbour Group, LLC](#) with gracious exhibitor space where 14 woman owned companies were highlighted in your construction exhibit of your conference in Salt Lake City this week. Honored that my agency was featured on your wall. We met many women owned contracting companies and super supporters like [Johnny Ortiz, MCA](#), of [DPR Construction](#). Super cool to meet up with [Vincent Marec](#) of [SwitchgearUS](#) who was a panelist at WCOE



WBENC conference highlights: Karen Barbour featured in the construction exhibit, The Barbour Group exhibitor display, and women-owned businesses connecting on the conference floor.

HUBZONE CONTRACTORS NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE • WESTFIELDS MARRIOTT

Thank You, Michelle Burnett

Thank you, [Michelle Burnett](#), Board of Directors | Vice Chair of [HUBZone Contractors National Council](#) for such a wonderful conference at the Westfields Marriott. [National WCOE Women Construction Owners and Executives USA](#) appreciates your support. Thank you for donating exhibitor space to us and for spreading the work about our mission. I know we improved our membership base and secured sponsors for our [Fall Conference in San Diego October 19-20](#). And many signed up for our [Free Cocktail Zoom event on August 26th](#). [Karen Barbour](#), our National President, was there also exhibiting for [The Barbour Group, LLC](#), alongside [Josh Lopez](#) and Dee Cutler. Congratulations to Dee Cutler, a WCOE member, for her presentation on the Partnership Panel regarding the Mentor Protégé Program for the Dept of War. Thank you, Dee, for

helping [Dana Thompson](#), our Washington Advocate, for working the booth, too.



WCOE and The Barbour Group at the HUBZone Contractors National Council Conference, strengthening connections, membership outreach, and support for women-owned construction businesses.

Upcoming Events

WCOE Fall Conference

October 19-20, 2026 • San Diego, California

Register for the Fall Conference: [Conference Registration](#)

Free Cocktail Zoom Event

August 26, 2026 • Virtual Event

Reserve your place: [Cocktail Zoom Registration](#)

SAVE THE DATE Washington DC Leadership summit March 13th – 16th Location : The Willard Hotel

Members Corner

New Board Member Announcement

Ellen Barag

[Switchgear.US](#)

Woman-Owned Business - National Membership
Delaware

marketing@switchgear.us

Jennifer Vanderham

[CINKA Construction & Consulting Services LLC](#)

Veteran Woman Membership
Ohio

jennifer.vanderham@cinka-llc.us

WCOE proudly welcomes Ellen Barag of SwitchgearUS and Jennifer Vanderham of CINKA Construction & Consulting Services LLC as new members of the WCOE National.

Member Spotlight

Cynthia “Cindy” Martin



Founder & CEO CINKA Construction & Consulting Services LLC

"Transforming Challenges into Solutions."

Founded in Toledo, Ohio, in 2012 and now headquartered in St. Augustine, Florida, CINKA Construction & Consulting Services LLC has grown into a trusted company serving the Department of Defense, civilian agencies, and other customers under the motto, "Transforming Challenges into Solutions."

CINKA was founded by Cynthia "Cindy" Martin, a retired federal contracting officer and decorated U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant who holds an active Top Secret security clearance. Raised as the oldest of six children in a hard-working family of boilermakers, painters, steelworkers, autoworkers, and shipbuilders, Cindy developed the work ethic that would shape her career.

Unable to afford college, Cindy enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where she built a distinguished 26-year career while earning bachelor's and master's degrees in finance. Inspired by her father's dream of owning a business, she founded CINKA to carry that vision forward. Today, the company serves customers through two complementary divisions: Construction Services and Consulting Services.

Construction Services

CINKA's Construction Services division provides construction and facility-support services to federal and Department of Defense agencies. The team combines hands-on construction expertise with disciplined federal project management to deliver new construction, renovations, facility maintenance, and space-planning solutions throughout the full project lifecycle.

Under Cindy's leadership, CINKA has earned a broad portfolio of small-business certifications, including SBA 8(a), Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, and U.S. Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. These credentials position CINKA as both a strong prime contractor and a valued teaming partner that helps federal agencies achieve their socioeconomic goals.

Through participation in the SBA Mentor-Protégé Program, the division continues expanding its capacity to pursue and perform larger, more complex federal construction projects.

Consulting Services

CINKA's Consulting Services division helps other small businesses succeed in the federal marketplace. Drawing on Cindy's extensive federal acquisition and contracting background, the division provides strategic guidance through every stage of a federal pursuit—from capture planning through proposal development and submission.

FEDERAL CONTRACTING IMPACT

By sharing her acquisition expertise, Cindy has helped fellow small businesses compete for, win, and deliver government contracts totaling more than \$275 million.

For Cindy, CINKA is more than a business—it is the realization of a dream rooted in a hard-working family and built, year by year, into lasting success.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

AT A GLANCE As of July 27th 2026

Congress is entering its traditional August recess period, creating a valuable window for WCOE members to meet lawmakers at district offices, town halls, and campaign events.

In This Issue

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

House recessed; Senate recess scheduled; local outreach opportunities

WCOE ON THE JOB

SBA 8(a) comments; WOSB advocacy; House reception; HUBZone booth; DBE

UPCOMING ISSUES

NAICS size standards; CMMC objections; Administrative Procedure Act

2026 ELECTIONS

Less than 99 days until Election Day

Congressional Summary: The August Recess

The House is out of session until September 1 for the traditional August recess and campaigning. The Senate is scheduled to remain in session for only a few more days, but Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) is facing pressure from President Trump to delay the recess - through August, if necessary - until the Senate can pass the SAVE Act on voter eligibility and proof of citizenship. The Majority Leader says there is currently no path to passage in the Senate. The House has already passed the SAVE Act.

Whenever members of Congress are home, WCOE members should call district offices for appointments and attend town halls or campaign events.

MEMBER ACTION

Schedule a meeting now. Local access is often strongest when lawmakers are working in their states and districts.

Find Your Members of Congress

U.S. House: house.gov - enter your ZIP code and follow the member links.

U.S. Senate: senate.gov - use the state drop-down under "Find Your Senators."

WCOE on the Job

SBA 8(A) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WCOE Submits Detailed Comments

WCOE sent extensive comments to the U.S. Small Business Administration regarding its proposed 8(a) regulations. WCOE urged the agency to:

- Avoid creating a new test that could permit fraud;
- Retain the personal narrative requirement;
- Include gender as a clearly definable group within the regulation; and
- Provide clearer standards and concrete examples for the proposed new test.

The complete July 12, 2026 comment letter was submitted electronically to the SBA and is available from WCOE.

WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING

WCOE Opposes Program-Elimination Bill

WCOE sent a letter to House Small Business Committee Ranking Member Nydia Velázquez opposing H.R. 8511, legislation representing fringe ideas about equity in federal contracting programs. As the 119th Congress approaches its conclusion, the bill has no cosponsors and is unlikely to receive legislative action.

Although Representative Velázquez is expected to strongly defend against legislation that devalues women's contributions to the economy, WCOE felt compelled to emphasize how essential the WOSB program remains in addressing systemic gender inequality across public- and private-sector construction markets.



WCOE supported and attended the House Congressional Appreciation Reception as part of the Construction Industry Procurement Coalition.

Policy Outlook

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

DBE: What Comes Next?

The Senate's surface transportation reauthorization effort is behind the House, which passed the BUILD America 250 Act. The House bill included reauthorization of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Upcoming Issues

Small-Business Size Standards

WCOE will comment on proposed changes to NAICS-based size standards for small businesses.

CMMC Implementation:

WCOE is objecting to Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification implementation requirements as too onerous for small businesses.

SBA Review of Federal Rules:

WCOE is monitoring Ranking Member Velázquez's H.R. 9885, which would protect the SBA's current process for providing comments on rules affecting small businesses under the Administrative Procedure Act.

For Another Day

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The House-passed National Defense Authorization Act did not include the issues supported by WCOE. Those priorities remain part of WCOE's continuing advocacy agenda.

2026 Midterm Elections

**LESS
THAN
99
DAYS**

UNTIL ELECTION DAY

Vote. Campaign. Support the congressional candidates you believe in.

Senate Outlook

With less than 99 days before the midterm congressional elections, the Senate outlook still favors Republicans because the 35-seat election map works in their favor. However, the contest will be competitive. Republicans currently hold 53 seats; Democrats and aligned Independents hold 47. Democrats need to retain all current seats and flip four.

STATES TO WATCH

Maine • North Carolina • Texas • Alaska

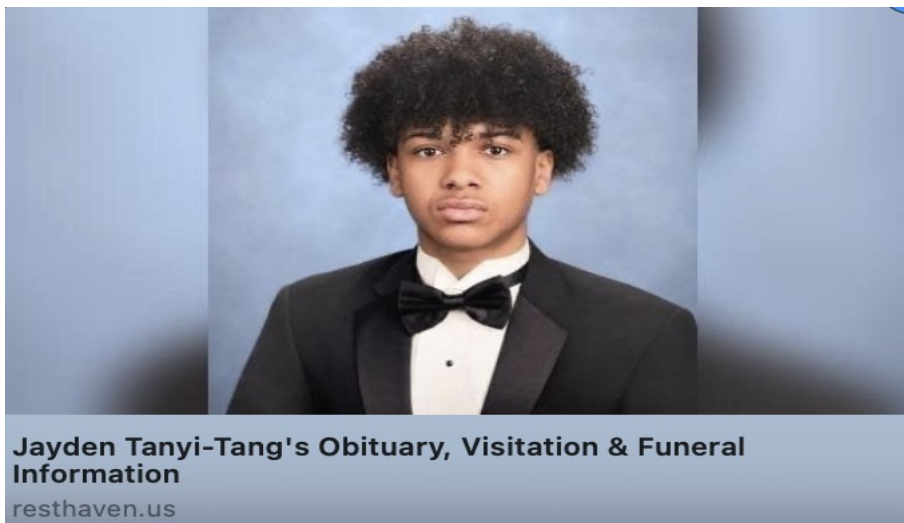
Stay Engaged

WCOE's advocacy is strongest when members add their voices. Contact congressional offices, attend local events, and share how federal contracting policies affect women-owned construction businesses in your community.

IN REMEMBRANCE

WCOE sends condolences to Cely Argueta, a loyal supporter of WCOE, on the loss of her son, Jayden Tanyi – Tang.

<https://www.resthaven.us/obituaries/jayden-tanyi-tang/obituary>



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