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# GREATER OAKLAND NEWS

## GREATER OAKLAND CHARTER CHAPTER CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN

[www.abwa-greateroakland.org](http://www.abwa-greateroakland.org)  
A Chapter of the American Business Women's Association

*The Mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.*

## President's Letter

March 15, 2023

Hello Members

March winds should be changed to March snow this year. Winter sure is hanging on!



### Chapter Vision Statement

*To offer women the opportunity to network and grow personally and professionally through mentoring, education and team support.*

The Regional Virtual Conference March 10 and 11, was excellent from the speakers to the professional development to meeting the 2023 Top Ten to seeing all of our ABWA sisters. It really is worthwhile to attend.

Another event coming up is the Eastern Michigan Council meeting on Saturday, April 15. The Speakers are District V Vice President Mary Ceccanese and Jo Ann Huebner, EMC Communications Officer with the topic The Road to Success. You can register and pay on line at: [www.abwa-emc.org/meetings](http://www.abwa-emc.org/meetings). Please join us.

Our program this month is How Perseverance Through Trials Leads to Success, presented by Cheryl Schmandt, Solo Entrepreneur and a member of Women of Magnitude Express Network in Fort Wayne IN. I'm looking forward to her presentation, so I hope you can attend.

We're planning two membership events this Spring, so stayed tuned for the details and please bring your friends and colleagues.

In ABWA Friendship  
Mary Mills, President

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



# Calendar of Events:

## GREATER OAKLAND CHARTER CHAPTER

Chartered September 17, 2000

### 2022-2023 Executive Board

President – Mary Mills  
Vice President – Tammy Murray  
Secretary – Lynn Pomerleau  
Treasurer – Jo Ann Huebner

### 2023 Woman of the Year

JO ANN HUEBNER



Greater Oakland Charter Chapter website

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

## 2023 Calendar

- April 15 - Eastern Michigan Council Meeting, Deer Lake Banquet Center
- April 25 - Greater Oakland membership event and meeting, Speaker Kim Hamilton, Nino's Italian House
- May 23 – Greater Oakland Meeting, Speaker Nicole Walsh, The 4 Pillars of Search Engine Optimization, Nino's Italian House
- July 14-15 – District V Vice President's luncheon, Kensington Hotel, Ann Arbor
- October 4 – 7 – National Women's Leadership Conference, Chattanooga



Mary Mills – 3/27/89, 34 years  
Lynn Pomerleau – 3/30/22, 1 year  
Karen Conway – 3/31/10, 13 years

## COMMITTEES

### Audit

### Best Practices

Jo Ann Huebner  
Executive Board

### Education

Jo Ann Huebner

### Fundraising/Advertising

Jo Ann Huebner  
Tammy Murray  
Mary Mills

### Hospitality

Tammy Murray

### Membership

### Newsletter

Mary Mills

### Programs/ Professional Development

Executive Board

### Publicity

Karen Conway

**Tuesday  
March 28, 2023**

**Program: How Perseverance Through Trials Leads to Success**

**Speaker: Cheryl Schmandt, Solo Entrepreneur, ABWA member**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Zoom at no cost**

6:00 pm Networking/6:15 Introductions

6:30 Speaker

7:15 pm Meeting

**Please Register by March 24, 2023**

at [www.abwa-greateroakland.org/events](http://www.abwa-greateroakland.org/events)



Barb McKay – 3/21  
Jo Ann Huebner 3/31

### Top Ten

### Website

Jo Ann Huebner  
[www.abwa-greateroakland.org](http://www.abwa-greateroakland.org)

### Woman of the Year

Mary Mills



### **Core Values for the American Business Women's Association**

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, 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 the 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.

## ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct

ABWA's Proud Code of Conduct was developed as a means of guiding all members in making ethical decisions. The broad statements of the code of conduct that are listed below 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.

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.

"Above all, be the  
heroine of your life,  
not the victim."

-NORA EPHRON




## **2023 VIRTUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

The 2023 Virtual Regional conference was held on March 10 & 11. Friday's keynote was Debra Fine speaking on Cultivating connections Via Virtual Meetings, Email, Text and Phone. There were tips on how to start conversations and make business connections. Our Friday professional development session was with Randy Dean with tips on using Outlook and Gmail to get organized and save time. In the afternoon, our speaker was Elizabeth Hambleton and Standout Social Media Graphics in Canva. We learned the basics of Canva and how to create different graphic media.

Saturday's Keynote was Brenda Peyser on The No Club: Putting a stop to Women's Dead-End Work. Women always seem to say yes to the small tasks that the company needs to have done but men say no. They're the small, non-promotable tasks that take up time up during the day which results in women doing the real work at home. Some tips were to say no, but suggest an alternative person or department to do the project. Our professional development speaker was Dr Meggie Mapes with Communicate to Innovate: Integrating Strategies for Intergenerational Collaboration. As always it is good to learn ways to effectively work/collaborate with the different generations.

The Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund National Scholarships for the 2023-2024 Award Year were announced. The \$2,000 scholarship submitted by Greater Oakland Charter Chapter was approved and also announced. This scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2024. All these scholarships will be available for application in August 2023 at [www.sbmef.org](http://www.sbmef.org).



*National Scholarship in memory of beloved members, **FRAN AMOS, LYNN JACEK and PHYLLIS THOMSON***

- Scholarship Award: **\$2,000**
- Field of Study: Open
- GPA: 3.0 GPA or higher
- Institution: College or University in the State of Michigan
- Level: Freshman to Graduate



## Greater Oakland Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association Presents

### How Perseverance Through Trials Leads to Success

**Keynote: Cheryl Schmandt, Solo Entrepreneur, member of ABWA - Women of Magnitude Express Network, Fort Wayne, IN**

*abwa.greateroakland@gmail.com or visit our website at [www.abwa-greateroakland.com](http://www.abwa-greateroakland.com).*



**Greater Oakland Charter Chapter**

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting**

*The mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.*

**Changing Women's Lives One**



**Woman  
at a  
Time**

For more

information about ABWA's Greater Oakland Charter Chapter, send an email to

**Greater Oakland Charter Chapter**

Networking/Intro...6:00 pm; Program...6:30 pm; Business Meeting...7:15 pm

*Hear Cheryl's story in becoming a solo entrepreneur after leaving a successful career in the corporate world. Learn how perseverance through trials leads to success*

Join the Greater Oakland Charter Chapter of ABWA on Tuesday, March 28th for networking followed by a presentation by special guest, Cheryl Schmandt, a solo entrepreneur. She is the virtual admin assistant and licensed consultant/contractor for VIP Utility Solutions Inc, serving the Texas market. Cheryl helps 18 consultants and provides customer service as a licensed consultant/contractor. Cheryl assists individuals get all their utility needs taken care of to move into their new residence, including electricity, renters Insurance, auto insurance, internet, tv and security.

Cheryl has been married to John for 23 years. She is a 4-year member of ABWA - Women of Magnitude Express Network in Fort Wayne, IN. She served as VP of Finance and Co-Chair for Make, Bake and Buy for her chapter. She is the Financial Chair for the Cardinal Crossroads Council of ABWA and served on the first timers committee for Summer Sizzler. Most recently, she was Co-Chair of the 2022 District V Honors Event, WOY for Women and WOY for Cardinal Crossroads Council.

**This is a virtual meeting.**

Registration to attend is required at: [\*www.abwa-greateroakland.org/events/\*](http://www.abwa-greateroakland.org/events/)

Cost to attend the meeting / program virtually (using Zoom) is free.