



# Inside Novi Oaks

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

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

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3-4: Ladies' Night Out – May 8	Ladies' Night Out at the Clothing Cove was a success – raising funds for the Haven Domestic Violence Shelter.
4: Event to honor DVP	The event to honor District Vice President Cheryl Schmandt – July 12 & 13, 2024, at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor.
5: Night of the Stars	Novi Oaks will hold its Night of the Stars at George's Senate Restaurant on Wednesday, July 10. A night to honor the special people in your life.
5: Virtual Regional Conference	ABWA's Virtual Regional Conference was held on March 22 & 23.
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7: National Women's Leadership Conference	Payment program for the 75th Anniversary National Women's Leadership Conference in Overland Park. To register, call 800-228-0007.
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Marcia Green, President  
Newsletter Editor  
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## President's Message

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, National Secretary Treasurer Genice Hall-Fowler brought her enthusiasm for ABWA and the benefits we members have at our fingertips. Using the categories from our ABWA Mission Statement, she broke it down by Leadership, Education, Networking Support, and National Recognition.

We initiated our newest member, Stephanie Lamas, who has accepted me as her sponsor. Stephanie works at the Vibe Credit Union and had moved to the Novi area within the past two years. She found Novi Oaks when she searched for women's organizations in the Novi area. During the meeting, Stephanie was called to the microphone by Genice Hall, and she fared well with a great sense of humor. Welcome to ABWA and Novi Oaks Charter Chapter, Stephanie!

We had a successful "Ladies Night Out" at the Clothing Cove on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> (see pages 3 and 4). This was a fun night to meet new potential members and see our faithful supporters. Please keep the second Wednesday of May on your calendars for 2025. We are so grateful to the Clothing Cove for their continued support of Novi Oaks' fashion show event and our annual Autumn Brunch With Auction.

That night, we also announced that I, Sheri Mayer, and Chris Struwe will remain on the board and that Linda DaBiero will be joining the board as Vice President for the 2024-2025 year, which begins on August 1. We are thankful to Pat Plamondon for serving as Vice President this past year and for her contributions to the chapter, especially with all of her other commitments.

In April, I learned that we will not be able to meet at the Novi Library this summer. The good news is that our Novi Public Library's summer programs are going extremely well! For June 12, we will be meeting at the Novi Civic Center in the Theatre Quarter (larger!). For the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, with Emma DeCenso's help, we will be meeting at the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road. Our August meeting kicks off the new ABWA year and will be like a chapter retreat where we learn more about ABWA and each other. If there is anything I have learned since 2020, it is that we need to stay positive in the face of unexpected circumstances, and we are going with the flow! Thank you for being flexible with me.

## Author Cliff Suttle to speak on June 12

We will be meeting for the first time at the Novi Civic Center in the Theatre Quarter on Wednesday, June 12, and welcoming author Cliff Suttle, who will present, "4 Motivational Styles: Elevate Performance and Leadership."

We will begin with dinner and networking at 6:00 p.m., as usual, and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. (previously indicated as 6:15). This is a special program that will last 90 minutes. Please register early for our planning purposes and invite others! You won't want to miss his lively presentation and valuable information. We have the room until 9:00 p.m. and do not have to worry about time.

Cliff Suttle is a renowned expert in presentation coaching, business consulting, and speech writing, significantly influencing the realms of communication and leadership. He has an impressive track record, including over 80 esteemed speaking titles. His vast experience encompasses working with top-tier companies like General Motors, IBM, and Kodak, and he holds a role as VP in Data Services at Comerica.



MARCIA GREEN



CLIFF SUTTLE

# Ladies' Night Out at the Clothing Cove – May 8th

Our event at the Clothing Cove in downtown Milford on May 8<sup>th</sup> was so much fun! Over 50 attendees received a 10% discount for shopping at the Clothing Cove, and we saw the fashion show. Holly Hengstebeck, Megan Hibbs, Heidi Jeney (from the Suburban Connection chapter in Utica) Janice Jones, Jessica Dobradenka, and Rose Mifsud were our fabulous models.

Special thanks go to the Clothing Cove and to Janice Jones for her donation of the many door prizes. The cost of the first door prize of a \$50 gift certificate and a \$50 gift card was shared by the Clothing Cove and Novi Oaks. Heather Naugler, a

member of the Greater Oakland Charter Chapter, donated a \$250 certificate for Stanley Steemer from the auction back to the chapter. Past scholarship recipient, Voula Sonbay, won this!

All proceeds from the ticket sales for the Ladies' Night Out added up to just under \$800, and Novi Oaks was able to donate \$800 to Haven. Their center in Pontiac (near the Oakland County Courthouse) offers shelter to domestic violence victims and their children and so much more. They have a full-time nursing staff for testing, and also offer individual and group counseling services. We are proud to support them.



Holly Hengstebeck



Heidi Jeney



Megan Hibbs



Janice Jones





Jessica Dobradenka



Rose Mifsud



Janice, Jessica, Rose, Heidi, Megan, and Holly



Heidi, Jessica, Holly, Carol Mullaney, and Janice



## District V Vice President Celebration Honoring Cheryl Schmandt 2023-2024 District V Vice President

*This event is sponsored by the Eastern Michigan Council and Cardinal Crossroads Council*

### JULY 12 & 13, 2024

KENSINGTON HOTEL / 3500 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

**Friday, July 12 - 5:00 p.m. Informal Meet & Greet**

6:00 p.m. groups go to different restaurants - CHECK boxes here → → →

**Saturday, July 13 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Main Event**

(BRUNCH BUFFET INCLUDED - See Agenda and Menu Below)

**Early Registration \$50 by June 15 (cash, check, Zelle, or PayPal\*)**

I will Pay via Zelle

I will Pay via PayPal\*

[www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon](http://www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon)

\*Fees will be added to all PayPal payments.

I will mail a CHECK made payable to ABWA

to Financial Chair Jo Ann Huebner

331 Antoinette Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48309



CHERYL SCHMANDT

CLICK the BOXES

I WILL ATTEND the Friday Meet & Greet

I WILL GO to Friday dinner with a group (locations to be announced)

PLEASE PUT ME IN THE DRAWING FOR THE \$300

Meet national officers and ABWA members from Indiana and Ohio.

You can download the full registration flier and register at [www.abwa-emc.org](http://www.abwa-emc.org).



## Novi Oaks Plans its “Night of the Stars” for July 10



*find unity in*  
**COMMUNITY**

# Night of the Stars

*Honoring the people who help us succeed!*

★ **Protégé Awards and Member Recognition** ★  
**2024-2025 New Officer Installation**

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

**Arrive at 6:00 p.m. / Buffet Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**\$20 – Register at [novi-abwa.org/events](http://novi-abwa.org/events)**  
Cash Bar Available

**George’s Senate Restaurant**  
39430 Dun Rovin Drive, Northville, MI 48168  
(West side of Haggerty – South of Six Mile Road)

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

For our July 10<sup>th</sup> ABWA year-end celebration, we are holding a “Night of the Stars” event at the George’s Senate Restaurant located on the west side of Haggerty Road south of Six Mile Road in Northville. The cost will be \$20 per person for a nice buffet dinner, including soft drinks (cash bar available).

Please plan to attend this special event and bring the person or people in your life who you would like to thank and honor for supporting you in your journey – family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers. It will truly be a heart-warming evening!

We thank Mr. George Dimopoulos for his support of Novi Oaks Charter Chapter for this event and for our Autumn Brunch With Auction.

## 2024 Virtual Regional Conference – March 22 & 23



Novi Oaks Charter Chapter was recognized by Executive Director Rene’ Street for supporting the most members to attend the Virtual Regional Conference:

Linda DaBiero	Sheri Mayer
Mary Gantt	Patty Sneed
Marcia Green	Jennifer Starrs
Regina Hall	Chris Struwe

Friday at the 2024 Virtual Regional Conference featured:

- 10:30: Presentations by the National 2024 Top Ten.
- 11:45: “Are You Listening? Unlocking Growth Through Effective Listening” by Sherry Darden.
- 2:30: “Leadership People Want to Follow” by Anne Bonney.
- 3:45: District Gatherings and Candidate Presentations
- 5:15: “Time to Move – Virtual Line Dancing” session by BE! Creative Arts.

Saturday began at 10:00 a.m.:

- 10:30: “What Type of Coffee Are You?” by Dr. Tami West (help to recognize your own style and communicate with people with other styles).
- 12:00: “The Five Energy Habits for Women Leaders to Master Their Joyful Life,” by Tina McDermott.
- 3:00: “What If?” (the transformational power of possibilities outside your comfort zone) by Monica Morgan, an International Photojournalist from the Detroit area who was Nelson Mandela’s photographer.

## Highlights from Novi Oaks' March and April meetings



President Marcia Green (left) initiated our newest member, Stephanie Lamas, at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Marcia is Stephanie's sponsor.



National Secretary Treasurer, Genice Hall, presented, "How to Get the Most Out of Your ABWA Membership," on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Genice is an approved candidate for National President. She broke down the benefits for members by words from the ABWA Mission: leadership, education, networking support and national recognition.

Election of the new National Board of Directors (NBOD) will take place at the National Women's Leadership Conference on September 25-28 in Overland Park, Kansas.



On March 13, Communications Coach Kelly Whitaker presented, "Resolve Team Tension: Communication Tools for the Conflict-Averse Leader." From her web page at [kellyconvos.com](http://kellyconvos.com):

- Uncovering, accepting, and sharing my truth has
- Released me from jobs that made me miserable
  - Unhooked me from dead-end, toxic relationships
  - Created new career opportunities that light me up
  - Gained me joyful, authentic, ridiculous friendships sustaining decades
  - Deepened Trust with people around me through owning my mistakes (and OH, there have been mistakes.)
  - Tee'd me up to receive what I ask for

Contact Kelly at [KellyConvos.com](http://KellyConvos.com)

### SAVE THE DATE! Autumn Brunch With Auction



**Saturday, October 19, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Burton Manor Banquet & Event Center - Livonia  
27777 Schoolcraft Road - Livonia, Michigan  
48150 (east of Inkster Road @ I-96)

**\$30 Adults / \$20 18 & under**  
**until October 1, 2024 (\$37 after)**

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

*VISA and MasterCard will be accepted*

# National Women’s Leadership Conference 2024!



Set aside September 25 to 28 to celebrate 75 years of ABWA!

A message from ABWA’s website:

“Join us as we commemorate 75 years of empowering women in business and leadership. This milestone event promises to be a remarkable gathering of inspiring speakers, professional development workshops, and unparalleled networking opportunities with fellow businesswomen from across the nation.”

There will be more details to follow on the agenda for the NWLC, and a few Novi Oaks members will be renting an AirBnB to share. If you are interested, contact Chris Struwe.

ABWA National offers a 5-part payment plan, and Novi Oaks members who attend may receive reimbursement of up to \$600 from the chapter, based on how many members attend. Call ABWA National at 800-228-0007 to register.

*Mark your calendar  
Register early!*

## Upcoming Events

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

- June 8 EMC Meeting / Marcia Green presenting, “Enhancing Your ABWA Online Image” / \$25 via Zelle, \$28 PayPal until May 30 / [abwa-emc.org](http://abwa-emc.org)
- June 12 Meeting / Program at 6:30pm..... Cliff Suttle, 4 Motivational Styles  
At Novi Civic Center / **This special presentation lasts 90 minutes**
- July 10.....Night of the Stars / 6 pm arrive / dinner 6:30 / Program  
George’s Senate Restaurant off Haggerty south of 6 Mile / \$20
- August 14 Meeting / Farmington Hills Library .....6pm dinner / Program 6:30
- Aug 23 & 24 .....Summer Sizzler by Cardinal Crossroads Council, Indiana
- Sept 11 Meeting / Novi Civic Center.....6pm dinner / Program 6:30
- Oct 9 Meeting / Novi Civic Center.....6pm dinner / Program 6:30
- Oct 19, 10:00 a.m. (Saturday) ..... **Autumn Brunch With Auction**  
\$30 Early-bird pricing until October 1 - Burton Manor – Livonia

*Early registration for the auction is October 1, 2024  
Members are asked to register by September 1, 2024!*

*Please register for all meetings on our website or in person  
no later than two days before a meeting.*

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

### DISTRICT V



**Special Event  
to Honor  
District V  
Vice President  
Cheryl Schmandt**

**Kensington Hotel  
Ann Arbor  
July 12 & 13, 2024**

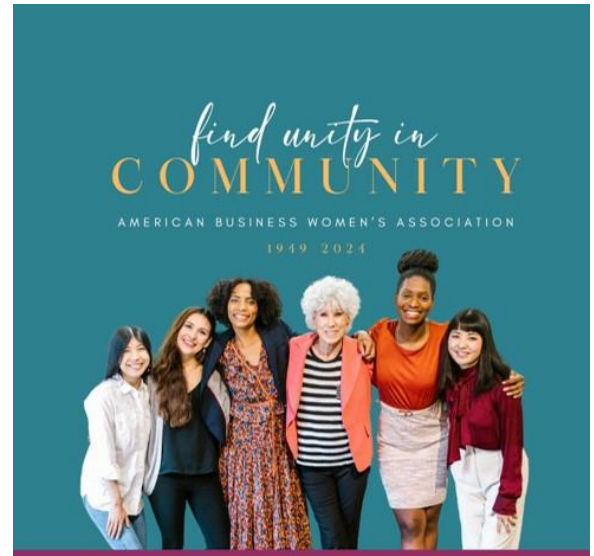
**See page 4**



### 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.



#### 2023-2024 Chapter Executive Board

President..... Marcia Green  
 Vice President.....Pat Plamondon  
 Secretary ..... Sheryl Mayer  
 Treasurer .....Christina Struwe

#### 2025 Top Ten Nominee:

Mary Gantt

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

Linda DaBiero

#### 2024 Council Woman of the Year:

Mary Ceccanese, Maia Chapter, Ann Arbor

#### 2023-2024 National Executive Board

President.....Rachel Jamerson-Holmes  
 Vice President..... Anne O’Neill  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Genice Hall Fowler  
 District V-Vice President.....Cheryl Schmandt  
 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 includes dinner / \$10 without dinner

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

### Get Connected

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  
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)

Set  
Aside  
the  
Date!

*A*UTUMN  
*B*RUNCH  
*W*ITH  
*A*UCTION



All proceeds benefit the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter's Education and Scholarship Fund

**Saturday, October 19, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Burton Manor Banquet & Event Center - Livonia**  
27777 Schoolcraft Road - Livonia, Michigan 48150 (east of Inkster Road @ I-96)

**\$30 per person until October 1, 2024 (\$37 after)**

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

*VISA and MasterCard will be accepted at the auction!!*

### 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.