



Constructively Speaking

National Association of Women in Construction Portland Chapter 54
Established in 1961

December 2008

Events Calendar

January 5th:
Board Meeting
Safeco Insurance

January 15th:
Membership Meeting
Location TBA

Highlights

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NAWIC Guideline No. 4
Each Member has a standing dinner reservation for the monthly meeting, unless otherwise specifically arranged. If a reservation is not canceled by noon on Monday of the week of the meeting, the Member will be billed for the cost of the dinner.

December Membership Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 **NEW!**
5:30 p.m. registration begins / 6:00 p.m. dinner/program
Parking free from 5:30 – 9:30 Only!

Location: Turner Construction Company **NEW!**
1200 NW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR

Cost: \$25.00

Menu: "Comfort and Joy"
"A Sip of Soup"-Spiced Chicken Broth with Chive Flans
Shrimp in Dill Butter
Pork Roast with Winter Fruits and Port Sauce
Kale and Potato Puree
Salad of 20 greens with Champagne Vinaigrette
Artisan Breads/Sweet Butter
Red Fruit Pudding, Christmas Cookies, Coffee Service

*** SEE PAGE FOUR FOR PROGRAM DETAILS ***

RSVP: Edie Bales (503) 697-0171 or email: edibal@safeco.com by noon, Friday, December 12th if you need to cancel your standing reservation, are bringing a guest, or if you are a permanent cancel and will attend. Note: A minimum of 48 hours cancellation notice is required or you will be invoiced.

A Message from our President, Lauren Holmes

Happy Holidays!! The crazy hustle and bustle is officially here, and the shopping frenzy is upon us. I hope that everyone had a fabulous "turkey day" and did not have to loosen their belt too much after the large meals we all consumed.

This month we shifted our Christmas party to TUESDAY the 16th so that we can have our meeting at Turner Construction Co, on the waterfront, and watch the fabulously lit Christmas Boats float by. Our focus for this months meeting is a food drive for the Oregon Food Bank, so please bring non-perishable food or a donation so that we can help Oregon families put food on the table during the holidays!

The Professional Education committee is still working through ideas for this years programs. We still have a lot of people who have not taken the survey. Please visit the survey link below to help us plan the programs that we want to see this year.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=y7BBU9_2fS78hU6LhpTS8Inw_3d_3d

National Association of Women in Construction**Region 9 . 2008 . Annual Planning Conference . Spokane, Washington**

November 16, 2008

Report By: Amanda Wilson, Portland Chapter #54 Member

The following summary is intended to update the NAWIC Portland Chapter #54 members of the information and training provided at the 2008 Region 9 Annual Planning Conference (APC) held in Spokane, Washington on October 18th, 2008 at the Double Tree Inn.

Conference registration began the evening before with an activity aimed at getting to know fellow members through a list of facts – one fun fact about each person attending; members wondered around trying to guess which fact was associated with which person! Trust me – we learned a lot! After registration, I attended a “First Timers Meeting” led by NAWIC President, Pat McDonald and past President, Chris Wigginton. The session explained the purpose of APC and first-timers outlined their expectations. We reviewed the numerous resources available online and were encouraged to continue seeking leadership roles. President Holmes report will highlight the “Chapter & Regional Leadership Meeting” provided by Region 9 Director, Yasmine A. Branden, CCA.

The 2008 APC was called to order by Yasmine. The local Color Guard did a nice job of presenting the National Anthem and leading us through the Pledge. Conference business began with the review of APC Rules, Agenda, and the appointment of an Audit Committee and Timekeeper. Registration report confirmed 50 in total attendance, including six from our chapter.

The Spokane chapter welcomed attendees and introduced us to the area. We learned about the local history, economy, and the diversity of activities/sites to visit. Next, guest speaker, James Wavada, with the Washington Department of Ecology provided a unique presentation on “Green Build.” Unlike most discussions on sustainability and building green which typically focuses on new construction, James proved that historic structures can be renovated to achieve LEED certifications. He reviewed multiple projects in the Spokane area that have incorporated new systems technology, such as solar, and he identified a variety of program incentives. The presentation was educational and interesting because it answered many questions regarding the LEED process, as well as provided a detailed history of the area.

A Director’s Report and Expense Fund was provided to each attendee for review and discussed. Lead by Yasmine, the members spent a great deal of time discussing NAWIC and the IRS. Yasmine explained what it meant to be a 501(c) business; defined inurement and how it impacted Life Members; member expenses; areas of non-compliance; and what changes Chapters need to make their by-laws. Each Chapter was tasked with ensuring that their members are informed about the changes; a detailed hand-out on the policies and changes was distributed to help inform the members back at home.

Before lunch, the Region 9 Director candidates provided impressive presentations and answered questions by the members. We have a tough choice this election with the following running for our support: Cathy Brady (Tri Cities), Katie Hanning, CIT (Boise), and Fil Spiegel (Alaska). Watch for campaign ads! We were all excited to hear of another on the campaign trail – from our very own chapter - Yasmine, who will be running for National Vice President!!!

Amanda's APC report continued ~

Next, we tested our leadership skills by all participating in the Chapter Leadership Exercise training. The members were divided into random teams and provided problems to solve. The problems included situations that often arise in chapters; the teams shared how they would resolve the issue. It was quit interesting to interact in the groups and hear the variety of approaches; for the exact same situation, teams would present completely different ways to resolve it.

Hosting chapters introduced the locations for the 2009 Forum in Seattle, the 2009 APC in our home town at the Residence Inn Downtown Riverplace, and the upcoming Oregon Retreat.

An update on NFSF (NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation) was provided by Chris Wigginton. The foundation is often confused with NEF (NAWIC Education Foundation); however, it is completely separate and is a great avenue for us to support students attending an accredited university related to the construction industry. I followed with a presentation on NEF, touching on the benefits of the certification programs including the CCA (Certified Construction Associate), CDS (Construction Document Specialist), and the CIT (Construction Industry Technician) and encouraged chapter leaders to support their members by hosting study sessions. Program books are now available for purchase separate from the tests. Please let me know if you are interested in being a testing monitor. I challenged each chapter to set fundraising goals for NEF because the wonderful educational programs such as the CAD drafting competitions, Block Kids, and Building Design all need contributions to succeed. National has provided the regions with raffle tickets to help support the efforts – prizes are drawn at Convention. Note that donations received via membership registration and through raffles can no longer be applied to Ladder Club; if you have contributed to Ladder Club and believe that you are missing a pin and/or that National's records do not accurately reflect your contributions, please let me know. Finally, I asked the conference attendees to remind their chapter members that we have Regional committee chairs for each NEF program to help support them.

The final conference event was a Scarecrow Design/Build Project; a fun teambuilding task in which we divided into groups to compete in creating the *best* scarecrow. Each team member fulfilled a role similar to those on a typical construction project (architect, superintendent, safety manager, etc...) and from there we designed our scarecrow, established a budget and safety plan, procured the materials and constructed *her*. Our team included three of our own Portland chapter members... so of course WE WON!

After the conference, the hosting chapter took us on a walking Spokane Downtown Building Tour. We were able to view the various buildings described by the guest speaker, including the famous Davenport Hotel! What an impressive historic structure and piece of art; it was a perfect way to end the conference! I thoroughly enjoyed attending the conference and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about NAWIC and our industry, plan for the New Year, and work on team building skills. Spokane did a fantastic job at the hosting the event by ensuring it was educational, interesting, organized, and fun.

Thank you for supporting me in helping to represent our chapter at APC.

Amanda Wilson



NAWIC #54 December 16, 2008 Meeting Details

Turner Construction is located at 1200 NW Naito Parkway in the Albers Mill Building which abuts to the Broadway Bridge on the north side. Their office suite number is 300 (3rd floor).

The lobby doors and elevator lock down at 6:00 p.m. Our hostess, Marilyn Morrison, will check for late-comers periodically and facilitate lobby door entry and elevator service. **DO NOT** utilize the stairs. The stairway doors lock at 5:00 p.m. and Marilyn does not have a key. You will be stuck in the stairwell until morning! Brrr ...!

Parking is available at no cost at the Albers Mill main lot facing north adjacent to the building between the hours of 5:30p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Parking earlier or later will result in a ticket. **DO NOT** park in slots marked Visitor.

Please remember to bring your canned food donation for the **Oregon Food Bank**.

Our evening schedule will be as follows:

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Social
6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner and special activity
Sometime after 7:00 p.m.	Christmas ships will sail past Turner's office

Please feel free to dress with holiday flare but don't forget a warm coat if you plan on viewing the ships outdoors on Turner's expansive deck.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone ~ and guests are welcome! Please contact Edie Bales by Friday, December 12th to RSVP.

Our sincere thanks to Turner Construction and Marilyn Morrison for their hospitality.

