

NAWIC National Convention Report

By Myrna Smith
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Our National Convention this year was held in Phoenix, Arizona. I am truly blessed to have met NAWIC sisters Kim Briggs and Pam Gibbs. Due to the tough economic times, we got together and decided to drive this trip to Phoenix, share a room, buy some snacks for our room and split all costs. This was so helpful in cutting costs so that we could all go and enjoy the convention. We arrived Wednesday afternoon to the most beautiful JW Marriott Resort. What a nice place and our room was so nice. The staff at the resort was so pleasant the entire time we were there.

After we got settled in and toured the facility and checked out the many pools, Jacuzzi, lazy river, etc., we started getting ready for the Welcome Fiesta Party. The food was excellent and there were all sorts of fun games to play, along with a Mariachi band. We tried to look our best for the theme of the evening.



Thursday morning was General Session. The National Anthem was sang so beautifully by 2 NAWIC members. We were all welcomed to Phoenix by the Mayor of Phoenix, Phil Gordon. Credentials reports were then given, and adoption of the Annual Meeting Rules and adoption of Convention Program were voted on. Our Keynote Speaker was Edith Washington and her topic was "Turning Points". Edith was an awesome presenter, as she spoke about the benefits of using power tools such a as positive communication, empathetic leadership and tolerance.

There was then a special presentation where Master Member recruiter Toni Walker received her Gold Jacket for membership recruitment. Members & Delegates were then led into a caucus on the different categories of membership. It was interesting to actually be a Delegate representing San Diego and being a part of this interesting time. We were then adjourned to the Awards Luncheon.



At the Awards luncheon, awards were given for the winner of the CAD/Drafting, Block Kids, Volunteer of the Year, Longevity Recognition, WIC Week, Construction Profession & Education and Membership. In addition, they had awards for Best Programs, Top Chapter Membership, Region vs. Region Winners, One + One, Red Rose Recruiters, Founders' Trophy and Executive Spotlight. San Diego Chapter won 5th place in the Membership awards.

After the awards luncheon we had the opportunity to attend several different seminars. The ones that I attended were "Construction Manager's Role in Pre-Construction" and "Construction Communication – Paper Power". After the seminars, we were on our own for the evening. Several of us from the San Diego Chapter, including our Past President Amber Smith, all went to dinner across the street from the resort.

Friday morning started with a day of seminar choices for everyone in attendance. I was very fortunate to have signed up early for the "Construction Project Management Course" which was an all day seminar. The instructor was from San Diego, which was a special treat for a lot of topics he covered and gave reference to were familiar to me. He covered many topics such as: defining project success or failure; project delivery approaches; the contract as a risk

management tool; managing cost and time; addressing project changes – claims; project impacts; and dispute avoidance, mitigation and resolution. This course was a Lorman Education Services course and included a manual.

At lunch on Friday we all took a break from seminars and attended the installation luncheon. This is where they retired the 2008-2009 National Board and installed the 2009-2010 Board. Pat McDonald was the retiring National President and she has done such an awesome job as our National President. Robin Fulton Meyer was installed in as our new National President. She is from our very own Region 12 and I know she is going to do a great job in leading NAWIC this coming year. This was an awesome Ceremony and our very own Linda Young did such a great job introducing everyone. After the day of seminars, several of us NAWIC sisters got together and journeyed, once again, across the street from the resort to have a dinner, relax and visit.

Saturday morning offered several NAWIC related workshops that we could attend. I attended the *“PR/Marketing”* workshop first, for I am going to be the chair our San Diego Committee this coming year. I was actually able to pick up some very interesting tips and helpful information on how to get the word out on our events. I then attended the *“Construction Profession & Education”* workshop. In this workshop, we divided into groups and each group was given a topic question to discuss with our group. That was a lot of fun to hear what all the different chapters in different states around the country do in their chapters. I picked up a few great ideas to take back to the Professional Education Committee that I am a member of.



Saturday evening was the Crystal Vision Awards Gala. The event was so beautiful. Awards were presented for the Education Visionary Recipient, the Crystal Achievement Recipient, and the Crystal Vision Recipient. Along with these awards was the Passing of the President's Gavel Presentation, which was done by all of the Past National Presidents that were in attendance. After this, Izzy Zandvliet read the resolutions for the ending of the convention and the ending of Pat McDonald's term as President.

Sunday was the ending of yet another memorable National Convention and everyone was saying their good-byes and heading home to their states. I am so thankful to the San Diego Chapter for allowing me to be a Delegate to represent our chapter. I am also very blessed that the company I work for, Harper Construction, allowed me to take this time off to attend this National Convention. I am definitely looking forward to Kentucky next year!