

MARCH 26, 2024

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	AGENDA:
8-8:30 am	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST: sponsored by Meijer
8:30-8:45 am	WELCOME: Nikolina, The Mid Day Diva, Q92 WDJQ Jeff Dafler, President & CEO, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
8:45 am	WOMEN WHO SERVE - OPENING REMARKS:
0:45 0111	Featuring Congresswoman Emilia Sykes (OH-13)
9-9:30 am	Debbie Busby, <i>President,</i> Massillon WestStark Chamber Janet Creighton, Board of Stark County Commissioners Brook Harless, <i>Plain Township Trustee</i> Monica Rose Gwin, Plain Local Board of Education
9:30-10:15 am	WOMEN IN SPORTS: Pat Lindesmith, Senior VP of Sponsorships & Partnerships, Pro Football HOF Danielle Lewis, Senior Director of Fan Experience & Special Events, Cleveland Browns Michelle Norris, Senior Director of Hall of Famer Relations, Pro Football HOF
	10 MINUTE BREAK
10:25-10:55 am 11-11:30 am	MORNING BREAKOUT (TWO SESSIONS): Amy Miller, VP Client Advisor II, Huntington National Bank Lexi Nussbaum, Founder, Power Pose Nutrition
	30 MINUTE NETWORKING
12-1 pm	LUNCH KEYNOTE: Jess Patz, Motivational Speaker and Advocate
	10 MINUTE BREAK
1:10-1:40 pm 1:45-2:15 pm	AFTERNOON BREAKOUT (TWO SESSIONS): Jenifer Hill, Professional Certified Coach, Leadership Development Speaker and Consultant Stephanie Werren, Vice President, Leadership Stark County
2:20-3:05 pm	WOMEN IN BUSINESS: Linda DeHoff, President, DeHoff Realtors Sue Grabowski, CEO, Desidara Jen Mucci, The Mucci Team, Keller Williams Legacy Group Rebecca Paliswat, Owner, Mainstream Boutique Keri Sullivan, Owner, The Barrel Room
3:05-3:15 pm	CLOSING REMARKS
3:15-4:15 pm	WINE RECEPTION: sponsored by Crystal Clinic Plastic Surgeons



CONGRESSWOMAN EMILIA SYKES

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Congresswoman Emilia Strong Sykes grew up on the city's west side and has dedicated her career to strengthening her community. For eight years, Emilia served as the State Representative for Ohio House District 34, otherwise known as the "Birthplace of Champions." During that time, she served for four years in Democratic leadership, including three years as the House Minority Leader. In

her first year as the leader of the House Democratic caucus, despite serving in the minority, the percentage of bipartisan bills passed in the Ohio House was nearly double each of the previous four years combined.

In 2022, Congresswoman Sykes became the first Black person elected to represent Ohio's 13th Congressional District, where

she has committed to fighting for economic opportunity, safer communities, and affordable healthcare for Northeast Ohioans, bringing along a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to get things done for those she serves.

Congresswoman Sykes has received numerous awards for her advocacy, including the EMILY's List national Rising Star award, Legislator of the Year from the Ohio Minority Business Enterprise, the Champion for Children award from Summit County Children's Services, and 30 for the Future award from the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce. Outside of elected office she engages her community as a lifelong member of her church, a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a life member of the NAACP.

Congresswoman Sykes graduated with high honors from Kent State University with a B.A. in Psychology and later went on to the University of Florida, where she earned a Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Family Law and a Master of Public Health.

Congresswoman Sykes is a newlywed, married to Kevin Boyce, and enjoys spending time with family, engaging in the arts, and enjoying the many blessings of life.

Deborah Busby is a seasoned business leader with a diverse background in chamber of commerce management, entrepreneurship, and real estate investing. Currently serving as the President of the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the Massillon Development Foundation, Debbie is dedicated to driving economic growth by attracting investment and providing support to the community.

With a track record of success in membership development and retention at organizations like the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, she excels in building relationships and increasing revenue opportunities. Her entrepreneurial spirit is evident from her ownership of The Irish Pub & Grill Restaurant and Commercial Equipment Advertising, where she demonstrated her

prowess in business development, marketing, and personnel management.



DEBBIE BUSBY



BROOK HARLESS

After Brook Harless medically retired from the Army, she graduated from several Leadership Academies, including Leadership Ohio, the Stark County Signature Program, Stark County Government Leadership Academy, Stark County Citizen Police Academy, American Legion Extension Institute, and Grassroots Leadership Academy Level I and II. She holds two Bachelor

of Arts degrees from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in English and History and an Associate degree from Central Texas College.

Brook was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, a recipient of Stark County's 20 under 40, United Way's Volunteer of the Year, Army Achievement Medals, She Elevates Women Leadership Award, and inducted into the YWCA Women's Hall of Fame. She was also named Ohio's Mother of the Year and National Military Mother of the Year. Brook works tirelessly on behalf of her community as the Veteran and Community Liaison for Arrow Passage Recovery, Concerned Veterans of America's Strike Team Leader, Rotary Club of Plain Township Past President, Military Women Across the Nation Executive Board, American Red Cross Services to Armed Forces caseworker and Disaster Action Team member, Ohio Veterans Coalition Co-Chair and on the Stark County Veterans Task Force. Harless' volunteerism extends to the community at large through both the American Red Cross and Stark County Hunger Task Force Executive Board of Directors, N. Canton Chamber Board of Directors, Plain Twp. Historical Society, Honor Home Advisory Board, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Mission Advancement Committee, and the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships Executive Committee.

She brings a background of public policy and political experience by not only being a Plain Township Trustee but as a citizen. Brook also works side by side to advocate priorities on pending legislation and educate elected officials and key stakeholders affecting our communities as the Government Affairs Director for Stark Trumbull Area Realtors, all the while raising her 3 boys: Mason, Brantley, and Weston with her husband, Steve.





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The Honorable Janet Weir Creighton was elected to the Board of Stark County Commissioners in 2010. As President of the Board, Commissioner Creighton brings the county more than 35 years of elected experience where she has cultivated a diverse background in government and public affairs.

Prior to returning to public service in Stark County, Janet was Deputy Assistant to The President of the United States and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs from January 2008 until January 2009 in Washington, D.C. As the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, she was the direct liaison between The President and officials in all cities, counties and states.

From 2004 - 2007, Janet served as the first female Mayor of the City of Canton. Prior to serving as Mayor, she was the Stark County Auditor (1991-2003) and Stark County Recorder (1985-1991).

Throughout her life, Janet has been selected to serve on many boards and commissions including a previous appointment to the Ohio Rail Commission, Public Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for the 5th District, President of the Ohio County Auditors Association, Former Trustee of Malone University, and Chairman of the Board for Arts in Stark. In June, 2022 Creighton was elected Chairman of the Stark County Republican Party.

She has received numerous awards during her career, including the 2023 Ralph Regula Award for Public Service, 2023 YWCA Women's Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, 2012 Athena Leadership Award, and 2007 Municipal Leader of the Year, by Municipal Leader Magazine.

Hailing from Canton, home of the National Professional Football Hall of Fame, Janet's other passion in life is football. She volunteered for 30 years for the Football Hall of Fame and in 2000 her service culminated in her appointment as the General Chairman of the National Professional Football Hall of Fame Festival, a suiting role for a lifetime fan.

Janet is married to William Turnbow, has two adult children and two adult grandchildren.



MONICA ROSE GWIN

Monica Rose Gwin has been a member of the Plain Local Board of Education since 2004 and was re-elected in November 2023 to a sixth term. She is currently a member of the Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Board and Stark State College Foundation Board. She also serves as vice chairman of the Stark County Democratic Party and has been a precinct committee person for many years. Gwin also is a member of the Junior League of Stark County, Ohio, Inc. and Chi Omega Sorority.

Gwin retired from a forty-year career in public relations. She served as Public Relations Manager for OhioMeansJobs Stark & Tuscarawas Counties, the Workforce Initiative Association and the Job Training Partnership; and as the Public Information Officer for the Stark County Commissioners

Gwin is past president of the Junior League of Stark County Ohio, Inc., Stark County Legal Auxiliary and the Canton Junior Woman's Club. She also served on the board of trustees for the YWCA, Canton Ballet and Arthritis Foundation Advisory Board. She also has co-chaired a variety of fundraising and steering committees including the Plain Local Bond Issue Committee and the Child and Family Advocacy Center Committee. A Canton native, she is a 1977 graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.

She and her husband 5th District Court of Appeals Judge Scott Gwin are the parents of daughter Molly and son-in-law Jeff, and son Zach and daughter-in-law Margaret. They have four grand-children. Molly is a partner with the Isaac Wiles Law Firm in Columbus, Ohio. Zach was elected in November 2023 to serve as a Judge on the Franklin County Ohio Municipal Court.



JANET CREIGHTON



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Michelle Norris is currently the Senior Director of Hall of Famer Relations at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. She is an Ohio native and attended college at Ohio University where she majored in Family Studies with a focus in Psychology.

She has been employed at the Pro Football Hall of Fame for over ten years, spending the last eight in her current role where she is responsible for the relationship between the Hall of Famers and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. She leads a department of four employees and works on Hall of Famer appearances, travel and event logistics, Hall of Famer programming, contracts and relationship building.

She has been married for 21 years to her husband, Erick, and has a 15-year-old son and a 9-year-old daughter.



MICHELLE NORRIS



DANIELLE LEWIS

Danielle Lewis currently works as the Senior Director of Fan Experience and Special Events for the Cleveland Browns. Originally from Long Island New York, she has lived in the Cleveland area for a little over a year. Her start in the sports industry began at Syracuse University, where she attended undergraduate school and then moved to Washington, D.C. receiving her master's degree from Georgetown University. Danielle joined the Washington Commanders and spent seven years specifically in game presentation and fan experience holding multiple positions, the last three years as the Director of Game Entertainment.

She later joined the New York Islanders and spent three years as the Director of Game Presentation focused on opening UBS Arena at Belmont Park and curating gameday production and entertainment programming for the new building. Danielle has also worked on major events such as international soccer matches, college football and basketball games, as well as concerts from artists like Taylor Swift, Coldplay, Beyonce and Jay-Z.

Pat Lindesmith joined the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008. A current member of the company's executive team for the past nine years, she now holds the title of Senior Vice President of Sponsorships & Partnerships. Lindesmith is responsible for all Pro Football Hall of Fame Sponsorship Sales and Activations.

Lindesmith's leadership style is primarily driven and motivated by managing and building successful corporate partnerships that align with the Hall of Fame's important mission to "Honor the Greatest of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values & Celebrate Excellence TO-GETHER!"

In 2021, Pat was honored by the Sports Business Journal with the prestigious national Game Changer Award, for Women in Sports.

Lindesmith, a recent breast cancer survivor, is active in the Canton community and serves on the boards of various organizations. Lindesmith and her late husband John are the proud parents of three adult children: John (wife Alexandra & two grandchildren, Teddy & Penelope), Hannah, and Ryan. She currently resides in Jackson Township, Ohio.



PAT LINDESMITH

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Creating customized solutions is at the heart of what Amy Miller does. She will assist with solving even the most complex scenarios, partnering with you and your family to prepare an individually tailored plan to help you achieve your financial goals. From everyday money management to customized investment strategies and assistance with trust and estate planning, she is here to support you in growing, retaining, and transitioning your wealth.

Amy has more than 15 years of experience delivering comprehensive investment, planning, and financial solutions to clients. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Kent State.

In her free time, she enjoys cooking and traveling.



AMY MILLER



LEXI NUSSBAUM

Lexi Nussbaum is the founder of a multi-six figure women's health and hormone coaching company, Power Pose Nutrition. Power Pose specializes in providing women with a 1:1 custom coaching experience to find whole body health, balanced hormones, weight loss, and energy for life.

Started in 2020, Lexi and her team have helped over 250 busy + high performing women find sustainable weight loss, healthy hormones and confidence in themselves again.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

As a captivating speaker, Jess Patz is not only a dedicated philanthropist, and energetic podcast host, but also a resilient survivor who transforms adversity into empowerment. Her inspiring journey of overcoming abuse and loss has fueled a powerful narrative that resonates with audiences across the globe.

Having triumphed over personal and professional challenges, Jess can now share those powerful lessons with others, illustrating the transformative power of resilience. Audiences are captivated by her authenticity, courage, and ability to ignite hope in the hearts of those around her. Jess masterfully connects with her audience, leaving a lasting impact that goes far beyond any single event.

Jess has been featured in various media outlets including podcasts, radio, and television across the county sharing not only her survival story but teaching others how to redefine life's low moments as opportunities to spark greater and more impactful success.

Whether speaking at conferences, corporate events, or educational institutions, Jess leaves an incredible mark. Her heartfelt and inspiring messages ignite a sense of empowerment in others.



JESS PATZ



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Stephanie Werren has been a key member of the Leadership Stark County team since 2005, where she currently serves as the Vice President of Development and Leadership Programs. With over 15 years of experience in the department, she has held several roles, including Development Director and Assistant Director, before being promoted to Director in 2015.

Alongside her leadership duties, Stephanie is a certified Gallup Strengths Coach and conducts training and facilitation for individuals and groups on Strengths Finder. She is dedicated to helping individuals and organizations discover and leverage their unique strengths. Her engaging coaching style has helped countless clients increase engagement, build stronger relationships, and enhance their overall performance. She has worked with diverse clients, from Fortune 500 companies to solopreneurs and frequently speaks on strengths-based leadership and employee engagement.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science/International Studies from Miami University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Malone College. She was named the Malone University Graduate School Alumna of the Year in 2009 and is a ystark! Twenty under 40! recipient. She is actively involved in the community and currently serves on North Canton City Council as vice-chair, the Stark Housing Network Advisory Board, and a NEOHIO Western Reserve Board member.

She and her husband, Judge Curt Werren, reside in Canton and are exceptionally proud of their 24-year-old triplets. Grace is serving as a logistics officer in the Marines, Hannah is a consultant for Mercer in Los Angeles, and Jack is a business analyst working with Kalypso, a division of Rockwell International.



STEPHANIE WERREN



JENIFER HILL

Experience transformative leadership with Jenifer Hill, an expert at the convergence of human development, psychology, and leadership. As an I.C.F. Professional Certified Coach, Board Certified Executive Career & Leadership Coach, Certified Healthcare Coach, and Professional Clinical Counselor-Supervisor, Jenifer offers a multifaceted approach, guiding leaders through uncharted territories while fostering self-awareness and innovative thinking.

With over 3,000 leaders coached on national and international platforms, Jenifer brings vast insights, particularly with senior leadership. Her journey includes keynote speaking, leadership development consulting, and skilled facilitation, creating an inspiring personal and professional growth environment.

Jenifer's educational background, including degrees from The Ohio State University and Walsh University, bridges neuroscience, mental health therapy, and leadership coaching. Healthcare Coaching Certificates from Virginia Tech and the Healthcare Coaching Institute further highlight her comprehensive approach. Shaped by international living, her global mindset adds unique cultural awareness to tackle 21st-century challenges.

Recognized as a top Executive Coach in Cleveland by Influence Digest in 2022, Jenifer combines a passion for learning with holistic living. Based in Ohio with her family, Jenifer exemplifies innovative leadership, guiding individuals and organizations to illuminate their paths. She empowers clients to lead with intention and impact through candid feedback and an adaptable coaching style, transcending conventional paradigms.



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Linda DeHoff is the proud wife of Bob, mother of Molly and Dan, and grandmother to Bill, Joe, Jackie, Miles, Drew, and Claire.

Her recently published book, Open This Letter in Ten Years: Life Lessons from Dad's Love Letters, is available on Amazon.



LINDA DEHOFF



SUE GRABOWSKI

Sue Grabowski founded Desidara (formerly Grabowski & Co.) in 1997, following experience as a journalist, an ad agency account executive and an internal communications leader at Progressive Insurance. Her team produces and executes strategic marketing communications plans for organizations such as The Timken Company, Akron Children's Hospital, Morgan Engineering, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Impel Wealth Management and Newmont Corporation.

She currently serves on the boards of Malone University, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Cleveland chapter of the Entrepreneurs Organization.

Keri Sullivan, is a proud mother of four and the owner of The Barrel Room in North Canton and Canal Fulton. She has a passion for supporting local businesses, especially those owned by women.

She actively collaborates within the community. Her commitment to fostering partnerships and giving back reflects her dedication to both entrepreneurship and community engagement. She looks forward to sharing more about her journey on the Women in Business panel.





KERI SULLIVAN



REBECCA PALISWAT

Rebecca Paliswat was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. She has been married to her husband Eric, for 13 years and they are blessed to be the parents of two wonderful boys.

Rebecca has been the proud owner of Mainstream Boutique, in North Canton, for 10 years. Styling, connecting, and empowering women bring her so much joy, and she's happy to be doing it right here in her community.

Passion for people, community, and real estate have been the building blocks of Jen Mucci's 26 years in real estate. She defines success by empowering people and touching their lives in a positive way.

The foundation of The Mucci Team is "together everyone accomplishes more". Each team member has a skill set that is unique – allowing them to work in the area they specialize. This empowers Jen to focus on what she is best at and most committed to – her clients!

At The Mucci Team, clients are offered premier service by staying in tune with market trends and staying on the forefront of technology. Using tools like QR codes, videos via text, and geo-fencing along with a strong social media presence on multiple channels (more than 20,000 followers across platforms) grabs the attention of the community.

Jen's passion for community has always been a central part of her goals. Since 2007, she has raised more than \$120,000 for a variety of charities, including Not For Sale One Step At A Time, The American Red Cross, The American Heart Association, Heroes on the Move, and numerous other organizations.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team!" – Phil Jackson



JEN MUCCI



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