



**Metro's Professional Women  
in Building (PWB)  
June 2024 Newsletter**  
"Women in Construction ... You Betcha!"



*NAHB PWB 2023 Small Council of the Year Recipients!*



**Message from Metro's PWB Committee Council Chair Linda Garvey:**



**Welcome to June 2024:** Hard to believe it is June, almost July, the summer is going fast. Metro's PWB has been busy for the past month or so. We take the summer off, our next event will be **September 19<sup>th</sup>** when we host **"The Harvest Fest"**, which is the September 2024 General Membership Meeting. We will also be **celebrating NAHB's PWB Week** where we celebrate women in our industry. We will celebrate the women of Metro as we traditionally do. Stay tuned for more details on this.

**Metro PWB 2024 Calendar of Events – Save the Date:**

Day/Date/Time	Subject	Location
September 19 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 to 9:00 PM	<b>Harvest Festival</b> PWB Hosts - Metro General Membership Meeting Celebrates NAHB PWB Week!	 <a href="https://metrobc.org">General Membership Event - Octoberfest - Sep 19, 2024 (metrobc.org)</a>
November 12 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 to 6:00 PM	<b>Food Drive</b> Joint Event with SMC "Happy Holiday Happy Hour" Food Drive	 1402 Route 10, Hanover, NJ 07981 Phone: (862) 242-2750 <a href="https://metrobc.org">PWB &amp; SMC Holiday Happy Hour - Nov 12, 2024 (metrobc.org)</a>

**New for 2025 and Metro's PWB Council – STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS:**



Metro's PWB is looking to set up a **"Sponsorship Program"** program that supports PWB events and most importantly, a **"Metro PWB Scholarship Award"** we would like to establish for young female Vo-Tech/high school who wants to continue their education in the construction and building industry after graduation. As a sponsor, we will advertise your business on our Metro PWB website page, all of our events, our PWB Newsletters and correspondence for the year and more. Levels are:

**\$200 - \$499**

**\$500 - \$999**

**\$1,000 or More**

**Directors Circle (Unlimited)**

**Founders Circle (Unlimited)**

**Benefactor Circle (1 Slot)**

## **Metro's Award of Excellence – PWB Member Company Winners:**



Metro hosted it's "Annual Award of Excellence" (AOE) program on **June 19<sup>th</sup>**, their yearly awards of recognition to our members for their hard work throughout the year. I am pleased to say that the following **PWB members** and their respective companies, received recognition/awards lasts night:

- **Ken Fox – Fox Architectural Design**
- **Linda Garvey – Coppola Brothers LLC**
- **Nicki Louloudis – Bowman Consulting Group**
- **Geraldine Smith – All Inclusive Construction**
- **Julie Stilo – Stilo Disposal LLC**

## **EXCITING: Let's Welcome New PWB Member – Eva Hajek of Reno's Appliance!**



### **Eva Hajek**

Corporate Chef  
Reno's Appliance  
235 McLean Blvd  
Route 20 North  
Paterson, NJ 07504  
Email: [evah@renosappliance.net](mailto:evah@renosappliance.net)



Eva works at Reno's Appliance as a Corporate Chef. Reno's Appliance was originally founded in 1951 by Reno Cioletti as Reno's Radio & TV Shop, the one-stop appliance store located in Paterson, New Jersey. Over the past 65+ years, the business has transformed into the appliance store we know today. Reno's sons carry on the tradition set forth by their father and bring exceptional customer service each and every day.

Reno's Appliance is the best place to buy state-of-the-art, reliable appliances in New Jersey. Our retail store in Paterson has a wide selection of refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges, ovens, general kitchen appliances, grills, washers and dryers, and more!

Eva Hajek loves working with food, especially pie, desserts and vegetables of any color. Developing delicious vegan and allergy-friendly recipes for Reno's networking events is only one part of her job. Eva can also be found working on one-on-one cooking demonstrations with clients in Reno's "Live" kitchens. She is a resource for her colleagues, especially in the latest trends, such as sous-vide, air-fry and steam cooking. When not in the kitchen, Eva assists with marketing, event planning and represents Reno's Appliance at industry-related functions. With Reno's Appliance as the Event Sponsor, Eva has been involved for several years with Fashion with Compassion, benefitting St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.

To learn more how to compliment your cooking style with the right appliance, make sure to ask for Eva when visiting Reno's, and schedule your hands-on demonstration.

## ***Stilo Disposal – Educating the Young on the Trades!***

Kudos to Metro and PWB member, Julie Stilo, of Stilo Disposal in South Plainfield for taking the initiative on her own to attend a Career Fair in the local area to discuss our industry and women in the trades. Stilo Disposal attended the Career Fair at Franklin School in South Plainfield, NJ. Julie grew up in South Plainfield and has her business based there as well so attending the career fairs there are meaningful. Sharing her love for the waste industry and showing the impact of waste beyond the curb and the many opportunities within the industry is a passion of hers. She also had the chance to educate kids 5-10 on the importance of considering a career in the trades, especially young women in the trades!



## ***Report from Metro Joint Trade Event!***

***"Exploring Careers that Build America"*** was a great success. It was wonderful working alongside the Bergen County Workforce Development Board, Associated Builders and Contractors, Hohokus School of Trade and Technical Sciences, Servants Heart Ministry and Coppola Brothers, LLC. Thank you to Tammy Molinelli MPA and Joanne Mitchell for organizing this event. Thank you to Michele Leppard and Kathleen Costello-Kurpiel for representing the Homebuilders Association.

Thank you to our panelists who helped the next generation understand the true value of traditional careers that ***Build America*** - Frank Belgiovine, Michael Kurpiel, Derek Weissman, Kristie Bellifemini Veri (PWB Member) and Ashley Brito. Their insight, guidance and love for the industry help to move the needle in the right direction for skilled trades people. Thank you to those behind the scenes not listed here that were helping support this effort and evening as well from Metro and BANJ!





## Spring Career Fairs – It’s a Wrap!

Career Fairs at local high schools/vo-tech’s are finished for the season in counties Metro’s serves. Many who participated were with Metro. One very special Career Fair/Panelist program we participated in was at Union Catholic thanks to Alumni and PWB Member, **Tammy Murray** of **Anderson Windows and Doors**. We are slowly spreading the word about the trades, especially with opportunities for young women today in our industry!



## “The House She Built” and The Girl Scouts of America – Launch Metro PWB Pilot Program/ Event!

Metro’s PWB trialed a **pilot** program with **Kristie Veri**, owner **Cleanscape Construction**, Metro’s President, PWB Member and leader of her daughters Girl Scout Troop. We talked about what the trades are and that they can be whatever they want to be! Linda Garvey, PWB Council Chair read the book. They each got a copy of one and earned/received the patch. We made a string art craft in the form of the Girl Scout logo. Thank you to **Tammy Murray** of **Anderson Windows and Doors**, PWB Member, for donating the books and the patch and to **Mike Black** of **Blue Ridge Lumber** for donating and preparing the wooden blocks that were used and sending along some hats! It was a big success. THANK YOU TO ALL!





## ***NAHB Legislative Conference Well Represented from Metro!***

***NAHB June Legislative Conference*** – What a great week it was at the “***Leg Con***” conference where we had the opportunity to attend NBAH events as well as meet with our state legislators. We shared our concerns and our three hot topics in the industry: 1.) Transformers; 2. Workforce Development; 3. Energy Codes. Out of our group, three Metro PWB members attended: *Linda Garvey, Tammy Murray and Geraldine Smith!*

Thanks to all for promoting and supporting our industry!



## ***Metro PWB Happy Hour June 4<sup>th</sup> – Great Success!***

***June 4<sup>th</sup> – Metro PWB Happy Hour*** - Thank to all those that attended our June PWB Happy Hour at Season’s 52. There was a great turnout, lots of networking, conversation and educating one another, thank you for coming! Hope you can join us as Metro’s PWB hosts our September General Membership Meeting at one of General Plumbing Supply (GPS) location!





## **Metro PWB Member an NAHB PWB 2024 Trustee!**

Congratulations to **Geraldine Smith** of *All Inclusive Construction*, Metro First Vice President, and Metro PWB member is currently serving as a NAHB PWB Trustee to support the national platform. Thank you Geraldine for representing women in our industry.



### **Metro's PWB Council Mission Statement:**

Our council's vision is to offer women in the construction industry peer-to-peer interactions by participating in community events and offering educational forums. Our objective is to encourage women members to actively participate in association activities, cultivate relationships through networking, build resources from groups within and outside of Metro, be a resource to young women interested in this field and offer *SUPPORT* to one another! *We are here for YOU!*

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Garvey, Metro's PWB Council Chair at: [L.Garvey@CoppolaBrothersLLC.com](mailto:L.Garvey@CoppolaBrothersLLC.com) or (908) 347-2482

### **Links:**

[Home - Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey \(metrobc.org\)](http://metrobc.org)

[Event List | Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey \(metrobc.org\)](http://metrobc.org)

[Professional Women in Building - Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of New Jersey \(metrobc.org\)](http://metrobc.org)

[Why Professional Women in Building? - NAHB](http://metrobc.org)

Regards, Linda Garvey  
Coppola Brothers LLC – Executive Officer  
**Metro's Professional Women in Building (PWB) Council Chair**  
Metro Executive Officer – VP – Secretary