

**Metro's Professional Women
in Building (PWB)**

October 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:

Happy Fall 2024! Hard to believe fall is here. What a great event Metro's PWB hosted for Metro's General Membership Meeting. PWB would like to **thank Brian Maffia of GPS Plumbing Supply** for his generous offer to host the September 19th meeting at his new GPS/Kohler Summit, NJ location. The location was beautiful, food terrific and the conversation informative and fun at the same time. We were honored to have Representative Aura K. Dunn, 25th District in New Jersey, at our meeting to give a brief talk.



At this General Membership Meeting hosted by Metro PWB, they took a moment to celebrate women in the construction industry. Each year the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB's) PWB hosts "**PWB Week**", encouraging all councils nationwide to celebrate women in the construction industry for an entire week, September 9th to 13th. Metro's PWB celebrated the week by paying tribute to our Metro PWB Council Members and by introducing everyone to their **new 2025 Sponsorship/Scholarship Program**. I have been working with Julie Stilo of Stilo Disposal, we are co-chairs working this new and exciting **Sponsorship/Scholarship Program**. As an **NAHB PWB 2023 Small Council of the Year Award** recipients, we thought what a better way to celebrate **PWB Week** by rolling out the program. The details are below:

Metro's PWB has formally established the "2025 Sponsorship Program" (Effective January 1 through December 31, 2025) program that contributes toward PWB events and, most importantly, a "Metro PWB 2025 Scholarship Award." We want to establish this scholarship for young Vo-Tech/high school female who will continue their education in the construction and building industry. This scholarship will be offered to students within the six (6) counties we serve - Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Union, and Warren. **The program will be split 50/50; 50% of the sponsorship funds will go toward the Scholarship Program, and the other 50% will go toward other Metro PWB initiatives/events.** We will also have a donation box at ALL our events, which we will be collecting from not only Metro members but also any guests who attend our events. 100% of funds collected at our events will go toward the Scholarship Program.

As a sponsor, we will advertise your business on our Metro PWB page, at all of our PWB events, our PWB Newsletters, and our PWB correspondence. Your company logo will be displayed on a large poster for display at events and correspondence for the year 2025. Below, please consider contributing to one of the following levels:

\$250 **Director's Circle (Unlimited)**
\$500 **Founders Circle (Unlimited)**
\$1,000 **Benefactor Circle (2 Slots)**

To learn more/ sign up to support this program, see the PWB page: [Become a 2025 PWB Sponsor - Dec 1, 2024 \(metrobc.org\)](#) Sign up by December 15th, 2024 is interested in being involved.



Metro's PWB Welcomes New Member - Erin Hoffman!



Erin Hoffman

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Erin Hoffman is a Financial Advisor at Certified Financial Services, LLC (CFS), a leading boutique financial services and wealth management firm in Northern New Jersey, where she provides individuals, families, and businesses with financial protection and wealth accumulation strategies.

As a holistic financial planner, Erin is eager to take part in the growth and development of her clients' financial futures. She helps to educate and empower her clients on how to gain an understanding of basic financial concepts, how to get financially organized, and provide them with the knowledge to make great decisions, so they have the courage and understanding to move forward and reach their goals. Erin is a national speaker and has been a main stage speaker from Vegas to Dallas and NYC for association national meetings and conferences.

Utilizing an innovative financial tool, The Living Balance Sheet®, Erin is able to translate and communicate complex financial concepts, estate planning considerations and investment strategies clearly and concisely, and tailors thoughtful recommendations to each of her clients. In addition, Erin engineers business succession strategies and provides tax efficient financial advice through a process which allows them to understand their current situations and ways in which they can build and preserve their wealth along with meet any other goals they may have. She takes a holistic, integrative approach, coordinates all facets of a client's personal and business finances, and strives to create personal economies that can produce long term wealth, abundant retirement income, tax efficiency, minimal cost, curtailed risk and enhanced legacy protection. Her clients know she has as much concern, care and passion for their long-term personal and business financial success and well-being as she has for her own.

Erin is a Mentor for the Seton Hall University Women in Business Program; and is also an Advisory Board Member for the following organizations: Emina Network, a mergers and acquisitions group; National Women in Roofing Assn.; and Spry Forward. She is also passionate about giving back to professional women, advancing women's leadership, advocacy and mentorship in business, and shattering glass ceilings everywhere.

Congratulations Michele Leppard, Executive Officer, Metro!



Metro's PWB would like to congratulate Michele Leppard, Metro's Executive Officer for receiving this award! Well deserved Michele. Here is the Press Release about Michele!

**METROPOLITAN BUILDERS &
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF
NEW JERSEY – FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE - August 27, 2024**



**MICHELE LEPPARD, METRO BCA EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
WINS RACHEL MANLEY SMALL OFFICE HONOR**

Michele Leppard, EVP, Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Builders and Contractors Association of New Jersey, recently received the Rachel Manley Small Office Honor from the

Executive Officers Council (EOC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), located in Washington, D.C.

The council represents the staff executives who manage the more than 650 state and local home builders associations that comprise NAHB.

In honor of the late executive officer of the Arrowhead Builders Association in Minnesota, this award represents the memory of a truly inspirational woman whose impact on NAHB and her profession was just as extraordinary as her personal contributions to society. This award is traditionally presented to an executive

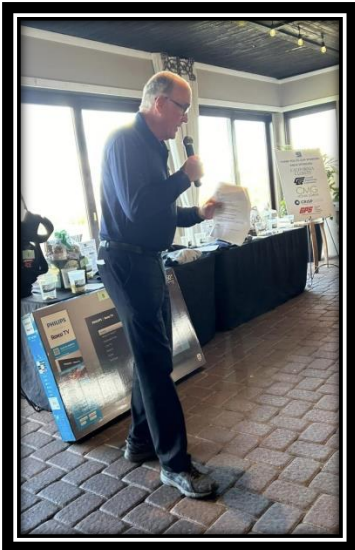
officer from a small association who is judged to have made exceptional accomplishments despite limited resources.

“I am honored to have received this award, which truly brings me to tears. With limited resources and formal training over the last three years, I worked diligently to balance our budget, encourage national involvement, collaborate with our NJ locals, and bring workforce development to a new level at Metro. Working closely with my board has always been a priority as we strive to live up to our mission and effectively move forward with the vision. I love my job, our members, and most importantly, helping to “Build the American Dream in NJ”, said Michele Leppard.

Leppard’s dedication and commitment to this industry serves as an inspirational how-to for other executive officers striving for excellence in association management.

“The Rachel Manley Small Office Honor recognizes the exceptional and effective management of a small association,” said Natalie Fryer, president of the Executive Officers Council and executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Fayetteville. “Michele is creative within budget limitations and has led her association to great success. With boundless dedication she has transformed challenges into triumphs, proving that true leadership shines brightest in the face of adversity. Her outstanding management despite limited staff and resources, makes her a worthy recipient of this award. Congratulations to Michele!” on receiving the Rachel Manley Small Office Honor from the Executive Officers Council (EOC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), located in Washington, D.C.


PWB Supports Metro's Golf Outing!



PWB Member, Ken Fox of Fox Architectural Design, PC hosted the **Annual Metro Golf Outing on October 8th**. The weather was perfect and many of our PWB members volunteered as well as played golf ... **Kristie Veri, Erin Hoffman, Eva Hajek and Linda Garvey!**




Metro PWB 2024 Calendar of Events – Save the Date:

Day/Date/Time	Subject	Location
November 12 th 4:00 to 6:00 PM	Food Drive Joint Event with SMC “Happy Holiday Happy Hour” Food Drive	 1402 Route 10, Hanover, NJ 07981 Phone: (862) 242-2750 PWB & SMC Holiday Happy Hour - Nov 12, 2024 metrobc.org

FOOD DRIVE – Our Council, along with Metro’s Sales and Marketing (SMC) Council, will be collecting food for a local pantry once again at this meeting. Please consider bringing some items to help those who are in need!

See you at the PWB Meeting in November!

	Metro’s PWB Council Mission Statement:
<p>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 <i>SUPPORT</i> to one another! <i>We are here for YOU!</i></p>	

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Garvey, Metro’s PWB Council Chair at: 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 \(metrobc.org\)](#)

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

[Why Professional Women in Building? - NAHB](#)

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