

Press Release

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Worldwide Employee Benefits Network, a Preeminent Member Network of Employee Benefits and Retirement Professionals, Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary

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Dallas, TX-Worldwide Employee Benefits Network (WEB) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. The organization initially began in Washington, DC, as an informal group known as Women in Employee Benefits in 1982. At that time, it was the only organization dedicated exclusively to creating an organization where employee benefits and pension professionals could come together, share experiences, help each other, and continue learning through educational seminars. In 1983, WEB was formally incorporated as Women in Employee Benefits. In 1988, WEB changed its name to WEB, Inc. The name change reflected that the group was not exclusively for women, and men were welcome to join. In 1997, the name changed to WEB Network of Benefits Professionals, and in 2000, the name changed to Worldwide Employee Benefits Network. The final name change reflected the organization's mission and purpose to help employee benefits and retirement professionals address the global and multinational issues facing a worldwide workforce.

While the name has changed over the past 40 years, WEB's mission to provide networking opportunities, education, and thought leadership to its members has stayed consistent. WEB members represent more than 25 professions and 30 areas of expertise within the employee benefits and retirement industry, including administrators, plan sponsors, attorneys, CPAs, advisors, wealth managers, investment managers, accountants, communications experts, and benefits and HR managers. Current WEB Board of Directors President Ken Peterson recently said, "When I started in the insurance industry, I was told to find some benefit-related groups or associations to join. WEB just seemed like the one that covered so many different areas in benefits. I felt more rounded and was able to assist people with their projects by networking within WEB and also getting involved with the WEB board and various committees."

Members have access to thought leaders from Washington, DC, and across the country through informative webinars on relevant topics, such as the Secure Act 2.0, and both national and regional

chapter meetings. Regional chapter meetings are held throughout the country, and a partial list of locations includes New York, Atlanta, and Dallas. Many of these webinars are approved for CLE and CE accreditation. Stephanie Katz, the incoming (summer-2023) President of the WEB Board of Directors, said, "Our members are very important to us. We listen to their needs, and by doing so, we have created an organization of like-minded professionals, who are dedicated to helping others in the companies and organizations they represent."

To celebrate its 40th Anniversary, WEB has several webinars scheduled both at the national and regional levels, as well as the re-launch of a Plan Sponsor Council. Later this year, WEB will announce a new program focused on the Not for Profit sector. Said Stephanie Katz, "We are so excited to be launching new programs for our members. We know members put the insights they gain from WEB into action in their current roles. Additionally, we are very fortunate to work with industry sponsors who are dedicated to the success of our organization. Their support and presence have been very helpful to all of us. Many members tell us that WEB is one of their top sources for networking, information, and education."

For more information about Worldwide Employee Benefits Network, including membership and sponsorship information, go to <u>www.webnetwork.org</u>

Worldwide Employee Benefits (WEB) represents more than 25 professions and 30 areas of expertise within the pension and benefits industry-including administrators, consultants, attorneys, accountants, investment managers, communications experts, and benefits managers.

At the national level, WEB sponsors webinars and offers publications and other resources to its members. WEB Chapters offer educational events for opportunities to learn more about employee benefit trends, design, compliance, and services, and networking events for opportunities to meet face-to-face with other benefits professionals. Go to <u>www.webnetwork.org</u> to learn more about why you should join WEB.