



Inside Novi Oaks

Novi Oaks Charter Chapter
*A League of the
 American Business Women's Association*

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Marcia Green, Secretary
 Newsletter Editor
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President's Message

Hi, everyone. I have taken on the new role of Chapter President for 2026-2027. I'm looking forward to working with the other board members: Vice President Carol Ann Donnelly, Secretary Marcia Green, and Treasurer Chris Struwe, and to working with all the chapter members as we move forward this coming year. I want to thank Sheri Mayer for serving as chapter Secretary for the past three years. Thanks to everyone for all you did for the chapter this past year.

I can't believe I've been with ABWA for nine years. During this time, I served as Secretary, Vice President, and member of the Membership and Fundraising Committees. My fun job every day is making it easy for people to find, share, and enjoy their photos. My husband and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary in July, and we have two grown children.

I attended my first District V Vice President Celebration in July honoring Renee Clement. I had gotten to know Renee by attending the Summer Sizzler in Indiana for the past two years. These events are a great way to meet and connect with members of other ABWA chapters. At the DVP Celebration, I had the opportunity to meet our second scholarship recipient, Kimberly Angarita (pictured below). She is well deserving of our scholarship.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming meetings and events listed below:

Upcoming Programs

- * **September 16 Meeting** – LeeAnn Webster: Leading Without Limits: Releasing Regret, Owning Your Influence, and Building a Powerful Crew
- * **September 30-Oct 3** – National Woman's Leadership Conference in Sugarland, Texas
- * **October 14 Meeting** – Emma DeCenso: Novi Public Library Services / Chapter Planning Meeting/ Auction final details. This meeting will be at the Novi Public Library.
- * **October 24 – AUTUMN BRUNCH WITH AUCTION** – Hellenic Cultural Center. Major fundraiser for scholarships and member education. **TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!!**

May you enjoy the remaining summer days and have a great autumn!

Mary Gantt, President



MARY GANTT

OUR TWO IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:



Isabelle Dawson and Education Chair Karen Kolc.



Kimberly Angarita, Mary Gantt, Chris Struwe, Julie Sullivan, and Marcia Green at the event to honor Renee Clement.

PICTURES FROM OUR JULY 8TH CELEBRATION



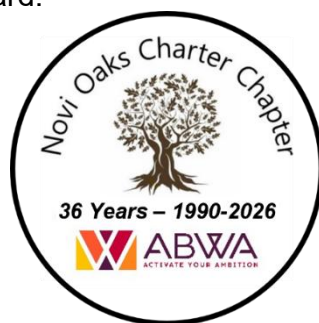
At a casual celebration at the Kerby's Koney, Julie Sullivan (right) installed (L-R) Secretary Marcia Green, Treasurer Chris Struwe, Vice President Carol Ann Donnelly, and President Mary Gantt.



Isabelle Dawson's mother, Jessica, joined us (pictured far left). Betty Shultz (upper left) and new board.



Holly Hengstebeck, Karen Kolc, And Jennifer Starrs.



THE EVENT TO HONOR DISTRICT V VP RENEE CLEMENT JULY 10 and 11, 2026 – KENSINGTON HOTEL, ANN ARBOR



The event to honor District V Vice President Renee Clement was sponsored by the Eastern Michigan Council (above) and the Cardinal Crossroads Council from Indiana (pictured below). Everyone wore blue because it is Renee's campaign color. She is a candidate for National Secretary Treasurer, and that election will take place at the National Women's Leadership Conference in Sugarland, Texas (September 30 to October 3).

Forty-five attendees enjoyed a casual get-together on Friday, July 10, at the Los Amigos restaurant, which is directly across from the Kensington Hotel where the main event was held on Saturday, July 11th (63 attended on Saturday). Set aside the dates of July 9th and 10th, 2027 for the event to honor Dr. Dawn Kaiser, who will be the 2026-2027 District V Vice President.



National Board of Directors members (L to R): Dr. Deborah Johnson-Blake (District I VP), President Barbara Pedersen, Renee Clement (District V VP), Kristena Hackett (District II VP), and Leslie McMillin (District III VP).



OCTOBER 14, 2026, 6pm – Novi Public Library



Emanuela DeCenso

The Novi Public Library: Great Tools for Getting Things Done!

by Emanuela DeCenso

Outreach and Community Librarian

Emanuela “Emma” DeCenso is the Novi Public Library’s Outreach and Community Librarian, and will showcase how residents—including several ABWA members—can gain free access to premium databases that typically sit behind internet paywalls. She will also showcase programs in the library that are free and open to everyone.

Emma will describe the digital platforms that give free access to e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines, comics and movies. Finally, she will introduce the library’s innovative iCube makerspace. This creative hub allows patrons to use sublimation stations to make custom mugs and press t-shirts, use in-house sewing machines, engrave glassware, and even create 3D-printed assistive devices.

Emma has been a member of ABWA since 2023, thanks to support from the Novi Public Library. She has been in the library profession since 2005 and has worked in academic, corporate, and public Libraries. Her core professional values center on providing kind, selfless, and dedicated assistance to anyone in need.

NOVI OAKS MEETINGS / EVENTS

- 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 **REGISTER!**
- Nov 11 Nagham Alsamari / Train Your Resilience Muscle: How to Lead Without Losing Yourself
No-Cost Zoom – please register at www.novi-abwa.org
- Dec 9 Mary Cordle / These Shoes Were Made for Talking / Holiday Celebration (location TBD)
In-person meeting with Zoom option

OTHER MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Sept 30 – Oct 3 ABWA National Women’s Leadership Conference
Sugar Land, Texas / Three Novi Oaks Members are attending
- Nov 7, 10:00 am Make, Bake & Buy Auction / Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Cardinal Crossroads Council / \$35 / We can carpool!
- Dec 5, 10:30 am Holiday Auction / Crowne Plaza Hotel Auburn Hills
Greater Oakland and Tipacon Charter Chapters / \$45 Cash/Check/Zelle
or \$50 with a credit card or PayPal: Register at www.abwa-greateroakland.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*

AUTUMN BRUNCH WITH AUCTION



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



NAGHAM ALSAMARI

Train Your Resilience Muscle: How to Lead Under Pressure Without Losing Yourself

by Nagham Alsamari

Professional Speaker | Resilience Coach

DISC Behavior Consultant

Founder, Imkan Leadership Development

- Discover your personal resilience profile and where pressure is quietly costing you
- Understand the behavioral tendencies that shape how you lead and what they reveal about your resilience under pressure
- Leave with a concrete action step you're committing to NOW!

Nagham Alsamari is a Manager Resilience Trainer, Certified DISC Behavioral Analysis Consultant, and founder of Imkan Leadership Development. With over 13 years of training experience, she specializes in helping leaders build resilience as a behavioral skill so they can lead under pressure with clarity, confidence, and intention. A recipient of the HRUnite Inspire Award and Toastmasters International District Speaking Championship Winner, Nagham brings energy, science, and real-world tools to every room she enters.

This event is jointly sponsored by Novi Oaks and Greater Oakland Charter Chapters.

ZOOM ONLY – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6:30 P.M.



Register to Attend!

Live & Silent Auctions *hosted by*

American Business Women's Association
Raintree Chapter & Women of Magnitude Express Network
to benefit leagues' educational funds

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026

**Parkview Field Suite Level Lounge
1301 Ewing St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

Tin Caps "Silver" Parking lot

Corner of Brackenridge & Ewing St.

Enter main ballpark gates & take

elevator or stairs to 2nd floor.

TICKET PRICES

\$35 up to Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026

\$45 after Saturday, Oct. 17 to Oct. 24



Eventbrite:

<https://bit.ly/MakeBakeBuy2026>

venmo

AUCTION ITEMS

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Needed by October 23

To donate contact

Peggy Miller, 765-717-2640;

peg.miller1104@gmail.com

10 a.m. Doors open for pre-auction browsing
10:30 a.m. 1st round silent auctions
11:30 a.m. Lunch served with cash bar available
2:00 p.m. Payment is collected, event ends

HOTEL ROOMS

GROUP RATE-Nov. 6, 2026

Hampton Inn & Suites Ft. Wayne Downtown

223 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft. Wayne

\$147 + tax--2 queen beds/king & sofa beds

Rate good until Oct. 21, 2026

260-247-6915 ext. 0 Use code 92T

American Business Women's Assoc.

Check in after 3 pm; check out before 11 am

Booking Link:

<https://group.hamptoninn.com/n1p7a2>

Hotel will provide complimentary daily

parking (\$15 daily value)

Hot Breakfast Included.

Seating is assigned.

Questions? Contact Shirley

New wcsanew@hrtc.net

To pay by check, make check payable to "ABWA-Women" then mail check & this section to Shirley New; 7178 W. St. Rd. 38; New Castle, IN 47362

Attending Friday night dinner at Gas House Restaurant at own expense.

____YES ____NO

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____



SAVE THE DATE:

Holiday Gift and Dessert Auction

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Doors open 10:30 am, Lunch & Auction – 11 am – 2 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Auburn Hills

1500 N. Opdyke Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Hosted by: GREATER OAKLAND CHARTER CHAPTER
and TIPACON CHARTER CHAPTER

Pricing, registration and details coming soon:

<https://www.abwa-greateroakland.org/holidayauction/> or
<https://www.abwa-tipacon.org/>



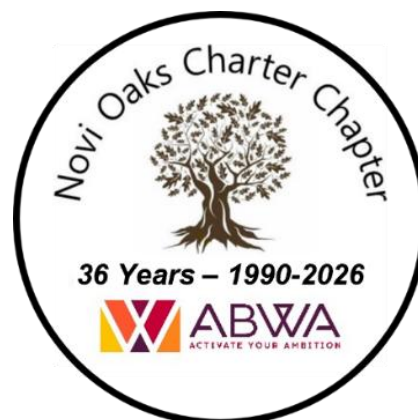
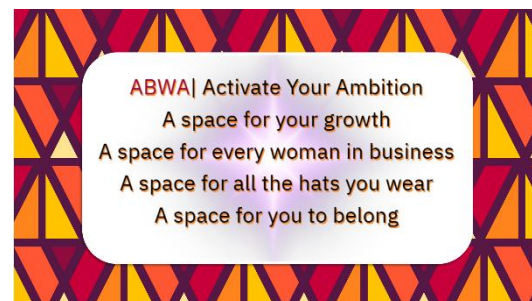
**LIVE AND SILENT
AUCTIONS!**



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 Mary Gantt
 Vice President Carol Ann Donnelly
 Secretary Marcia Green
 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

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

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

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



www.novi-abwa.org



NoviOaksABWA@gmail.com

**Get your
tickets for
October 24,
2026!**

www.novi-abwa.org

AUTUMN BRUNCH WITH AUCTION



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\$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

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.