

NAWIC CONVENTION REPORT

Phoenix, Arizona
August 2009
Jan Parthemer

I would like to thank the San Diego Chapter for sponsoring me as a delegate for the NAWIC National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

It was an honor to represent the chapter at NAWIC's 54th Convention.

I arrived in Phoenix, site of the 2009 NAWIC National Convention, Wednesday afternoon, August 26th. After checking in at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, I proceed to the convention registration area and picked up delegate credentials and notified San Diego Chapter President, Anita Villani Barnes.

The evening's welcome party's theme was "Viva la NAWIC". Some members dressed in costumes appropriate for the theme. A buffet dinner was served with roaming mariachi's providing music for the evening. Great time to reconnect with NAWIC members and guests.

Thursday's Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by National President, Pat McDonald, CCA, CIT. The national anthem was spectacularly performed by Donna Revis, CIT, Santa Clara, CA NAWIC Chapter and Sandy Field, Houston, Texas NAWIC Chapter. Phil Gordon, Mayor of Phoenix, welcomed the 400 convention attendees to Phoenix and thanked us for spending money in their city. Convention business and reports were addressed and presented to the delegation. Keynote speaker, Edith Washington, FCSI, CCS, gave an impressive presentation on "Turning Points". New Business brought before the Convention Delegation, provided discussion and voting with regard to the new dues categories. This was a learning experience for new members to see how business is transacted at a National Convention. Robin Fulton Meyer, CIT, President Elect invited all to the 2010 NAWIC Convention in Louisville, KY, September 1st – 4th, 2010. Dede Hughes, IOM, NAWIC Executive Vice President, gave a short version of her report and presented longevity awards to NAWIC staff members, Tim Elmore (5 years) and Misty Hart (10 years). Shelly Reeves, NAWIC Convention Director, will be retiring after 20 years of orchestrating NAWIC Conventions.

The Awards Luncheon recognized Membership and NEF Award recipients. San Diego member, Linda Young, CIT, was surprised when she and Susan Carson, CIT received the Darline H. Johnson Volunteer of the Year Award, for their efforts in making the new Construction Bookkeeping 101 Certification Course a reality. NAWIC National Board Member's each selected and presented a NAWIC member with a special award. Donna Castaneda, CIT, Region 12, Central California Coast Chapter, was surprised with one of these awards, for all she has done to save and grow her chapter.

The afternoon was filled with a variety of workshops to attend. Jeffrey Daily, MSS, LSW presented, "Volunteering In The Real World" in two parts. Both workshops divided attendees into groups, discussing good and not so good volunteer experiences and sharing the top item with everyone at the workshop. I attended the last part of Chapter Board Training Workshop, lead by Robin Fulton Meyer, CIT, President Elect, and the incoming 2009 National Officers and Board

Members. The workshop provided an opportunity for incoming NAWIC Chapter Officers and Board Members to role play, getting experience on resolving issues and “how to” conduct chapter business with guidance from the National Board Members. Workshop attendees were divided into groups, to work as a team to come up with solutions to the situations. This workshop was a repeat from last year and is excellent training for board members and NAWIC members considering being part of their chapter board.

Thursday evening many of the San Diego Chapter members met for dinner. This was an opportunity to get to know each other outside of NAWIC and talk about Convention.

Friday morning Region 12 attendees gathered outside the Hotel for the Region 12 picture. I had things to prepare for the Installation Luncheon and was unable to attend the morning workshops. For chapter members who were not able to attend Convention you can go to the National Website (www.nawic.org), enter your user name and password (you can email the national office if you have forgotten them) and click on the Convention heading. Power Point presentations from many of the workshops are on the website and can be printed and shared with others at your company. Another benefit of your NAWIC Membership.

At Friday’s luncheon, the 2008-2009 NAWIC National Officers and Board were retired by Linda Young, CIT, San Diego Chapter. This was followed by installation of the 2009-2010 NAWIC National Officers and Board by Linda Young, CIT, San Diego Chapter. Region 12 will be represented on the 2009-2010 National Board by Robin Fulton Meyer, CIT, President, Coachella Valley Chapter, Cindy Johnsen, CDS, CIT, Treasurer, San Bernardino-Riverside Chapter and Ellen Colglazier, Region 12 Director, Coachella Valley Chapter.

Friday afternoon I attended two workshops by Janice Urbanik, CDS, CIT on “Collaborative Team Processes in Construction” and “No Room For Monogamy: Project Relationship Management”. The first covered the new standards and approaches and how they are being implemented into the construction industry. The second suggested ways to get the job done and how to avoid and work through conflicts on a project.

Renee Conner, CIT, National Executive Director MAGIC Summer Camp Program, arranged an informal gathering Friday evening for members from chapters that hosted MAGIC (Mentoring A Girl In Construction) Camps in summer 2009 and chapters who plan to host a Camp in the coming year. Lorelee and I attended and had the opportunity to talk with Carol Varga, CIT, Detroit, MI Chapter and Sandi Davis, CIT, Tallahassee, FL Chapter. Like San Diego, both have hosted their second year of MAGIC Camp. We shared our successes and things we would do different for the third year of Camp. Renee shared that the MAGIC Summer Camp Program now has a board of directors, which includes Renee, Diane Quimby, CDS, an attorney and a bookkeeper and the filing for non profit status was mailed to the IRS just before Convention. Eighteen chapters had camps this year and Renee thinks there will be 25 camps in 2010. Due to the venue it was difficult to hear and talk with others at the gathering.

Saturday morning I attended the Membership Workshop, presented by National Co-chairs, Lynne MacVean, CIT and Janice Ramsay-Gonzales, Orange County Chapter, Region 12. They demonstrated how to use the membership information on the NAWIC National Website (www.nawic.org). Information from their workshop will be available on the NAWIC website under Membership. All regional chairs can post information from their workshop on the National Website and update throughout the year.

Saturday afternoon attendees had free time to enjoy the resort or sightsee.

Saturday evening the Crystal Vision Awards Gala honored Mr. Jeffery Callahan, as the Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award Recipient, Ms. Judith Ritter, as the Crystal Vision Award Recipient, and Ms. Catherine Escobar, as the Crystal Achievement Award Recipient. Convention Resolutions were presented by Region 12's own "trucker gal" Izzi Zandvliet, Long Beach Area Chapter. The evening concluded with presentation of the President's Gavel to 2009-2010 President, Robin Fulton Meyer, CIT, with the assistance of Past National Presidents in attendance.

It was an honor to be one of thirteen NAWIC San Diego Members who attend the 54th Annual NAWIC Convention. If any members have questions or would like additional information about the 2009 Convention, please contact me by email or phone.