



For Immediate Release: March 16, 2006
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American Women in Radio & Television's Maria Efantis Brennan, CAE Earns *Certified Association Executive* Credential

March 16, 2006 (McLean, VA) – The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) has announced that Maria E. Brennan, Executive Director of American Women in Radio & Television, has earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE™) credential. The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry. Less than five percent of all association professionals have earned the CAE.

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of five years experience in nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 75 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management, and pledge to uphold a strict code of ethics. To maintain the certification, individuals must undertake ongoing professional development and activities in association and nonprofit management. Approximately 3,300 association professionals currently hold the CAE credential, which was first awarded in 1961.

"We are extremely proud of Maria for earning this credential," said Chickie Bucco, AWRT National President and President Katz Direct Marketing Group. "She brings so much to AWRT, and this designation is just one more indication of her hard work, dedication, and talent."

The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) is an individual membership organization made up of nearly 23,000 association executives and industry partners representing nearly 12,000 organizations. Its members manage leading trade associations, individual membership societies, and voluntary organizations across the United States and in 50 countries around the globe. ASAE also represents suppliers of products and services to the association community. For more information on ASAE, visit www.asaenet.org.

About AWRT: This year, AWRT celebrates its 55th Anniversary, making it the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing the impact of women in the electronic media and allied fields. Headquartered in the Washington, DC-metropolitan area, AWRT carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, AWRT works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the media; serve as a medium for communication and idea exchange; and become active in community concerns.

About The Foundation of AWRT: The Foundation of AWRT is the philanthropic arm of American Women in Radio and Television, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created partnerships and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, the Emma Bowen Foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT.

The Foundation supports several public service campaigns including most recently *AWRT Empowering America* which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted needy urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the *Empowering America* program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs including the Gracie Allen Awards®, a live, New York-based gala that awards exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.

For more information about AWRT and the Foundation of AWRT, including membership, call its headquarters at (703) 506-3290, or visit its web site at www.awrt.org.

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