

## The American Scientific Affiliation



A Network of Christians in the Sciences

## A LEADER WITH A CAUSE



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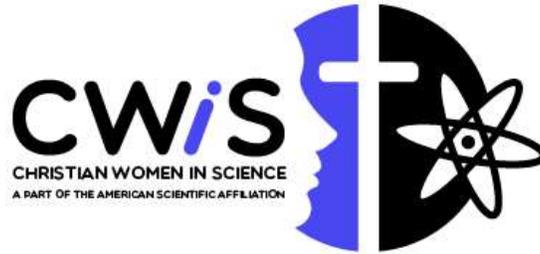
ASA: Executive Council; president of Christian Women in Science

## When did you first discover the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)?

A colleague at work knew I was a Christian, and asked me to drive a van for a tour of our workplace, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, by some unusual visitors. That was 2003 and Ken Touryan was chairing the annual ASA conference on the topic of cosmology. He also told me I should attend, that it would be interesting. He was so right! Not only was it interesting, but I was dumbfounded that people like me existed someplace, and delighted to learn new science as well.

## How long have you been a member and what has ASA meant to you?

Since 2003. ASA has been a unique fellowship for me – the bridge between my faith and my work. Participating in ASA has given me new insights and new viewpoints. I've become friends with people who inspire me, educate me, and challenge me. I'm able to talk or meet regularly with people like me – who believe in God, in Jesus, and also do real, mainstream, serious science. That has been so uplifting to me! I no longer feel like the “woman without a country.” I most enjoy the annual conferences, and have made attending that a priority in my personal budgeting every year. In December 2012 I was elected to the ASA Council – still amazing to me – and I am SO privileged to work on ASA's issues and opportunities with such great people as Bob, Hal, Keith, Johnny, David and Randy. And a little story – I think I was most proud of being part of ASA when my 9-year-old granddaughter (being raised in a pretty conservative Christian environment) very enthusiastically told her uncle that “It IS possible to be a Christian and a scientist!” That is my mantra – it is possible, and our great ASA fellowship is proof of that.



## What is CWIS and how did it start?

Christian Women in Science (CWIS) is an affiliate group of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA). The mission of CWIS is to encourage Christian women of all ages to pursue, sustain, and grow in a career in science, technology, engineering or math, and to encourage women in these endeavors to pursue, sustain, and grow in the Christian faith. CWIS started because God opened my ears and heart to comments from women about “we want to do more for ourselves within ASA” and from Randy about “we need more women involved in ASA across the board.” I was skeptical at first that something was actually needed, since I’ve always focused more on my obligations (career, family, church) than on my gender. But, being a good scientist/analyst, I went to the literature and found that there really IS a problem. Women get half the science degrees, but nowhere near half the science-related management positions or longevity in their careers. Women are still way behind in the engineering degrees and careers. So, I became a believer that women still need a boost – and we can help ourselves through a special fellowship. Many other women agreed with me, and CWIS now has more than 75 members!

CWIS is beginning with information sharing on our website, including about 25 great articles in our blog posts, links to other organizations, and our organizational info. We are working on special programs also to help our members and others. Beth Kroa on our Board is putting together a mentorship program, to put experienced women scientists in touch with students and early career women. Faith Tucker on our Board is putting together other special activities for our students as well, such as role model stories. We are starting “Hot Topic Discussions” where we get together on the phone and discuss CWIS-related topics in the news and on people’s minds. So if you’re interesting in helping or have ideas, please let me know!

Your sister in Christ,

Lynn Billman

Please [renew](#) your membership today and/or send your [donation](#):  
Print the invoice and pay by credit card or send a check to:  
ASA, PO Box 668, Ipswich, MA 01938