

Our Region 12 Forum that was held April 23rd and 24th was truly amazing! Izzy and her committee really outdid themselves. The theme was “NAWIC High School Homecoming Weekend.” The event started Friday night with a “Pep Rally” that included a band, hamburgers and ice cream. It was so much fun to see so many NAWIC sisters dressed up in their high school clothing. A few had cheerleading outfits on, but most were wearing skirts with blouses. I wore my high school jersey from the sorority I was in during high school (Chi Delta Chi). It was so much fun seeing so many of the sisters from the region that I have not seen in quite some time. I brought my hubby and Brandon along. Brandon waived the pom-poms around most of the night.

On Saturday morning we started early with registration and Ways & Means. I was able to sell quite a few tickets, shirts and hats! The Opening Ceremonies started at 9:00 a.m. with the Long Beach Police Department presenting the colors. The Long Beach Junior Concert Band played the Star Spangled Banner and a few other tunes. Unfortunately, I was sitting right next to the guy with the drums! We could feel the vibration of the drums which was not very comfortable, but very amusing for everyone else! (Lorelee and I had our fingers in our ears.)

Our first speaker was Iris Harrell of Harrell Remodeling. She was very interesting and had quite a diverse background. Iris worked for 5 years as a teacher, 5 years in a band and has been a general contractor for 30 years. She started out with 4 employees and now has 32 employees. Her first male employee started working with her in 1987. She had many “words of wisdom” to share with us. Most importantly, to market like crazy at least one year before the recession hits! It works! She is currently grooming her employees to take over when she retires. She does not want to sell her business to anyone else! One last thing – whatever your competitor is doing, do something else!

Next on the agenda was Forum business by Linda Young. She informed us of the Adoption of Forum Agenda and Forum Rules. Dee Breedlove gave us the Credentials Report and Linda Young read a memorial. Ellen Colglazier, Region 12 Director, gave us her report. Donna Castaneda read the Regional Fund Report and Debra Mello gave us information on membership. Many of the members in Chapter 21 will be receiving a certificate for recruiting new members! I am on the list as a recruiter!

Our new director for Region 12 is Janice Ramsey-Gonzalez for the 2010-2012 term. Our next Regional Fund Trustee will be Dianne Storms. The Forum in 2011 will be held in Buellton and Forum 2012 will be held in San Bernardino.

Our second speaker was Dr. Tara Zandvliet, Izzy’s daughter. She was very informative and entertaining. (Gee, I wonder who she inherited her personality from?) Her topic was “Maintenance Manual for a Healthy System.” We each received a manual and checklist to keep ourselves healthy. I found it very interesting that we are a “cougar” at 50 instead of 40 if we get an STD. By the time we are 80, we are wondering what an STD is! Ha!

Lunch was a lot of fun at our table! We were graced with the presence of our National President, Robin Fulton-Meyer.

Our last speaker was Jay Fisher, a USC Construction Manager, that spoke about “Construction that Floats your Boat.” He was very entertaining and engaging to listen to. It was very interesting to listen to his story about how they built 5 homes at Terminal Island in Los Angeles and then moving them to the USC campus at Two Harbors, Catalina Island. One would think that it would make more sense to build them on the island, but with the cost of material and labor on the island, it was cheaper to build them in LA. Since there is not a lot to do at Two Harbors, the workers would get drunk and then the contracting company would go out of business. There is only 1 restaurant and 1 store at Two Harbors. It was so amazing to watch the video of moving the houses onto the barges and then off to the island. Once they arrived at the island, to watch the house being moved up a hill to its final resting place was another feat. I thought the tires would go flat, but they were not filled with air, of course! The story about Ted, the one-eyed mover, who lost one of his eyes during the move, was quite entertaining. He found it later after the move was over!

Deb Gregoire, our President-Elect conducted a team building exercise where we split in groups of 8 to build a “person” out of balloons, stickie-notes, pipe cleaners, glue and eye buttons. In the first minute, we were not able to use our voice and one of our hands. The next minute we were able to use our voice, but only one hand. Next, we were able to use both hands and we had 1 minute left to build our spokesperson for our group with a name and a story. I was the spokesperson in our group to describe “Bertha the Builder” and how she was able to work with men, be big busted, etc., etc. It was fun to see what everyone had put together in such a short period of time. When you have many great minds together, you are able to come up with so many wonderful ideas!

The reception was very elegant outside our ballroom and also overlooked the downtown area. It was wonderful seeing everyone in their elegant gowns. There were a few with a sash and crown for “prom night.” I enjoyed giving Lorelee a corsage to wear for the procession of the chapter presidents. Awards were given to the winners of Block Kids and other programs. The entertainment was a group from UCLA called the “Scattertones.” They were very talented and quite fun to watch. The evening concluded where we honored our outgoing director, Ellen Colglazier, and welcomed our incoming director, Janice Rhamsy-Golzalez. I highly recommend that each and every one of you attend our next Forum. It was well worth my time and money to spend the weekend at this educational and fun event!

Patricia L. Brown
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