



# Inside Novi Oaks

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

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

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Call 800-228-0007 to register.

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## President's Message

I'm still feeling very inspired after our February 14th meeting, which featured Linda DaBiero, Mary Gantt, and Holly Hengstebeck in a panel discussion on "Lessons Learned as Women in Business." It was very interesting to hear the stories of the paths these women took in their careers – all multiple – and to hear their advice for women in business. There were many questions and comments from the members who attended, as well. I say it all the time, so I hope it doesn't get old, but we truly are blessed to have such a great group of women!



MARCIA GREEN

We initiated our newest member, Marcia Rodeheffer, who was sponsored by Emma DeCenso (Emma works at the Novi Library). Marcia works for CARES, which is a non-profit that provides food and other support for families in need in Farmington Hills, Farmington, Livonia, Redford Township, Southfield, Northville, Novi, and West Bloomfield. Welcome to ABWA and Novi Oaks Charter Chapter, Marcia!

We made an important decision to allow flexible pricing on our upcoming "Ladies Night Out" at the Clothing Cove on Wednesday, May 8th. Guests will be able to choose what they want to pay, from \$5 on up, and anything paid will be a donation to the Haven Domestic Violence Shelter for women and families. This will be a fun night to meet new potential members, so please help us get the word out. The flier will be available for download from our events page soon to share with others.

We honored Linda DaBiero as our 2024 Chapter Woman of the Year and nominated Mary Gantt for the 2025 Top Ten. See the articles below and on page 2 about these amazing women.

For our July 10<sup>th</sup> ABWA year-end celebration, we decided to have a "Night of the Stars" instead of a picnic. There will be more details to follow, but think of people in your life who you would like to thank and honor for supporting you in your journey – family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers.



LINDA DaBIERO

## Linda DaBiero chosen as Novi Oaks' 2024 Woman of the Year

Linda DaBiero joined the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter in mid-March of 2021. She became active in the chapter immediately and received a Protégé award that year. She sponsored her co-worker, Amy Sutzer, who joined ABWA in June of 2022.

Linda and Amy have hosted tables for 10 guests at two of our major fundraising "Autumn Brunch With Auction" events, where the chapter raises funds for scholarships and member training.

She has expanded her experience in ABWA by attending meetings of the Eastern Michigan Council and attended two events to honor our District V Vice Presidents (July of each year).

After working in the insurance industry, Linda began her second career in accounting in Accounts Payable and through hard work and determination, she worked her way up to her current position as the Controller at Corby Energy Services.

Linda earned a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Seton Hill University and holds a Michigan Real Estate License. She is the President of her HOA, member of the VFW Auxiliary, and on the board of a 501c(3) organization for a High School Pom Team.

## Mary Gantt chosen as Novi Oaks' 2025 Top Ten Nominee

The Top Ten is the highest honor in ABWA. Nominees from across the country complete an application, and all applications that meet the guidelines are judged by a panel of business people outside of ABWA. The Top Ten are announced around August, and at the National Women's Leadership Conference, a panel of ABWA members chooses one of the Top Ten as the American Business Woman of ABWA (<https://www.abwa.org/about-us/>).

Novi Oaks members voted at the February 14th meeting to nominate Mary Gantt, our 2023 Woman of the Year, for the 2025 National Top Ten. Mary joined ABWA in March of 2017. She served as chapter Secretary for two years, and worked on the membership, program, and fundraising committees.



MARY GANTT

On the Autumn Brunch With Auction, she has worked on the committee, hosted tables, made donations, and found new donors. She modeled for our 2021 and 2022 Fashion Shows. Mary has invited ten guests to meetings and has attended Eastern Michigan Council events.

Mary holds a MS in Physical Therapy from Andrews University and a BS in Biology from Madonna College. She worked extensively as a Physical Therapist at Botsford Hospital, Sunrise Home Health, and In Home Rehab Solutions.

She currently works full-time as a Photo Coach with Creative Memories and FOREVER, helping people organize their photos so their memories can be celebrated and shared with others. She supports the New Hope Center for Grief Support and assists the Bethany Anne Galdes Foundation, a suicide prevention program for at risk children. She has also helped local Girl Scout leaders, senior living facilities, the Novi Public Library, and Scrapbooking for Soldiers.

## 2024 Virtual Regional Conference – March 22 & 23



*Early Bird deadline is February 28!*

Novi Oaks reimburses its active members for the registration fee after they attend a national conference.

The 2024 Virtual Regional Conference starts at 10 a.m. EST on Friday, March 22.

- 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 begins at 10:00 a.m. EST.

- 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.

Call ABWA National at 800-228-0007 to register (cost \$299).

# Highlights from Novi Oaks' Valentine's Day meeting ♥



President Marcia Green (left) initiated our newest member, Marcia Rodeheffer (center). Vice President Pat Plamondon (right) stood in for Marcia's sponsor, Emma DeCenso.



Friends having a great time! L to R: Jennifer Starrs, Linda DaBiero (our 2024 Woman of the Year!), Karen Kolc, and Holly Hengstebeck.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Funds Benefit HAVEN**

## Ladies' Night Out

*Fashion Show / Shopping  
Discounts / Door Prizes*

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Dessert Served

First 50 receive Goodie Bags!

**at the Clothing Cove  
in Downtown Milford**

414 N. Main Street

West side of Main / Enter Rear Door  
Parking lot south off Commerce Road

**WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT [NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS](http://NOVI-ABWA.ORG/EVENTS)  
YOU CHOOSE THE DONATION AMOUNT  
(\$5 OR MORE)**



Mary Gantt, Linda DaBiero, and Holly Hengstebeck served on our panel discussion, "Lessons Learned as Women in Business." Thank you! It was lively and informative!

# National Women’s Leadership Conference 2024!



Start the payment plan that ABWA National offers for the NWLC. You won't want to miss this special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration! The speakers and classes will be excellent, as always. You will meet ABWA members from across the country, and also meet and vote for the National Board of Directors. It is impressive to see how many chapters have qualified for Best Practices Awards.

One of the best events at the NWLC is the Top Ten luncheon (or breakfast), where the new Top Tens speak. It is a privilege to hear the stories of these women. We encourage our members to attend! Some of us will be renting an AirBnB or VRBO. If you are interested, please contact Chris Struwe.

ABWA National offers a 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.

- Mar 13 Meeting, 6pm ..... Kelly Whitaker, Resolve Team Conflict
- Apr 6, Noon (Saturday) .....Fighting Spirit Personal Safety class / \$30  
584 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth  
Novi Oaks will reimburse \$15 to members
- Apr 10 Meeting, 6pm.....National Secretary Treasurer Genice Hall-Fowler  
Getting the Most Out of Your ABWA Membership
- May 8, 6:30 p.m. ....Ladies' Night Out at the Clothing Cove in Milford  
This replaces the regular meeting – invite guests! \$5 Donation  
All proceeds will go to the Haven Domestic Violence Shelter
- June 12 Meeting / **Program at 6:15 p.m.** ...Cliff Suttle, 4 Motivational Styles  
***This special presentation lasts 90 minutes***
- 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**

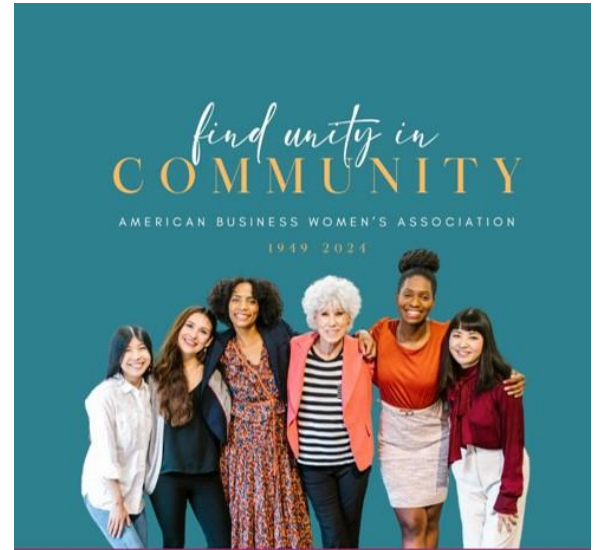
**Kensington Hotel  
Ann Arbor  
July 12 & 13, 2024**

**More details to  
follow!**

## 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: Novi Public Library – West Room  
 45255 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375  
 West of Novi Road

**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 at the Novi Public Library at 45255 W. 10 Mile Rd in Novi.  
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!

### AUTUMN BRUNCH WITH AUCTION



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.