



# Inside Novi Oaks

## Novi Oaks Charter Chapter Meeting in Farmington, 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

As we move into summer, I want to begin by thanking our Education Chair, Karen Wernette Kolc, for her many years of dedication. Her commitment to our students and to Novi Oaks has been extraordinary. We will soon learn who the recipients of our two \$3,000 Impact Scholarships are and whether our District V Outright Grant candidate was selected. All three young women are now proud Novi Oaks members.

Thank you as well to Carol Ann Donnelly and Emma DeCenso for serving on the nominating committee. Our 2026–2027 officers will be:

- President: Mary Gantt
- Vice President: Carol Ann Donnelly
- Treasurer: Christina Struwe
- Secretary: Marcia (me!) We will be installed at our July 8 meeting.



MARCIA GREEN

### Upcoming District V Honor Event – Don't Miss It!

The early-bird deadline for the July 10–11 celebration honoring our District V Vice President, Renee Clement, is June 13. After that, the price increases (we reimburse \$30). If you'd like to support the event, please bring a silent auction item or a \$10+ gift card to our June 10 meeting.

If you've never attended a DVP Honor Event, I encourage you to join us this year. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet members from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and across the country — including several national board officers.

### Recent & Upcoming Programs

We've had a powerful lineup of speakers this spring, each offering practical tools we can use right away.

- Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake (Dr. DJ – current District I DVP) shared strategies for using AI to streamline our work and increase productivity.
- Jen Miley returned with an excellent program on work/life balance and building resilience.
- Lois Margolin delivered one of the clearest, most useful presentations on generational differences in the workplace — including her brilliant idea of pairing tech-savvy younger employees with seasoned customer-service experts.

Looking ahead, our June 10 speaker will be Dr. Cindy Schmitt, and on August 12 we will welcome Dior Davis (National VP), whose "From Awareness to Action" program will help us turn insight into meaningful progress. Both are dynamic national leaders, and you won't want to miss them.

Dr. DJ, Cindy Schmitt, and Dior Davis were all chosen as The American Business Woman of ABWA – ABWA's highest honor. They and Lois Margolin are Ambassadors, which means they are Top Tens and/or national officers (current or former). Chris Struwe and I are also Ambassadors.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Marcia Green, President



### ABWA Year-End Celebration July 8<sup>th</sup> Kerby's Koney Island, Livonia / 6pm

*Celebrating 250 Years for the United States,  
another great ABWA year, and recognizing our  
members for their contributions.*



RENEE CLEMENT

# District V Vice President Celebration & Honoring Renee Clement 2025-2026 District V Vice President

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

## JULY 10 & 11, 2026

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

### Friday, July 10 – 5pm Meet & Greet / 6pm Dinner

Los Amigos Restaurant / Order and pay own bill

625 Hilton Blvd., Ann Arbor – Across from the Kensington Hotel

### Saturday, July 11 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Main Event

(BRUNCH BUFFET INCLUDED – See Agenda and Menu Below)

### Registration \$60 by June 12 (cash, check, Zelle, or PayPal\*)

#### CHECK THE BOX:

WILL YOU ATTEND the Friday meet & greet and dinner at Los Amigos?

YES

NO

Across from the Kensington Order & pay on your own

I will Pay via Zelle

I will Pay via PayPal\*

I have enclosed a CHECK made payable to ABWA

Mail to Financial Chair Jo Ann Huebner

331 Antoinette Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48309

abwa.emc@gmail.com

www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon

\*Fees will be added to all PayPal payments.

Late Registration \$70 June 13 to June 30 (online Zelle or PayPal + fee)

#### SATURDAY AGENDA:

8:30 a.m. Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

9:15 a.m. Educational Speaker

10:45 a.m. Group Pictures (varying times)

11:00 a.m. Brunch: Scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, bacon, sausage, French toast, fresh fruit, garden salad, Garden salad, roasted vegetables, herb roasted chicken breast with Michigan sundried tomato cream sauce, Greek salad, and confetti rice. Coffee and tea station, and orange and cranberry juice.

1:00 p.m. Vice President Honors Event

#### QUESTIONS? Contact event Quad-Chairs:

Shirley New ... newshirley8491@gmail.com

Marcia Green .....mgreenABWA@gmail.com

Amy Elberfeld ... aelberfeld109@gmail.com

Diane Nixon.....nixond@umich.edu



#### JOIN US!

Networking, Silent Auction, Envelope Pull, Recognition & Contributions!

We will award scholarships for the 2026 National Women's Leadership Conference!

Use the tab key to go from field to field below. Please submit completed form to JoAnn Huebner

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Officer or Top Ten: \_\_\_\_\_

↑ Title and Year ↑

Chapter / Guest of: \_\_\_\_\_ Food restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional names for whom you bought tickets (and chapter and/or honors, if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

To attend this event (\$60), register at [www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon](http://www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon)

KENSINGTON HOTEL RESERVATIONS \$182/night – up to 4 people

Call (734) 761-7800 to make your reservation - use code ABWA DVP

Online: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/113707?groupID=4350589>

Must make the hotel reservation before June 10, 2026

RENEE'S FAVORITE COLOR IS ROYAL BLUE! LET'S WEAR IT TO SUPPORT HER!



**JUNE 10, 2026, 6pm – Farmington Community Library**



DR. CINDY SCHMITT

## **Culture by Conversation: How Dialogue Transforms Your Organization**

by Dr. Cindy Schmitt, DSL

*Culture isn't a poster on the wall—it's the everyday heartbeat of how people think, act, and treat each other.*

This talk invites leaders and team members to become intentional culture-shapers. We'll explore how shared purpose, clear values, and authentic leadership translate into behaviors that build trust, belonging, and accountability across the organization. Through real-world examples and practical shifts you can apply immediately, you'll discover how to move your workplace from "fine" to flourishing—one conversation, one decision, and one habit at a time.

Dr. Cindy Schmitt is a talent development expert, speaker, and business analyst who advances women in business and leadership. Dr. Cindy was recognized as an ABWA Top 10 Businesswoman of the Year in 2020 and is currently serving as Ambassador Steering Committee Chair for the American Business Women's Association.

### **NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS**

- June 10..... Cindy Schmitt / Sometimes We Have to Step Back to Step Forward / Farmington Comm  
July 8 .....ABWA Year-End Celebration / Kerby's Koney Island on Six Mile @ Newburgh Road  
Aug 12 ..... Dior Davis / From Awareness to Action / Farmington Community Library  
Sep 9 ..... LeeAnn Webster / Leading Without Limits: Releasing Regret, Owing Your Influence, and Building a Powerful Crew / Farm Comm Library  
Oct 14 ..... Emma DeCenso, Novi Public Library / Chapter Working Meeting / Novi Library  
Oct 24 ..... Autumn Brunch With Auction / Hellenic Cultural Center  
 Cost \$30 / Looking for donations / Get the word out to **Save the Date!**

### **OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS**

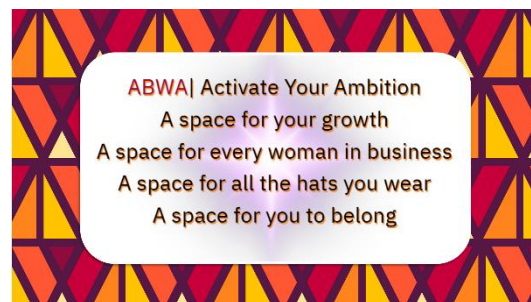
- June 13, 10am ..... Eastern MI Council / Crowne Plaza Hotel Auburn Hills  
**NOVI OAKS IS HOSTING!** Dior Davis / Activate Your Ambition: Self SWOT  
 Cost is \$25 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$10: Register at [www.abwa-emc.org](http://www.abwa-emc.org)  
July 10 & 11 ..... District V VP Honor Event / Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor  
 Cost is \$60 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$30: Registration not open yet  
Sept 29 to Oct 3 ..... ABWA National Women's Leadership Conference (NWLC)  
 Sugarland, TX / Estimated cost \$615 / Novi Oaks will reimburse its members

*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)*

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

Our core values are the guiding principles that shape your actions, behaviors, and decision making as an ABWA member and leader. They are reflective of the ethos for which the American Business Women’s Association was founded in 1949.

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 a sustainable ABWA community 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 Your Results** – Be committed to using “data” to drive your decisions and actions, and be accountable for your performance.
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

**2027 Top Ten Nominee:**  
 Mary Gantt

**Novi Oaks’ 2025-2026 Women of the Year:**  
 Christina Struwe and Sheryl Mayer

**2026 Council Woman of the Year:**  
 Christina Struwe, Novi Oaks 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

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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: \$18 with dinner / \$5 w/o dinner / Free 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

\$18 w/Dinner | \$5 w/o Dinner | Free 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)

**Mark your  
calendar for  
October 24,  
2026!**

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

## **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**

The Proud Code of Conduct was developed as a means of guiding all members in making ethical decisions. The broad statements outlined in the Proud Code of Conduct are not expected to cover all conduct for all situations. This is why the Proud Code of Conduct was created as a living and fluid code.

- As an ABWA member, I will serve as a goodwill Ambassador for the American Business Women's Association.
- As an ABWA member, I will adhere to the Association's Bylaws and comply with the Association's Brand Guidelines.
- As an ABWA member, I will not use my personal power or influence to advance my own interests.
- As an ABWA member, I will not allow my personal beliefs or convictions to alienate other members, prospective members, and sponsors at any level of the ABWA organization (local, regional or national).
- As an ABWA member, I will always treat member colleagues, the ABWA National Team, guests, speakers, vendors and sponsors with dignity and respect.