

President's Message July/August 2009

Wow! What a fabulous year we have been having here in San Diego NAWIC!! Who says the economy is bad? I think that this year we have defied the odds!! Just look back to see all that our members have helped to present without allowing the negative impact of what is going on erase the positive that we woman can produce?

To begin with, there is the NETWORKING. Oh, and don't think it stopped at meetings.....there are those of you who know from whence I speak. You asked for help finding employees, jobs, vendors and some minor guidance along this path of construction and your NAWIC Sisters were there, reaching out to assist you. And, yes, there were the monthly meetings which provided a plethora of speakers and information pertaining directly to construction projects and related topics; not to mention the opportunity to mingle with your NAWIC Sisters and Construction Industry Guests.

Job walks and construction classes, still on going, were made available to keep you in touch with, and up to speed on, "how to" in the construction industry. (Why not attend one of the next two classes offered by your education committee in August?)

Last week we were invited by Gina Adams to share a meeting with RCP Block and Brick at their Escondido location. What a good turn out we had for this event. Thank you, Gina, for extending your generosity to your Chapter #21 NAWIC Sisters and thank you, ladies, for showing your continued support and your never ending thirst for knowledge, by attending this event. Our Speaker, who talked to us about how to market ourselves/business/causes, was very enthusiastic and insightful. I personally judge an event by my being able to walk away with at least ONE new idea, so I keep my eyes and ears open to finding just that. Sure enough, our speaker, Rhonda Sher, informed me about LINKEDIN. LinkedIn strengthens and extends your existing network of trusted contacts. LinkedIn is a networking tool that helps you discover inside connections to recommended job candidates, industry experts and business partners. Over 40 million professionals use LinkedIn to exchange information, ideas and opportunitiesnow to include Anita Fire Hose Company Etc. There were also a few vendor displays made available to all of us at the RCP partnered meeting, but the one I found very imaginative was the company showcasing their creative side. They included rocks, stained glass and bent metal to create bugs, butterflies and lawn animals. They even held a drawing and gave away an elephant.....and no, ladies, this time I did not win, but I still had a great time.

With our National Convention just around the corner and knowing that we need to pay for 10 Chapter #21 Delegates' Registrations for this Convention, your Ways and Means Committee recruited the membership to come together for a Rummage Sale. Our purpose was to raise money to help to defray the cost of these members going to Phoenix. Between what you all donated and the, not one, but TWO Sales that we had, we raised just about \$700.00!!!

Go TEAM NAWIC!

As you are aware, our Chapter had great success with all of the Committee projects, to include, Block Kids, CAD Drafting, Scholarship and now, we just completed MAGIC Camp by our Mentoring Committee. This project has been on everyone's mind all year long and has provoked so much excitement, not only in San Diego's community, but everyone in our Region has been paying very close attention, too. Just look at what our Director, Ellen Colglazier had to say in her Region Director's Message:

"On June 19th, along with NAWIC Treasurer, Cindy Johnsen, I attended MAGIC Camp in San Diego. What a fantastic & rewarding day - not just for students involved, but also for this Director. The members of San Diego were able to again reach out to young women in their area and did so with such organized and professional manner. The students were eager to learn and showed a lot of grace under some extreme hard times. This year has been difficult for this Director in many ways, but I have never felt more proud then standing beside the San Diego chapter members, the Chairmen of this event and the students. It was a rewarding day in many ways - Congrats to San Diego for doing a fantastic job."

This President would like to thank our Region #12 Director for acknowledging our Chapter's hard work and perseverance to promote our belief that, as women, we can and will succeed in this construction industry. And to show her support of our instilling in these young women's minds that they can make a difference by choosing the path less traveled by and Mentoring them to that end.

Remember how I have emphasized in the past the need to branch out from the Chapter to attend the Region event offerings? This year I believe that our Region ended it's year with a very different and informative Leadership Conference. This was not just a NAWIC event, so you also had the opportunity to mingle with non NAWIC members. (Of course, I am sure that once they left the conference, many of them decided to join NAWIC!) The conference was held at the beautiful and serene campus of CSU Channel Islands in the Martin V. Smith Decision Center's Lecture Hall. Thank you to our Director, Ellen, Donna Casteneda and Valerie Patscheck for planning this unique event. It was a very fast paced, informative, mentored program with topics to include PR & Marketing, Leadership and Team Building, Communication, You don't need a Title to be a Leader and Email Etiquette. Our very own Linda Young, CIT was one of the speakers who elaborated on Mentoring. My full report on this conference will be posted to the Web Site and you can read Lorelee Langworthy, CIT's conference report right here in this Newsletter. I will say that I came away from this conference with more then just one thing, but having to pin point one thing for you would be a quote about those nervous jitters we get when we speak before a group: "It is perfectly all right to have butterflies in your stomach. The trick is to get them to fly in formation."

Our next NAWIC Chapter #21 General Membership meeting will be at Tom Hams' Lighthouse and will be our annual Installation of New Officers and the Retirement of our Old Board of Directors. Please show your support and encouragement by thanking all those who worked so hard this past NAWIC year to run our NAWIC Business which benefits our chapter and its members and to welcome the new team being sworn in to take on these tasks. If you were a Committee Chair for this past 2008-2009 NAWIC year, please, especially be sure to put this on your calendar, as I would like to personally take this opportunity to publicly thank all of you for your contribution to the success of our Chapter #21.

We will resume our General Membership meetings at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley in October. Our new contract with the Hotel is now signed and in place through June of 2010. Along with this new contract, we were able to negotiate our dinner rate to be increased by only \$5.00!! Thank you to our Hospitality Committee for standing firm in their conviction and conveying to the Hotel that we can create a professional meeting atmosphere and still meet their financial concerns without breaking the bank! Way to go Teammates for putting NAWIC's welfare first! So your new pricing for your dinner meetings will be at: \$35.00 for Members and \$40.00 for Guests.

Your NAWIC Chapter has volunteered to host the first Region #12 Conference for the 2009-2010 NAWIC year right here at the Bahia Hotel & Resort! This event will take place on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17, 2009. I have always been impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement that the San Diego Membership shows in whatever they do. I sincerely hope that I can count on our entire Membership to bring these same emotions to the Committee Meetings and then to the Bahia for this event! Please remember that this is a TEAM effort and we need to show our NAWIC Region Chapters that San Diego's entire TEAM can put on the best APC event; complete with all of the professionalism and team strength that is necessary to educate and enhance these women in construction! Our first committee meeting will take place on Monday, August 3 at 5:30 p.m. at SDC & Associates' office at 9619 Chesapeake Drive #202 in San Diego. We need all members to rally around this event and get involved, so mark your calendars!

Please allow me to remind all of you that any and all pertinent information for future and past chapter events are posted to our Web Site: www.nawicsd.org. This is also a great tool to use when talking about your favorite Association. Since I love to brag about NAWIC, I keep the address in my "favorites" folder for easy access.

In conclusion, I would like to pass this inspiration along to my Board and Committees, to next year's new officers and committees and to encourage anyone who reads this:

The Things That Haven't Been Done Before

The things that haven't been done before,
Those are the things to try;
Columbus dreamed of an unknown shore
At the rim of the far-flung sky,
And his heart was bold and his faith was strong
As he ventured in dangers new,
And he paid no heed to the jeering throng
Or the fears of the doubting crew.
The many will follow the beaten track
With guideposts on the way,
They live and have lived for ages back
With a chart for every day.
Someone has told them it's safe to go
On the road she has traveled o'er,
And all that they ever strive to know
Are the things that were known before.
A few strike out, without map or chart,
Where never a woman has been,
From the beaten paths they draw apart
To see what no woman has seen.
There are deeds they hunger alone to do;
Though battered and bruised and sore,
They blaze the path for the many, who
Do nothing not done before.
The things that haven't been done before
Are the tasks worth while today;
Are you one of the flock that follows, or
Are you one that shall lead the way?
Are you one of the timid souls that quail
At the jeers of a doubting crew,
Or dare you, whether you win or fail,
Strike out for a goal that's new?

Thank you and Go TEAM NAWIC!!!
Anita Villani-Barnes
San Diego Chapter #21 2008-2009 Chapter President