



Inside Novi Oaks

Novi Oaks Charter Chapter
Meeting in Novi, Michigan

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

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Marcia Green, President
Newsletter Editor
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President's Message

I am writing this message on Tuesday, December 31, 2024! Happy New Year! I hope that this newsletter finds you well. The year 2024 went so quickly for me with travel, my grandson's wedding, and the annual auction taking up most of my time and effort. A year well done, but surprisingly swift.

At our December 11th celebration of Novi Oaks' 35-Year Anniversary, Kathy Crawford's ever-present, quirky use of humor kept us all smiling and laughing out loud at her observations of this process of living a long time. She, herself, had experienced many serious challenges in 2024, yet she encouraged all of us to, "Don't Worry – Be Happy!" and choose a positive attitude every day. It was wonderful to see her and hear her speak again.



MARCIA GREEN

In preparation for that event, it took me over a week to work my way through what seemed like thousands of pictures from the past. One of my older computers died and I was unable to recover information on that disk, which included more pictures! As I went through all of the photos, it was so much fun to see friends whom I had not thought of in years. Even better was to see how much Novi Oaks had accomplished in 35 years. Thank you to all of the Novi Oaks members for just being you!

Due to limited time, I presented the best picture retrospective I could assemble of some of the history of Novi Oaks, our members, and the many wonderful people we have met along the way. Seeing our Best Practices awards and more pictures on the display boards brought back a lot of memories.

The January 8th meeting will be Zoom only and will feature former District III Vice President, Debra Weilbacher, presenting the John Maxwell video, "Developing an Abundance Mindset," and leading a discussion afterward. We will have many guests from chapters around the country.



Linda DaBiero



Mary Gantt

January is the month in which we nominate candidates for the Woman of the Year and the ABWA National 2026 Top Ten competition. Voting takes place for both of these honors at the February meeting.

Linda DaBiero is the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter 2024 Woman of the Year. This honor is bestowed on a member who has contributed to the success of the chapter in the previous calendar year. Members may be nominated by any member in attendance.

Mary Gantt was our nominee for the national ABWA 2025 Top Ten. For the Top Ten, a member's contributions to ABWA, her career (including working

toward advancement within the past five years), her education, and her community service will be considered by a panel outside of ABWA. See page 5 for more details regarding qualifying for the Top Ten. If you are interested in being considered for this honor, you may nominate yourself to the board.

Believe it or not, we have already established the date for our 20th Annual Autumn Brunch With Auction, which will be on Saturday, October 18, 2025, and held again at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. I am sure that it feels too early to think about it, but please mark your calendar and help us get the word out! As always, we will be looking for donations of new items and certificates and gift cards. Let Chris Struwe know if you want to host a table for ten (theme of your choice!).

We are looking forward to another great year as a chapter. We are so blessed!

Marcia Green, President

★ *Happy New Year 2025* ★

Novi Oaks' 35-Year Anniversary Celebration on December 11, 2024

Former member Kathy Crawford was welcomed as our guest speaker at the December 11th celebration of Novi Oaks Charter Chapter's 35-Year Anniversary. The actual anniversary of our founding is January 29, 2025, but we opted to celebrate early because we are only meeting via Zoom on January 8th.



Kathy Crawford joined in singing Silent Night with Patty Sneed, Janice Jones, Marcia Green and Karen Kolc.



Members and guests had fun during Kathy Crawford's presentation.

Thank you to Jo Ann Huebner and Mary Mills of the Greater Oakland Charter Chapter and former member and Novi Public Library Director, Julie Farkas, for attending. Special thanks to Mary Gantt, Carol Ann Donnelly, and others for setting up the displays, and to the friends of Kathy Crawford for attending. Thank you to Mary Gantt for taking pictures and sharing them. A good time was had by all!



Displays: Bettie Johnson's scrapbooks, the 10-Year Anniversary display board, the chapter banner of previous awards (before Best Practices), Best Practices awards, and the 25-Year Anniversary board.



Dr. Gail Hamilton
2025 American Business Woman



abwa.org

Requirements for the 2025 Top Ten (2026 to be determined)

Eligibility Requirements for Members

To be considered for this prestigious award, the nominee must:

- Be a National Member (with or without a League affiliation) in good standing for at least two consecutive years as of May 15, 2024.
- Be employed full-time.
- Be able to demonstrate career advancement (increase in job scope) in the past five years.
- Have served as a volunteer in a community organization that is non-sectarian/non-partisan since May 15, 2021.
- Have successfully completed three Apex Courses since May 15, 2022. *Note: Three certificates of completion must be submitted with the nominee's application.*
- Be registered for and in attendance at the 2024 National Women's Leadership Conference by August 1, 2024.
- Sponsored at least one new member since May 15, 2023.
- A League must be chartered and in good standing for a minimum of one year with the American Business Women's Association by May 15, 2024.

Optional Criteria

The nominee may qualify for additional points towards the award, if she has:

- Earned a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- Attended at least one ABWA Nationally sponsored conference events (virtual or in-person) since May 15, 2021.
- Sponsored more than three ABWA members since May 15, 2021.
- Has supported the formation/chartering of an ABWA Chapter or Express Network since 2019.
- Served on the National Board of Directors, as a league officer/committee chair, or as a volunteer for the NWLC team since 2019.

We want you to enjoy this prestigious honor to the fullest thus, a member who is serving on the National Board of Directors will not qualify to participate in this award while she is still in office.

Set aside the Dates!

ABWA Ladies' Night Out

at the Clothing Cove in Milford

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 / 6:30 pm

\$5 Minimum Donation – all donations go to the Haven Domestic Violence Shelter



Autumn Brunch

With Auction

At the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland (Joy Road east of Newburgh)

Saturday, October 18, 2025 / 10 am

\$30 Adults / \$20 for 18 & under

All proceeds go to the Novi Oaks Scholarship and Education Fund

Visit www.novi-abwa.org/events for upcoming meetings and events.

Upcoming Events

Visit novi-abwa.org/events to download fliers with details on meetings.

NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Feb 12.....Stephanie Bettner / Discover Your True Colors! / Novi Civic Ctr (NCC)
- Mar 12.....Kay Fittes / Kick Your Success Roadblocks to the Curb / NCC
- Apr 9.....Michelle Laskowski / Your Online Image / \$30 Headshots / NCC
- May 14.....Ladies' Night Out / Clothing Cove, Milford / Min \$5 Donation
All donations to benefit Haven Domestic Violence Shelter
- June 11.....Linda Hannah / Hats Off to Your Brilliance: Unleashing Your Potential and Leading with Influence / NCC
- Oct 18.....Autumn Brunch With Auction at the Hellenic Cultural Center
All proceeds go to the Novi Oaks Scholarship and Education Fund
More details to follow

OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Feb 8.....Eastern Michigan Council Meeting / Dave & Buster's, 7 Mile, Livonia
10:30am to 1pm / www.abwa-emc.org to register / Cost \$25 Zelle or \$27 online

An Abundance Mindset



Debra Weilbacher
January 8, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Zoom Only



Kay Fittes

find unity in
COMMUNITY

**Kick Your Success
Roadblocks to the Curb**
by Kay Fittes, CEO
High-Heeled Success, LLC



There are enough external roadblocks for women in the workplace, you don't want to be part of the problem. You will walk away with skills to manage your perfectionism; manage your visibility; and manage your time vampires.

For career-oriented women who struggle with letting go of behaviors that hold back their careers, Kay Fittes shows simple ways to experience career breakthroughs! As CEO of High Heeled Success, LLC, Ms. Fittes uses an insight to action approach, to take audience and workshop participants through an evolutionary, chameleon-like experience. Her programs present a cornucopia of strategies to audiences for taking career-changing steps in their professional lives.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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

PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS

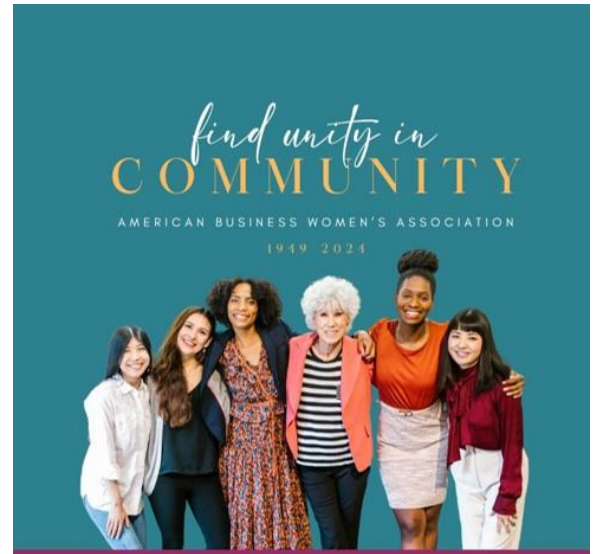
\$22 WITH DINNER / \$10 WITHOUT DINNER / \$5 VIA ZOOM

CITY OF NOVI CIVIC CENTER – ACTIVITIES ROOM
45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD, NOVI, MICHIGAN (WEST OF NOVI ROAD)

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

PresidentMarcia Green
 Vice PresidentLinda DaBiero
 Secretary Sheryl Mayer
 TreasurerChristina 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

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

2nd 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



www.novi-abwa.org



NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com

Please
register
by Feb 8

www.novi-abwa.org

find unity in
COMMUNITY

Discover Your True Colors that allow you to Shine Brightly!

LEARN HOW COLOR ANALYSIS CAN ELEVATE
YOUR IMAGE AND CONFIDENCE



STEPHANIE
BETTNER

Stephanie has been working with women for 28 years in the beauty industry to help them elevate their confidence with skin care and makeup application as a Mary Kay Independent Sales Director. She wanted to offer women a way to elevate their image and became Certified in Color Analysis.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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

PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS

\$22 WITH DINNER / \$10 WITHOUT DINNER / \$5 VIA ZOOM

CITY OF NOVI CIVIC CENTER – ACTIVITIES ROOM

45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD, NOVI, MICHIGAN (WEST OF NOVI ROAD)

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.