



# SANDY'S SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

## Linda Young... NAWIC's "Member of the Year"



On April 8, 2008, Linda Young, CIT, was awarded the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction's 'Member of the Year' Award. But who is she? How did an accounting manager end up not only a member of NAWIC, but a San Diego Chapter President and eventually NAWIC's National President in 2001-2002? It's an interesting story!

**How she got started in NAWIC?** Linda Young grew up in upstate New York. She attended Oswego Catholic High School and later attended Maria Regina College in Syracuse, New York where she studied business management. She first became interested in construction when she moved to the west coast and went to work for a real estate developer in Santee, CA in 1985. She was fascinated with the dynamics of construction but realized she needed more education in the industry. That led her to NAWIC where she took total advantage of the various classes and educational seminars they offered.

**How important is education to Linda?** The educational aspect of NAWIC has always been at the core of Linda's interest. That is why her mission theme for her national presidency was "Moving Forward through Education." The valuable knowledge she gained back then and now has allowed her to prove herself professionally and to gain respect of the construction community.

I guess that is why she now strives to give back to NAWIC members across the nation by serving as Head of the NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) on the national level a couple of years ago and she now serves on the Board of Directors along with her good friend Sherry Yarbrough of the Associated Builders and Contractors. (Sherry serves as the National NEF President this year). Linda also serves as this year's leader of the national NAWIC Founders' Scholarship Foundation (NFSF), which awards scholarships to women pursuing construction related careers in college.

Linda continues on page 28

The CIT that follows Linda's name distinguishes her as a Construction Industry Technician. The **Construction Industry Technician (CIT)** is a self-paced, home study program. Passing an examination at the end of the course establishes mastery of the material and upon successful completion of the program; the participant will receive the **Construction Industry Technician Certifications**. This certification acknowledges the accomplishment of attaining a higher professional level in the construction industry. **Her accomplishments on the local NAWIC San Diego Chapter level...** Linda ran her own businesses for several years, but eventually ended up as the accounting manager for a commercial electrical contractor in San Diego called Dynalectric, which is an EMCOR Company. Dynalectric's support allowed Linda to develop her involvement in NAWIC on the local level and eventually on the national level.



**Linda with AGC Past-President Tom Anderson of Bergelectric.**

Linda has served on the Board of Directors for many years for the San Diego Chapter, as well as the San Diego Chapter President in 2004-2005. She attends most of the local NAWIC events and only seems to be absent if her NAWIC national duties conflict. Linda currently works for a company called County Wide Metal who likewise supports her efforts to further women in this industry.

Linda recently thanked the San Diego Chapter for this distinguished award by saying, *"To be honored by my NAWIC Sisters with the NAWIC Member of the Year Award has to be the greatest honor I have received in my career. I am both surprised and humbled.* After 23 years of membership, NAWIC networking continues to provide me with great opportunities to learn and to grow and to give back."

**What lies ahead?** Linda remains committed to NAWIC on both the local and national level but in particular she has been concentrating her efforts on mentoring young women entering our industry wanting to succeed in the construction community.

Linda explains why this NAWIC



**Two of the Construction Tech students that are mentored by Linda**

mentoring program is so important. "It enlightens students to the different areas in the construction industry." Construction worker is not the only job in the industry, Linda noted, "There is a whole gamut of other jobs available." Linda wants students to be aware of the estimating, accounting, and management careers in the field. She expressed how hard it is to hire into these types of positions, but if students can be trained in high school, like at Construction Tech Academy, students can consider these careers and help supply the industry with an educated work force.

When asked if men were excluded from the mentoring program, she emphasized that it's not the program's goal to eliminate men out of the construction industry, but to "teach women how to work with men and get the most out of it." Men play an important part in the mentoring process, and the program wants to "help women feel more comfortable in the industry, and to be more aware of the opportunities available," Linda said.

One of the ways NAWIC promotes the construction industry and helps women get their foot in the door (or keep it there) is through mentoring. The mentoring program's tag line, "Experienced Women Helping Young Women... Planning, Guiding, Empowering, Supporting" says it all. The program gathers NAWIC members, San Diego State University students and faculty, and Construction Tech Academy (CTA) students and faculty on a committee to help the younger girls at CTA fill out scholarship applications, find jobs, and expose them to the construction industry.

Linda and the NAWIC San Diego



Chapter Mentoring Committee have also organized an event called **"Magic Camp"** that will take place this summer during the week of June 23-June 27.

NAWIC is partnering with Stanley E. Foster Construction Tech Academy to offer 25 high school girls an opportunity to learn in a hands-on FREE summer day camp the basic skills of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, sheet metal, masonry and landscaping. Camp activities also include tool and heavy equipment demonstrations and much more!

This camp is designed to challenge high school girls to discover the many opportunities available in this exciting and rewarding field. Girls will learn the history of women in construction as well as valuable skills. Guest speakers and camp counselors will include women and men employed in the industry.



**NAWIC announces that Linda has been awarded the chapter's Member of the Year**

**Personal Notes...**Linda is married to Frank Young and she has two sons and three granddaughters. Her recent marriage to Frank and the fact she would like to spend more time with her lovable grandchildren leads her to say she wants to slow down. But frankly, the more I heard her talk about NAWIC and her passion about the upcoming "Magic Camp" leads this writer to say, "I'll believe it when I see it!"

*Linda Young was chosen as our Outstanding Woman to "Spotlight" because of her dedication to furthering women in the construction industry. Her experience and professionalism is an example for all women. She has been an inspiration to me and many others. As her good friend Sherry Yarbrough said after Linda received the award of NAWIC Member of the Year... "It has been a long time coming. No one deserves it more than you, Linda!" We at Contractor News and Views agree! -SC & MC*