

On Wednesday August 26, 2009, Southwest Airlines successfully delivered Gwen Miller, Rukhsana Hafeez and I to Phoenix, Nevada Airport where we were greeted by triple digit temperatures. This being my first visit to Nevada, I was introduced first hand to desert heat, but lucky for me, all of our business was taking place at the JW Marriott Resort, so exposure to the elements was not warranted.

Once we checked into our rooms (I roomed with our incoming President, Lorelee Langworthy) and registered for the Convention, we were Welcomed to the great Mexican Themed Welcome Fiesta, "Viva La NAWIC" where they even offered a special NAWIC drink called the NEKKID LADY". Not bad, I might add.....

Our Convention started bright and early the next morning by our President Pat McDonald, followed by the singing of the National Anthem sung by Donna Revis, CIT, Santa Clara, CA NAWIC Chapter and Sandy Field, Houston, Texas NAWIC Chapter. Followed by our greeting from the Mayor of Phoenix, Nevada where they claim to have the second largest NAWIC Chapter in the United States. They plan to be the largest Chapter this year.....Ladies, are we going to let that happen???

Roll Call proved that we had a total this year of 386 in attendance. Go TEAM NAWIC! This was followed with other NAWIC convention reports and business presented to the Chapter Delegates. I must admit that due to the new SOX enforcements, there was much of the democratic process being implemented as Delegates got to voice theirs and their Chapter's concerns.

Our Keynote Speaker was Edith Washington, one of the most positive women I have heard speak, professing that all of us are empowered. We need to accept, analyze, assess, act and adjust! We spend too much time putting people into Boxes, instead we need to unite and show empathy! Everyone should be a C D T! A change maker, dream catcher and transformer. We ALWAYS should dream, risk and expect more of ourselves and of others.

We continued with NAWIC Business and a special presentation to Tony Walker, NAWIC's Master Recruiter. Tony is the extraordinary woman who has not only earned the coveted RED ROSE RECRUITER Jacket, but now she has been promoted to a Gold Blazer! You go, Tony!

The Awards Luncheon surprised our very own Linda Young, CIT with an award recognizing her effort to produce the NEF Bookkeeping 101 for release at this Convention. Go Linda! Our Chapter also received a 6th. place award for Membership.....this year we move up, right?!

In the afternoon I attended the Volunteering in the Real World Part 1 workshop followed by the Are you Smarter than a NAWIC President Workshop. This was a repeat of last year where you got to go off into groups and have a mock Board of Directors meeting with actual problems to work out. I had a lot of fun, learned a few new things and made friends with a great Gal from New York who promises to bug me throughout her NAWIC term as President of her Chapter this year. We had a brief President's meeting and I was off to meet my NAWIC San Diego Chapter Sisters to commiserate about Convention.

Friday led the way with a plethora of workshop offerings beginning at 9 a.m. I chose the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Class, parts one and two, since I am finding myself in new territories as my

business and work staff grows. What an eye opener for me, too. Did you know that employees have 365 days AFTER leaving your employ to file a Sexual Harassment Suit? And that Third Parties who witness said harassment file more of the law suits then the person being harassed? This gave me food for thought as I meandered over to the Installation Lunch.

The Installation Lunch was an emotional event with the retiring of the old Board of Directors and the Installing of the New Board. The 2008-2009 NAWIC National Officers and Board Members were retired by Linda Young, CIT, from our San Diego Chapter, followed by installation of the 2009-2010 NAWIC National Officers and Board Members also by Linda Young, CIT, from our 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.

I only peeked for about 10 minutes into the Estimating class being conducted by San Diego's Frank Young, as I could not stay or I would not make the next workshop I wanted to attend. However, I did hear that NAWIC gave Linda Young, CIT cause to brag and amazed her husband with what great Estimators NAWIC has to offer. It seems that he was very impressed that NAWIC came closest in their Estimate then with any other group he has offered his class to. Go NAWIC!

Saturday's meetings were all NAWIC Association Workshops. From the moment you walked into the room, you felt more at ease, comfortable in knowing that you were amongst family. This is where you learn the passion behind the drive that each Committee Chair conveys in her workshop. From the start of the Committee Chairs workshop, followed by the Membership Committee workshop and ending with the NEF/How to Help my Chapter, My Community I was in a whirlwind of dynamic personalities and a wealth of information. As incoming Regional Membership Co Chair and SD Chapter Membership Co Chair, I was deep in ideas to bring back to my Chapter and spread through the Region all about Membership in NAWIC. I met my Region Co Chair, Debbie Mello from the Las Vegas Chapter to brainstorm over lunch what we will be doing to help increase Membership. We were both so excited that I don't think we even ate our food! I returned to my room where Lorelee Landworthy, CIT, my roomy, was preparing a surprise Corsage of Roses for me to wear at the Crystal Vision Award Banquet later that evening. What a beautiful wrist Corsage I wore; it was the envy of all who noticed.

The Crystal Vision Awards banquet was a great affair where we, NAWIC, honored three recipients with the Crystal Vision, Crystal Achievement and the Carol Kueker Award, along with highlights of the recipients' achievements. But the piece de resistance was the Invocation by our very own NAWIC Region #12 Stand up Comic, **Izzy Zandvliet**, for our Outgoing President, Pat McDonald, CCA, CIT, the Mother Trucker. I laughed so hard that my jaw hurt! What a fantastic way to end a perfect Convention.