



# Inside Novi Oaks

**Novi Oaks Charter Chapter**  
Meeting in Novi, Michigan

*A League of the  
American Business Women's Association*

IN THIS ISSUE		
2	President's Message	Autumn Brunch With Auction / Upcoming meetings and events / National Women's Leadership Conference
3-5	2024 Autumn Brunch With Auction	Pictures from our one major fundraiser on Saturday, October 19, 2024. More pictures to follow in the next newsletter!
6	2024-2025 National Board and 2025 Top Ten	Meet the new National Board of Directors and the 2025 Top Ten and the 2025 American Business Woman of ABWA
7-8	Fall Member Recruitment Campaign	ABWA's Fall Membership Recruitment Campaign: September 1 through November 30
9	Upcoming Events	See the list of upcoming Novi Oaks Charter Chapter meetings and other events
10	Core Values	ABWA's Core Values and information about Novi Oaks
11	Code of Conduct	ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct



Marcia Green, President  
Newsletter Editor  
[www.novi-abwa.org](http://www.novi-abwa.org)

5236 Oak Hill Trail  
Commerce Township, MI 48382  
248-330-6315 / [NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com](mailto:NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com)

## President's Message

I am writing this message on Sunday, October 27, eight days after our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Brunch With Auction, which ended up being held at the beautiful Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland due to the permanent closure of the Burton Manor in Livonia. The new venue was absolutely beautiful, and the food was delicious! The good news is that we have already arranged to hold next year's auction event there on Saturday, October 18, 2025. Please mark your calendars and help us get the word out!

This year's auction raised a net amount of just over \$11,100 with the help of 131 attendees, 79 business donors, 55 member, friend, and family donors and workers, and 15 people making generous straight donations to the cause.

The most rewarding result of this labor of love is that we are able to support other women in their educational and career pursuits, while learning and increasing our own skills. This is what keeps me involved in ABWA. These activities benefited me when I was working, and - even in retirement - I can make a difference in women's lives and continue to learn while meeting great folks!

See below for pictures of our members at the Best Practices event on Friday of the National Women's Leadership Conference (NWLC) in Overland Park, Kansas on September 25-28. We reported on our favorite parts of the conference at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. See page 6 for our new National Board of Directors and the 2025 National Top Ten. Gail Hamilton was chosen from the Top Ten as The American Business Woman for 2025.

The November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the CARES of Farmington Hills Food Pantry on Shiawassee west of Inkster and north of 8 Mile Road, which serves over 700 families per month. We will be donating food items to CARES: Pasta 1 lb. boxes, canned meals (ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, etc.), condiments (salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, jelly), dinner sides (boxed potatoes, pasta/rice side, stuffing), and snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, fruit cups and bars, or microwave popcorn)

We will celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Novi Civic Center (a little early as we close out a great 2024 and hopefully avoid bad winter weather - knock on wood). We invite our members, other chapter members, former Novi Oaks members, and family and friends to join us that evening. The cost will be \$25 per person, including a baked chicken buffet dinner.

The January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Zoom only and will feature former District III VP, Debra Weilbacher leading a discussion after presenting the John Maxwell video, "Developing an Abundance Mindset."

It is hard to believe that we are already coming up on the holiday season! I wish everyone happy times with friends and family, or peace and quiet if that is your goal!

Marcia Green, President



MARCIA GREEN

## NOVI OAKS at the Best Practices Event



L-R: Marcia Green, Chris Struwe, Sheri Mayer, Linda DaBiero, Karen Kolc, and Holly Hengstebeck



Front: Holly Hengstebeck, Marcia Green, Karen Kolc, Back: Linda DaBiero, Sheri Mayer, and Chris Struwe.

### Novi Oaks' 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Brunch With Auction

Our first Autumn Brunch With Auction on September 17, 2005, featured 26 baskets. How we have grown!! This year's auction featured 207 items total, and we raised just over \$11,100. Thank you!!



Chris Struwe hosted three tables: "Old-Fashioned Bavarian Village," "In the Christmas Meadow" (above) and "O Tannenbaum" (below left). Holly and Lauren Hengstebeck hosted "Life is Sweet."



Jennifer Starrs and her daughters, Kathryn and Kamryn, hosted "Elegant Afternoon Tea" (above left) and "Taste of Asia Tea Party" (above right).

More Auction Hostess Tables



Carol Ann Donnelly hosted her Elvis table (left).



Sheri Mayer and Margaret Helme hosted "Faith, Family, Freedom."



Beverly Woods and Nadie Brackens-Holmes of the Nu-Lite Chapter in Flint hosted "Mardi Gras!" (left).



Amy Sutzer and Linda DaBiero hosted "Disney" (Amy and Timothy Sutzer pictured above right).



Marcia Green hosted "Hoppy Easter" (above left).



Mary Rayner, Kathy and Mary Shady, and Sandy Schaffer hosted "Celebrate!" in honor of Marcia's 70<sup>th</sup>!

More Auction Hostess Tables



Janice Jones hosted Cruisin' (above left).



Emma DeCenso hosted "Michigan's National Parks."



Patty Sneed hosted "Go for the Gold" (above left).



Live Auction: Thomas Kinkadee's Hometown Morning (30" x 40" plus mat and frame).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARMINGTON  
Church of the Open Hands

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

## ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

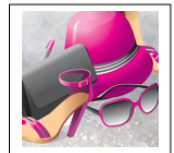
**Nov 9 & 10**  
10 am - 4 pm (Sat)  
11 am - 2 pm (Sun)

26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI  
Farmington-Pres.org

Entry \$2

**ABWA**  
AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
Novi Oaks Charter Chapter

Set aside the Date!  
**ABWA Fashion Show**  
At the Clothing Cove in Milford  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025  
Doors Open 6:30 p.m.  
**\$5 Minimum Donation**  
Haven Domestic Violence Shelter



Visit [www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events) for upcoming events.

2024-2025 NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(ELECTED AT THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE)

National President - Anne O'Neill
Vice President - Kim Stengel
Secretary/Treasurer - Barbara Pedersen

District 1 Vice President- Dior Davis
District 2 Vice President - Kristena Hackett
District 3 Vice President - Eileen Caspers
District 4 Vice President - Michelle Ferguson-Miller
District 5 Vice President - Renee Gibson Clement
District 6 Vice President - Karen Siegel Fitting

Former President, Rachele Jamerson-Holmes is to the left of Anne O'Neill (center, green suit)



Officers are shown here with three District VP's on each side, in order - District 1 thru 6. VP Kim Stengel (colorful dress), former President Rachele Jamerson Holmes, President Anne O'Neill, and Secretary Treasurer Barbara Pedersen are in the middle.

2025 ABWA National Top Ten



SUSIE CHANDLER
Lakeland Downtown Chapter
Lakeland, FL



ELIZABETH GONZALEZ
Victoria Professional Express Network
Victoria, TX



CAROLYN GRAVES
Palms of Edisionia Chapter
Fort Myers, FL



CINDY GROSSMAN
Oceanside Charter Chapter
Melbourne, FL



KELLY GRAY
Gem City Chapter
Dayton, OH



GAIL HAMILTON, PhD
EmpowerHer Chapter
Orangeburg, SC

Gail Hamilton was chosen as The American Business Woman of ABWA for 2025



DAWN M. KAISER, PhD
Northeast Sunrise Chapter
Oscoda, MI



DONNA PALMISANO
Leading Women Express Network
Bryan, TX



ELAINE REDUS
Enterprising Women Networking SF Chapter
San Francisco, CA



KRINA SNIDER
Mo-Kan Chapter
Lenexa, KS





# ABWA's 2024 Fall Membership Campaign SEPTEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 30

*Fall Into Friendship at ABWA  
Invite a Friend to Join and Grow Together!*



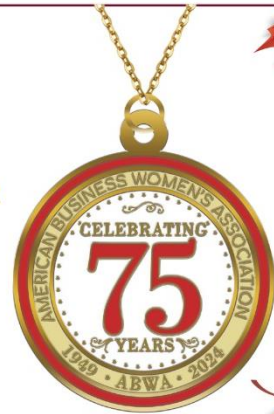
Share your ABWA success stories with friends, neighbors and business colleagues so they can discover the opportunities, education, and support within the American Business Women's Association.

In appreciation for sponsoring new members during the Fall Membership Recruitment Campaign we're offering these lovely gifts (while supplies last).

## LEVEL 1

When you recruit **ONE NEW MEMBER**

You will receive ABWA's stunning 75th Anniversary gold pendant hanging on a twenty-inch gold chain.



## LEVEL 2

When you recruit **THREE OR MORE NEW MEMBERS**

You will receive an 8 Piece Luxury Bath Soap Gift Box.

Rejuvenate your mind, body, and soul with Lovely's Handmade Bath Soaps. 100% Paraben-Free



Here are five ideas that can help leverage the seasonal appeal of fall and make the recruitment process engaging and festive for all members!

1. Wear your ABWA Swag everywhere (almost everywhere) you go. And when someone asks you "What is ABWA?" You say, "I am glad you asked!" Invite them to your upcoming recruitment event.
2. Regularly feature selected success stories in your league newsletters, on your website, or in your social media channels using fall themed graphics.
3. Launch a seasonal social media campaign, using fall graphics, and including engaging content like "I am an ABWA member because. . ."
4. Depending on your ABWA community, it may be fun to create a friendly competition between members offering them fall incentives for inviting and recruiting new members like autumn décor, fall recipe book, apple or cherry pie from your local bakery, or even a warm beverage bar with options for hot chocolate and marshmallows, apple cider, and pumpkin lattes! Mmmm!
5. Create a "Falling for Us" Referral program where members get a special reward (like a pumpkin spice gift card that is designed with a festive fall pattern) for each new member they invite to your league's next Fall Membership Campaign event.



Themed Ideas for Your Fall Membership Recruitment Event

Harvest Festival Mixer

- Host a harvest-themed social event with activities like apple bobbing, pumpkin carving, and a cider tasting. Include a section where potential members can learn about your League and sign up on the spot.



Fall Wellness Retreat

- Organize a retreat focusing on wellness and self-care with fall activities like yoga in a scenic location, meditation sessions, and workshops on healthy fall recipes. Use this opportunity to highlight the benefits of joining the American Business Women's Association.



Autumn Networking Brunch

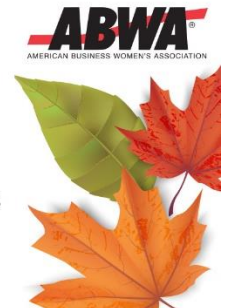
- Host a brunch featuring seasonal foods like pumpkin pancakes and apple cider donuts. Invite speakers or panelists from ABWA (Ambassadors/National Board/Members) to talk about ABWA's impact and benefits, creating an informal environment for potential members to ask questions and network with other guests and members.



Tell me more...

Pumpkin Patch Meet-and-Greet

- Arrange a casual event at a local pumpkin patch or farm. Include fun activities like a hayride, corn maze, and face painting, along with informational booth where invited guests can learn more about the benefits of belonging to ABWA.





# Upcoming Events

Visit [novi-abwa.org/events](http://novi-abwa.org/events) to download fliers with details on meetings.

### NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS

November 13 Meeting .....Veteran Shelly Rood, Mission Ambition / CARES of FH

December 11 .... 35-Year Anniversary Celebration / Kathy Crawford / Novi Civic Center

January 8 .....Debra Weilbacher, Developing an Abundance Mindset via Zoom

### OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS

November 28 ..... Prayer Breakfast by the Nu-Lite Chapter  
Genesis Park – Cost \$30 adult/\$15 under 12 / Call (810) 624-4542

December 14 .....Eastern Michigan Council Holiday Celebration / Deer Lake Banquet  
8:30 to 11:30 a.m. / Supporting Lighthouse / Cost \$25

*Please register for all Novi Oaks meetings on our website or in person  
no later than one week before a meeting.*

[www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events)

## Novi Oaks' 35th Anniversary Celebration

Featuring  
Kathy Crawford



NOVI CIVIC CENTER  
December 11, 2024



Debra Weilbacher

*find unity in*  
COMMUNITY

## Developing an Abundance Mindset

A video by John C. Maxwell  
Facilitated by Debra Weilbacher



John C. Maxwell

**DEBRA WEILBACHER WILL SHARE THE VIDEO FROM THE LIVE2LEAD EVENT  
AND FACILITATE A DISCUSSION ON  
“DEVELOPING AN ABUNDANCE MINDSET”**

*You will leave with new insights, inspiration, and practical steps to  
help you move to an abundance mindset that  
will change you, your perspective and your world.*

*John C. Maxwell will not be participating in this event. His video will be shown.*

## Wednesday, January 8, 2025

**6:20 P.M. NETWORKING | 6:30 P.M. ZOOM MEETING / PROGRAM**

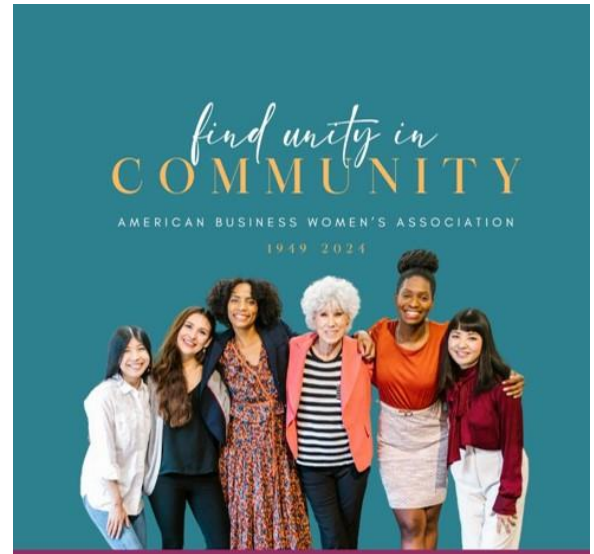
**PLEASE REGISTER AT [WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS)**

**NO COST / MEETING VIA ZOOM ONLY / GUESTS ARE WELCOME**

### Set of Core Values for the American Business Women’s Association

Our core values are the foundation for which the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) was founded on in 1949. They’re reflective of the ethos of the ABWA culture and have been integral to creating an enduring and supportive community for generations of women in the workplace.

- 1. **Selfless Leadership** – Be committed to doing the right thing, always. Be transparent in your actions even when no one is looking!
- 2. **Building Community** – Be committed to creating sustainable ABWA communities where women can connect, learn, and grow together.
- 3. **Value and Seek Diversity** – Be committed to recruiting new members from diverse cultures, ages, work industries and experiences.
- 4. **Manage for Innovation and Excellence** – Be committed to original thinking and delivering excellence in everything you do.
- 5. **Lifelong Learning** – Be committed to enhancing your own business knowledge, skills, and acumen. Be unafraid to make mistakes, iterate, err and try again.
- 6. **Focus on Facts and Own Results** – Be committed to using “data” to drive your decisions and actions and be accountable for your performance, good and bad.
- 7. **Choose to Make a Difference** – Be committed to unlocking a member’s potential and inspiring/motivating her to become the best version of herself.
- 8. **Celebrate** – Be committed to celebrating members’ achievements.



#### 2024-2025 Chapter Executive Board

President..... Marcia Green  
 Vice President..... Linda DaBiero  
 Secretary ..... Sheryl Mayer  
 Treasurer .....Christina Struwe

#### 2025 Top Ten Nominee:

Mary Gantt

#### Novi Oaks’ 2024-2025 Woman of the Year:

Linda DaBiero

#### 2025 Council Woman of the Year:

Mary Mills, Greater Oakland Charter Chapter

#### 2024-2025 National Executive Board

President..... Anne O’Neill  
 Vice President..... Kim Stengel  
 Secretary-Treasurer..... Barbara Pederson  
 District V-Vice President..... Renee Clement  
 Executive Director..... Rene’ Street

#### ABWA National Headquarters

P.O. Box 4757  
 Overland Park, KS 66204-0757  
 (800) 228-0007 / www.abwa.org

#### Novi Oaks Charter Chapter Meeting Details:

#### IN PERSON MEETINGS:

When: The **2nd Wednesday** of each month

When: 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Networking  
 6:30 p.m. Introductions, then presentation.  
 Meeting follows.

Cost: \$22 with dinner / \$10 w/o dinner / \$5 Zoom

Where: Locations vary – visit website for details

**TO REGISTER** visit [www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events)

**PRE-PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

#### Novi Oaks Charter Chapter’s Vision Statement:

*Novi Oaks Charter Chapter educates and empowers women by supporting them to achieve their personal best.*

## Novi Oaks Charter Chapter

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month / Visit website for location of each meeting

6pm Networking/Dinner | 6:30 Introductions/Program

\$22 w/Dinner, \$10 w/o Dinner, \$5 via Zoom

For reservations and details, visit [www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events)



[www.novi-abwa.org](http://www.novi-abwa.org)



[NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com](mailto:NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com)

Please  
register  
by Nov 6

[www.novi-abwa.org](http://www.novi-abwa.org)



**Shelly Rood**

Military Intelligence Veteran / Chaplain  
Co-Founder, Mission: Ambition, LLC,  
and Creator of Others Over Self®

### How to Give Without Burning Out: Lifelong Love

By Veteran Shelly Rood

*The skill of "fire hydrant giving" enables us to:  
1) focus how we serve others, 2) make a bigger impact, and 3) live with intent.*

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

6:00 P.M. NETWORKING & DINNER | 6:30 P.M. MEETING / PROGRAM

**PLEASE REGISTER AT [WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS)**

**\$22 INCLUDES DINNER / \$10 WITHOUT DINNER / \$5 VIA ZOOM**

**CARES OF FARMINGTON HILLS FACILITY**

### ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct

1. All members will serve as goodwill ambassadors for the American Business Women's Association.
2. Members will not allow their personal beliefs and convictions to interfere with the representation of ABWA's mission.
3. Members will always treat their member colleagues, guests, vendors and sponsors with honesty, respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, kindness, and in good faith.
4. Members will maintain compliance with ABWA National, Chapter and Express Network Bylaws.
5. Members will not use their personal power to advance their personal interests. Members will strive for excellence in their professions by maintaining and enhancing their own business knowledge and skills, and by encouraging the professional development of other members.