



Inside Novi Oaks

Novi Oaks Charter Chapter Meeting in Farmington, Michigan

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

<p>IN THIS ISSUE</p> <p>2 President's Message</p>	<p>News and upcoming meetings and events for 2026 with Novi Oaks Charter Chapter, the Eastern Michigan Council, and ABWA National.</p>
<p>3-4 2026 Event to Honor District V Vice President Renee Clement</p>	<p>We need volunteers to help with the July 10th & 11th event to honor District V Vice President Renee Clement.</p>
<p>5 Upcoming Events</p>	<p>Novi Oaks Upcoming Events / Eastern Michigan Council Events</p>
<p>6 Core Values</p>	<p>ABWA's Core Values and information about Novi Oaks</p>
<p>7 Code of Conduct</p>	<p>ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct</p>



Marcia Green, President
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President's Message

In 1989, Bettie Archer Johnson (1923-2017) was inspired to form a new ABWA chapter and she and members of the Waterford Charter Chapter worked very hard to make it happen on January 29, 1990. We members of Novi Oaks Charter Chapter are the lucky beneficiaries of that work.

I joined ABWA on St. Patrick's Day in 1991. I wish I had known about ABWA when I was 16! After 35 years, I have taken on some new roles in ABWA for 2026. I am serving as a "Quad Chair" for the second year on the event to honor District V Vice President Renee Clement, which will be held on July 10th and 11th at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor (see next page). Please plan on attending – it is a wonderful event! I am working with the other Quad Chairs, Shirley New of the Raintree Chapter in New Castle, Indiana, Amy Elberfeld from the Queen City Chapter in Cincinnati, and Diane Nixon from the Maia Chapter in Ann Arbor, and many other wonderful committee members from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Let me know if you would like to join us!



MARCIA GREEN

I also began my term as the Chair of the Eastern Michigan Council on January 1st of 2026, working with Vice Chair Heidi Jeney of the Suburban Connection Charter Chapter in Utica, Communications Officer Julie Sullivan of Novi Oaks and the Suburban Connection CC, and Financial Officer Jo Ann Huebner of the Greater Oakland Charter Chapter in Clarkston. Our first challenge as a board was to shift on the fly to doing a virtual meeting – for the first time ever – due to this crazy Michigan winter we have been having. Our next meeting will be on April 11th.

Our DVP, Renee Clement (see next page), was the featured speaker at the February 7th meeting and presented an excellent program on member recruitment and retention. With the meeting being via Zoom, members from around the country were able to attend, including our current National President, Barbara Pedersen, and our most recent Past President, Anne O'Neil.

The ABWA 2026 Virtual Regional Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28. The cost to attend is \$300 until February 24th. Novi Oaks will reimburse its members for the cost, so please plan on attending (register at www.abwa.org or 800-228-0007). ABWA National always gets the best speakers, and it is fun to see and meet members from all over the United States. If anyone would like to attend the conference together, you are welcome to come to La Casa del Verde (the Green house in Commerce Township).

Our February 11th Novi Oaks chapter meeting will be via Zoom at 6:15 p.m., then we will begin meeting at the Farmington Community Library on Liberty Street as of March 11th At 6 p.m. The cost of our meetings will go down to \$18 including dinner, \$5 without dinner, and free via Zoom.

I am very excited to share our line-up of speakers so far for 2026. ABWA has "Ambassadors," who are either past national officers or Top Ten recipients (or both!). They have put together a speaker's bureau, which offers programming for ABWA chapters. Please see pages 4 and 5 for details of these meetings. We will be seeing Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake and Dior Davis, both of whom are currently serving on the National Board of Directors. Both have also received the highest Top Ten honor in ABWA – being chosen as "The American Business Woman of ABWA." We will also see Lois Margolin, who has received top honors for speaking outside of ABWA, and Cindy Schmitt, who is currently serving as the Chair of the national Ambassador Steering Committee. Lois and Cindy have both served as national officers and are also Forever Top Tens.

We are already planning for our 2026 Autumn Brunch With Auction, which will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Joy Road in Westland. Please be sure to check in with Chris Struwe at cbstruweABWA87@gmail.com if you want to host a table for ten on that day or if you want to help go out and get donations from businesses. Be sure to download the flier from our website and send it to your friends to ask them to set aside the date.

Best wishes for a shortened winter and lovely spring when it arrives. I hope to see you at our upcoming meetings and the Eastern Michigan Council and ABWA National events!

Marcia Green, President



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)

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

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

I will Pay via Zelle

I have enclosed a CHECK made payable to ABWA

I will Pay via PayPal*

Mail to Financial Chair Jo Ann Huebner

www.abwa-emc.org/dvp-luncheon

331 Antoinette Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48309

*Fees will be added to all PayPal payments.

abwa.emc@gmail.com

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 GreenmgreenABWA@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

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!





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

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON THIS EVENT

Zoom Meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, 15, and 29, if necessary

- **FUNDRAISING:** Need people to help set up and manage the **Silent Auction**. We need donations for the auction (minimum of \$25 value). Mary Ceccanese.
Gift Card Envelope Pull (minimum \$10 value): We need donations of gift cards that can be used anywhere (not local firms), which go to Chris Struwe.
- **DECORATIONS:** Help to set up and take down – Amy Elberfeld is the chair on this project and could use help.
- **REGISTRATION / HOSPITALITY:** Friday 4:30 pm – greeting people and directing them to the Los Amigos restaurant (across from the hotel).
Saturday arrive around 8:00 am – Work with Jo Ann Huebner setting up the table, signing people in, greeting attendees, logistics, giving directions.

MARCH 11, 2026, 6pm – Farmington Community Library



DR. DJ

AI in Action: Boosting Productivity, Not Workload

by Dr. Deborah “Dr. DJ” Johnson-Blake
 CEO, The Writing Pad, LLC

This fast-paced, high-level session goes beyond the basics to reveal how today’s professionals can use Artificial Intelligence to work smarter, not harder.

Discover innovative ways to make AI your strategic partner, from automating repetitive tasks and managing communication overload to creating focus rituals and micro-systems that reclaim hours each week. Learn how to transform everyday routines like emails, meetings, and commutes into opportunities for clarity, creativity, and balance. Walk away with practical, time-saving strategies that most professionals overlook, but high achievers master.

Dr. Deborah “Dr. DJ” Johnson-Blake is the CEO of The Writing Pad, LLC, where she provides editing, consulting, professional development, and time-management coaching. A keynote speaker and best-selling author, she also serves as an award-winning associate professor at Liberty University.

NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS

<u>Mar 11</u>	Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake (Dr. DJ) / AI in Action / Farmington Comm Library
APRIL 1	Jen Miley / Burnout to Breakthrough: Resetting for What's Next and Turning Your Mondays into Fridays! / Farmington Community Library
<u>May 13</u>	Lois Margolin / Impact of Generations in the Workforce / Farmington Comm
<u>June 10</u>	Cindy Schmitt / Sometimes We Have to Step Back to Step Forward / Farmington Comm
<u>July 8</u>	Summer Celebration Picnic / Details to follow
<u>Aug 12</u>	Dior Davis / From Awareness to Action / Farmington Community Library
<u>Oct 24</u>	Autumn Brunch With Auction / Hellenic Cultural Center Cost \$30 / Looking for donations / Get the word out to Save the Date!

OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS

<u>March 27-28</u>	ABWA Virtual <u>Regional</u> Conference / Cost \$395 (reimbursed)
<u>April 11, 10am</u>	Eastern MI <u>Council</u> / Crowne Plaza Hotel Auburn Hills Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake (Dr. DJ): "Chapter Growth and Publicity" Cost is \$25 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$10: Register at www.abwa-emc.org
<u>June 13, 10am</u>	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
<u>July 10 & 11</u>	District V VP Honor Event / Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor Cost is \$60 and Novi Oaks reimburses \$30: Registration not open yet
<u>Sept 29 to Oct 3</u>	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*

APRIL 1, 2026, 6pm – Farmington Community Library

Burnout to Breakthrough: RESETTING FOR WHAT'S NEXT AND TURNING YOUR MONDAYS INTO FRIDAYS!

by Jen Miley, Elite Edge Coaching

***Gain insights into recognizing the signs of burnout,
understanding its root causes and discovering
effective strategies to rejuvenate mind and body.***



JEN MILEY

In this engaging presentation, Jen will explore the pervasive issue of burnout, its effects on personal and professional lives, and the critical need for resetting to achieve a breakthrough.

Through practical tips and reflection exercises, learn how to cultivate resilience, establish healthier work / life boundaries, and how to harness your potential for renewed motivation and creativity. Join us as we transform the narrative from exhaustion to empowerment setting the stage for a fulfilling and productive future. Let's go from "Meh to Motivated!"

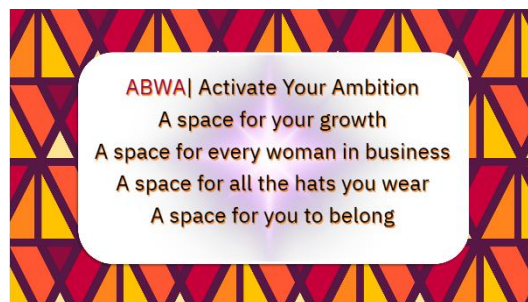
- How to turn Mondays into Fridays
- Develop Coping Strategies
- Establish Healthy Boundaries
- Create a Personal Action Plan

Jennifer K. Miley is a seasoned executive coach, leadership advisor, and national speaker known for her expertise in Transitional Intelligence (TQ)—a next-generation leadership competency integrating adaptability, emotional intelligence, and strategic foresight.

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

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.



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
 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

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

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

For reservations and details, visit www.novi-abwa.org/events



www.novi-abwa.org



NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com

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

www.novi-abwa.org

AUTUMN **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

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.