



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE**

---

**Release Date:** April 27, 2009  
**Release Number:** 09-17

**Contact:** Sharon Nichols, (307) 261-6508  
**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/wy>

### **Le Ann Baker Small Business Journalist of the Year 2009**

**Worland** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named Le Ann Baker, Executive Director, Washakie Development Association, as the Wyoming Small Business Journalist of the Year 2009. The award will be presented to Le Ann by Steven Despain, District Director of the Wyoming Small Business Administration, May 12, 2009 during her weekly radio broadcast on 1340 AM KWOR. Le Ann was nominated by Bruce Morse, Regional Director, WY Small Business Development Center.

This award is given to an individual making concerted efforts to increase public understanding of the importance of small business contributions to the economy; who makes contributions of news and feature stories, editorials, columns and commentary that highlight and analyze small business issues; this person performs volunteer community service aimed at enhancing small business opportunity and growth and other achievements that exemplify the nominee's media efforts to improve the understanding of the role of small business in the U.S. economy.

The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

As Executive Director of the Washakie Development Association, Le Ann Baker is very knowledgeable of available programs and resources, business issues and opportunities which provide assistance for small business owner. She is able to help them through her weekly live radio talk show which broadcasts out of Worland and showcases small businesses and highlights resources and information that are of interest to entrepreneurs in Washakie County.

In addition, she keeps businesses informed through her regular newspaper column in the Northern Wyoming Daily News which is dedicated to economic development and opportunities for business retention and expansion in the Big Horn Basin. It serves as a positive way to market seminars and workshops, business happenings and recognition as well as to keep citizens informed of business opportunities. Le Ann also has a featured column in the Worland-Ten Sleep Chamber of Commerce newsletter supporting small business.

Le Ann is a supporter of the SBA sponsored Women's Business Roundtable helping to arrange for guest speakers, ordering and picking up food and publicizing the event in her column, email contacts and word of mouth around town.

All in all, Ms Baker, through her desire to promote small business, has directly or indirectly contributed to the overall health of the business community.

---

*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive website at [www.sba.gov/wy](http://www.sba.gov/wy).*

###