

National Association of Women in Construction
San Diego Chapter #21
Convention Delegate Report
Phoenix, AZ 2009

Different from my fellow delegates, my national convention duties started on Sunday evening. As a part of the national board, the Parliamentarian, I attended the NAWIC Board Rap Session. This is a casual type meeting where the regional directors and the officers gather to discuss issues and brainstorm in a less formal environment than the board meeting.

Starting early Monday morning, I participated in the Strategic Plan meeting working with others to streamline and make achievable NAWIC's BIG Audacious Goal. Using the goals of the Strategic Plan, my group was charged with formulating a process to make the big audacious goal achievable. NAWIC's Big Audacious Goal is the association's envisioned (10 years) future – *NAWIC will be **the** global resource for professional development in the construction industry.*

Monday afternoon, I attended the NAWIC Executive Committee. This is a meeting of the Officers and NAWIC Executive Vice President, Dede Hughes. Monday evening, a little time for fun, I spent some time with my sister, a resident of the Phoenix area.

Bright and early Tuesday morning, I was on duty as NAWIC Parliamentarian at the National Board Meeting. This can be a difficult experience for someone who always has an opinion (like me). The Parliamentarian is present only to ensure that parliamentary procedure is followed by the board members and to answer any questions regarding the use of *Robert's Rules of Order*. Regardless of not being able to offer my opinion, it is always interesting to listen to the national board in action. Because all the board members hail from different regions across the United States, discussion and opinions are often diverse. I must offer though, when the Board votes and the board members leave the meeting, they are all in accord with the actions taken and are unified.

As it happened, the board meeting was the shortest in my history and we had the afternoon free! Well, my free time was spent finishing up some work I had to do on the installation so I was grateful for the break! Of course, I did find time to wander down to the lounge area to enjoy a glass (or two) of wine with some of my NAWIC buds that I only see at convention.

Wednesday morning I worked at the NAWIC Education Foundation store. The NEF Officers and Trustees were in the board meeting and I was coerced into covering the store. It was a pleasure though as *Construction Bookkeeping 101*, NEF's newest certification course, was selling like "hot cakes" which made me VERY proud.

I did have a lunch break where I was lucky enough to share table space with Edith Washington, the General Session Keynote speaker. What a delightful, thoughtful woman! She sure does have some funny stories – I laughed until my sides hurt!

On Wednesday afternoon, I was installed as a Trustee for the 2009-2010 NEF year.

I was front and center Wednesday evening at "Viva la NAWIC" Welcome Fiesta – the food was GREAT and the company entertaining. I always like to hear our "first-timers" initial perception of the national meeting.

Of course, Thursday morning, on duty again, I attended the NAWIC General Session. I have to admit, the experience stretched my comfort zone in parliamentary procedure! However, I am a proponent of discussion coming to the floor

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at this meeting because I believe members leave with a better understanding of the reasons for the national board's decisions and actions.

On to the Awards Luncheon – I guess because I have been a member for 25 years, this showcase of our top members and chapters often brings tears to my eyes. These WINNERS are doing such a great job of carrying forth the message of NAWIC. It was fantastic to see Anita, our chapter President, on stage representing San Diego Chapter as one of the top 5 largest chapters in the nation.

Thursday afternoon, I was one of the presenters at *New NEF Certification! Construction Bookkeeping Workshop*. I guess that would count as something I could bring home to the chapter! Anyone wanting information regarding this new certification – please contact me.

I participated in the *Chapter Board Training* – an informative, real-world chapter board meeting experience.

Thursday evening I attended my annual dinner with a few of my favorite past national presidents!

For only the second time in 25 conventions, I missed the region photograph! I got caught up in conversation on my way to the location and arrived at 8:08 AM – only to discover the picture had already been taken!

Being nervous about officiating at the Retirement and Installation ceremonies, I spent the majority of the morning making sure I could make it through the scripts without embarrassing myself.

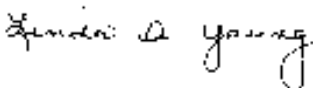
After the luncheon, I had a Past National President Meeting and a joint meeting with the NAWIC Board and the past national presidents.

Saturday morning I attended the Membership Workshop – many tips and suggestions were offered to help chapters retain and grow their membership numbers. Janice Ramsay-Gonzalez and Lynn MacVean are experts in membership recruitment. I also attended the NEF workshop.

Post-con NAWIC Executive Committee meeting and the Post-con NAWIC board meeting took up my afternoon again in my position as National Parliamentarian.

The banquet was wonderful. I am so awed by the recipients of the Carol Keucker Education Award and the Crystal Vision Awards. I want to be just like them when I grow up!

Thank you NAWIC San Diego for electing me as a delegate. It was, as always, a rewarding experience representing the San Diego Chapter.



Linda A. Young
NAWIC San Diego Chapter Convention Delegate 2009