



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

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## President's Message

This year has presented some challenges, and I have let them get the better of me. I had struggled with how to help our chapter thrive and to keep our members engaged. I carried the burden like a ton of bricks and – quite frankly – felt like a failure.

Luckily for me, I attended a virtual meeting of the Greater Oakland Charter Chapter in November, and heard 2025-26 National Vice President, Dior Davis. “Walk Like You Have Someplace to Go” was just what I needed to hear. Dior talked about how if we plant “seeds” in our minds, they will grow. If they are positive seeds, great! If not, in Dior’s words, they can become “STD’s – Stinking Thinking Disorders!” I had to admit that I had been planting some seeds of negativity in my own mind that had turned into weeds! I am ready to let those weeds go and to get on with better pursuits. Thank you, Dior!

I am happy to serve another term as our chapter president and I look forward to 2026. The new board was installed at our November 13th meeting by Karen Kolc: Vice President Mary Gantt, Secretary Sheri Mayer, and Treasurer Chris Struwe.

This year’s National Women’s Leadership Conference was held in Portland, Maine, on November 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our members Karen Kolc (Novi Oaks’ nominee for the national Top Ten) and Julie Sullivan were able to attend. A highlight of the festivities was a special presentation to former National Executive Director, René Street (below), for her 26 years of service to ABWA.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year!  
Marcia Green, President



MARCIA GREEN



Past National President Robin Necci presenting to René Street.



Karen Kolc and Julie Sullivan at the Top Ten Breakfast.



Julie Sullivan receiving an award from Elizabeth Johnson, ABWA National Executive Director.

### 2025-2026 ABWA National Board of Directors (elected at the National Women's Leadership Conference)



President Barbara Pedersen,  
Vice President Dior Davis,  
Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Tracey Jackson,  
District Vice Presidents:  
Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake, DI,  
Kathy Eller, D II,  
Leslie McMillin, D III,  
Linda B. Johnson, D IV,  
Renee Clement, D V,  
Karen Fitting, D VI.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Brunch With Auction – October 18

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Brunch With Auction, was held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland! The doors opened at 10:00 a.m. with the bidding beginning and coffee and Mimosas flowing!

The bidding was very swift, and many people got great deals. Bill Joyner served as our auctioneer again and he kept us going on the Live Auction. Remember, there are no friends when the bidding gets hot!!

We were able to raise just over \$11,000 for scholarships and education with the continued generosity and support of area business people, our members, family, co-workers, and friends. Thank you to everyone who helped us!

Proceeds are used to fund the \$1,000 Bettie Archer Johnson Scholarship at Madonna University.

We will offer two \$3,000 Impact scholarships and will sponsor a candidate for the \$2,000 Outright Grant for ABWA District V through the ABWA Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF). Novi Oaks also offers a Business Skills Tuition Reimbursement program for non-college training and provides funds for members to attend regional and national ABWA conferences.

Our members and guest hostesses created twelve beautiful tables, which added to the fun for this morning event (see pictures below). Each table was hosted by a friend or member in a theme of her choice. Seeing the decorations is half the fun!

We are already planning our 2026 auction, which will be held at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Business sponsors of this event are always appreciated.



Novi Oaks members (\*), family, and friends who hosted guest tables and helped with the auction:

Front row: Shirley Stitt, member of the Nu-Lite Chapter in Flint, Margaret Helme (mother of Sheri Mayer), Chris Struwe\*, and Betty Shultz\*; Second row: Karen Kolc\*, Paige Slone (Madonna University scholarship recipient), Glenden Rayner, Julie Sullivan\* (also member of the Suburban Connection Charter Chapter), Sue Holbrook\*, Mary Gantt\*, Linda Hannah\*, Beverly Woods, and Velve Henry (both Nu-Lite Chapter); Back row: Nadie Holmes (Nu-Lite), Sheri Mayer\*, Kathryn Starrs, Jennifer Starrs\*, Kamryn Starrs, Janice Jones\*, Carol Ann Donnelly\*, and Marcia Green\*.

Remember to refer potential members to our website for more information about ABWA and the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter! [www.novi-abwa.org](http://www.novi-abwa.org)





Woodland Christmas by Marcia Green



Coffee and Donuts by Jennifer Starrs



O Christmas Tree by Chris Struwe



Red Truck Christmas by Chris Struwe



Garden of Dreams by Julie Sullivan



Mardi Gras by Nadie Holmes and Beverly Woods



Marcia Green and 2025 Miss Wayne County Ameera Hashwi



Our helpers, Kamryn and Kathryn Starrs, and Jennifer Starrs (member and Mom).



Long-time supporters, Morgan Bertovick and Christine Valmont



Members of Nu-Lite Chapter, Flint.



Member Renee Fsadni (right) and daughters Alyssa and Ashli.



Loco for Hot Cocoa & S'mores by Jennifer Starrs



Autumn Blossoms by Mary Gantt



Fresh Cut Christmas Trees by Chris Struwe



Vegas, Baby! by Janice Jones



Book Moments Change Your Life by Linda Hannah



Elvis by Carol Ann Donnelly

# Upcoming Events

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

## NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Dec 10** .....Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes / The Power of Positivity  
At the Novi Library / \$22 w/dinner, \$10 w/o dinner, \$5 Zoom  
Register at [www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events)
- Jan 14** .....Caitlin Falenski / Psychology of Money / Zoom Only / No cost
- Feb 11** .....Robert Heath, Sr. / The Cost of Poor Communication / Zoom Only

## OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Dec 13, 10am** .....Eastern MI Council / Crowne Plaza Hotel Auburn Hills  
Cost is \$25 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$10: Register at [www.abwa-emc.org](http://www.abwa-emc.org)
- Feb 7, 10am** .....Eastern MI Council / Crowne Plaza Hotel Auburn Hills  
Cost is \$25 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$10: Register at [www.abwa-emc.org](http://www.abwa-emc.org)

Please register for all Novi Oaks meetings on our website or in person no later than one week before a meeting at [www.novi-abwa.org/events](http://www.novi-abwa.org/events)

## Psychology of Money for Women Wednesday January 14



Caitlin Falenski  
Oppenheimer & Co.  
Zoom Only / Free

## REGISTER NOW!!



# THE POWER OF POSITIVITY: YOUR SUPERPOWER

by Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes  
Former ABWA National President

**UNLOCK YOUR MINDSET, MAGNIFY YOUR CONFIDENCE, AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE.**

In a world filled with pressure and uncertainty, your mindset is your greatest asset. *The Power of Positivity* empowers women to embrace optimism, build confidence from within, and lead by example. Through uplifting insights and actionable tools, participants will discover how positivity can elevate their lives and influence others with purpose and power.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025**

6:00 P.M. NETWORKING AND DINNER / 6:30 P.M. MEETING / ZOOM / PROGRAM  
WITH DINNER \$22 / WITHOUT DINNER \$10 / ZOOM \$5

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

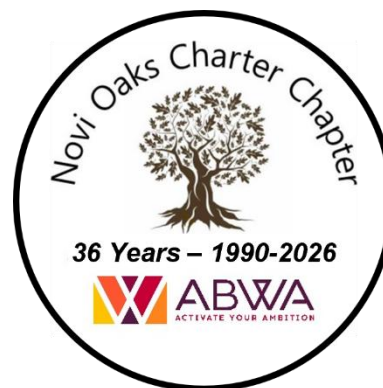
**NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY, 45255 W. TEN MILE ROAD, NOVI / BOARD ROOM**



## 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.



### 2025-2026 Chapter Executive Board

President .....Marcia Green  
 Vice President .....Mary Gantt  
 Secretary ..... Sheryl Mayer  
 Treasurer ..... Christina Struwe

**2026 Top Ten Nominee:**

Karen Wernette Kolc

**Novi Oaks’ 2025-2026 Women of the Year:**

Carol Ann Donnelly and Janice Jones

**2025 Council Woman of the Year:**

Mary Mills, Greater Oakland Charter Chapter

### 2025-2026 National Executive Board

President ..... Barbara Pedersen  
 Vice President .....Dior Davis  
 Secretary-Treasurer ..... Dr. Tracey Jackson  
 District V-Vice President..... Renee Clement  
 Executive Director ..... Elizabeth Johnson

**ABWA National Headquarters**

P.O. Box 4757  
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### 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

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

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)

Mark your  
calendar for  
October 24,  
2026!

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

*The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of  
The American Business Women's Association  
Presents its Twenty-First Annual*

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



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

**Saturday, October 24, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Hellenic Cultural Center - Westland**

36375 Joy Road - Westland, Michigan 48185 (east of Newburgh Road)

**\$30 Adults / \$20 18 & under until October 10, 2026 (\$37 after)**

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

*VISA, MasterCard, and Zelle payments 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.