



Contact: Basha Roberts, NAWBO President
president@nawbokentucky.org

For Immediate Release
February 16, 2023

**NAWBO Kentucky Announces Lexington Business Owner and Philanthropist as
2023 Legacy Award Recipient**
Kentucky Eagle Inc.'s Ann B. Bakhaus has contributed to the community for decades

LEXINGTON, Ky. (February 16, 2023) – Running a business is never easy, and it can be time consuming. That is why it is important to recognize women who successfully run businesses, especially those who still find time to give back to the community. The National Association of Woman Business Owner's (NAWBO) Kentucky Chapter is on a mission to do so.

Ann B. Bakhaus served as the President of Kentucky Eagle Inc., a total beverage and spirit distributor based in Lexington, and ran day-to-day operations for the company for 20 years before passing the baton to her daughter. She still owns the company and serves as the Chairman of the Corporation Board. This company has been in the Bakhaus family since 1948, and Ann is glad to be able to carry on the family legacy.

While in the position of President, Bakhaus accomplished many goals, both in the company and in the community. She took Kentucky Eagle Inc. from an exclusive Anheuser-Busch distributor to a total beverage distributor and has continued to maintain the family and community values of the company.

Bakhaus oversaw the renovation and construction of the new company headquarters on Innovation Dr., which was the first official Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Anheuser Busch distributorship in the country.

In recognition of both her business and philanthropic efforts, NAWBO Kentucky President Basha Roberts announced the organization has selected Bakhaus as the second recipient of the Legacy Award.

"The Legacy Award is a tradition to recognize women business owners who have excelled for 30 or more years," said NAWBO Kentucky President Basha Roberts. "Our membership includes all generations of women business owners, Legacy Award winners such as Ann B. Bakhaus will help younger woman set goals for building their legacies."

Bakhaus will be recognized during the 2023 EPIC Awards luncheon. The EPIC Awards are a yearly event hosted by the NAWBO Kentucky chapter and is a time for women to come together and acknowledge the amazing businesswomen across the state. There are five awards given out at the event, one each per category: excellence, professional accomplishments, innovation and creativity, civic and community



responsibility. NAWBO Kentucky encourages involvement in this event to empower women businessowners and partners from around the Bluegrass.

One of Bakhaus' biggest passions currently is the addition of Town Branch Park to downtown Lexington and the benefits it will provide to the community. She currently serves as the Chairman of the Town Branch Advisory Board. In this position, Bakhaus is making business decisions and aiding in fundraising efforts to assist with the operations, programming, and construction of this park for the residents of Lexington and beyond.

In 2015, Kentucky Eagle Inc. bought a state-of-the-art building on their property and were not sure what they were going to do with it. When they found a recording studio in the building, Bakhaus knew that this would be the perfect gift for the University of Kentucky Opera Theater.

"The arts help make us what we are in Lexington," said Bakhaus. "We need (the arts) on all levels. It is very important to make us the strong, well-rounded community that we are."

The UK Opera Theater has been using this space to help teach students and carry them along on their art based academic journeys. Without the donation from the Bakhaus family, this would not be possible.

Along with her donation to UK, Bakhaus has served as the chair of the Commerce Lexington Board, Shaker Village Board, the Lexington Junior Achievement Board, and more. She values service to the community and is happy to help in any way she can. She is also a member of many business clubs in Lexington, including Downtown Lexington Partnership, Lexington Center Corp Board, and is a founding member of the Lexington Foundation.

In her free time, you can find Bakhaus spending time with her family, or taking care of her horses on the families 169-acre horse farm overlooking Keeneland.

This year's EPIC Awards luncheon will be held Thursday, March 30 at the Signature Club of Lansdowne in Lexington. For sponsorships, tickets and membership information, visit nawbokentucky.org.

About

NAWBO Kentucky: Founded in 1975, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) is the unified voice of over 11 million women-owned businesses in America, representing the fastest growing segment of the economy. NAWBO is the only dues-based organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs across all industries with local chapters across the US. NAWBO began its first chapter in the state 31 years ago, and NAWBO Kentucky is now a thriving organization with a vision for statewide growth.

###