



Constructively Speaking

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

October 2007

Events Calendar

18-Oct: Membership Meeting

19, 20-Oct: Annual Planning Conference, Great Falls, Montana

5-Nov: Board Meeting – Safeco

15-Nov: Membership Meeting

Highlights

President's Message
Page 1

Convention Reports
Pages 2 - 4

Industry Announcements
Pages 4 - 6

Convention Photos
Last Page

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 Tuesday of the week of the meeting, the Member will be billed for the cost of the dinner.

October Membership Meeting Notice

Date: Thursday, October 18th
5:30 p.m. registration begins
6:00 p.m. dinner/program

Location: Portland Homebuilders Association Banquet Room
15555 SW Bangy Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Near I-5/Hwy 217 Intersection. Parking lot shared with Trader Joes.

Cost: \$25.00

Menu: Pork Loin with oven roasted Red Potatoes, Mixed Green Salad, Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Program: "Extreme Makeover Home Edition – How They Did It"

How did they do it? Jim Chapman, president of Legend Homes, will explain how, with a lot of help from hundreds of subcontractors and volunteers, they built nearly a 4,000 SF home in less than 106 hours. Hear the story about the day ABC swooped into town and asked Legend Homes to build a new home for a needy family, and what made this endeavor so important to the Legend Homes team.

RSVP: Phone (503-620-8080) or email Nancy Oswald (noswald@legendhomes.com) or Jodie Guthrie (jguthrie@legendhomes.com) by noon, Tuesday, October 16th, 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, Edie Bales

Happy NAWIC New Year! It's hard to believe that one NAWIC year is past and we start another. I want to thank our past President, Gloria Bruning and the 2006-07 board for all they did and I hope the coming year runs just as well!

We are off to a great start. Never since I've been with NAWIC have we had so many newer members shown such enthusiasm. Many have jumped in and are on the board or volunteered to chair or participate in committees. And of course, we still have great support from our "seasoned" members!

I'd like to remind you all to get your membership renewals into national. The sooner the better. Not only do you or your employer save a little money, but it helps us know as a chapter where we stand on our membership count. I'm hoping you all renew, although I'm sad to say a couple of told me they have chose not to and are going to enjoy their retirement. However I have a feeling we'll see them from time to time.

The regional Annual Planning Conference is coming up later this month. It should be educational and if you know those Great Falls NAWICian's... no doubt we'll have fun as well!

Regards,
Edie Bales, President

2007 Convention Report

Gloria Bruning

Convention 2007 officially began for our chapter at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday afternoon when NAWIC Marketplace opened. Our chapter sales table, manned by Yasmine Branden, Barbara Freeman, Erin Holmes and myself, sold fleece vests, polo shirts and roadster kits. We quickly sold out of the vests and shirts and brought back approximately half of our roadster kit stock. Our total sales for the day totaled \$777! Wednesday evening was the Welcome Party where we enjoyed meeting new and old friends, lively music, and tropical-themed food.

Thursday morning the Annual Meeting began with President Chris Wigginton presiding. The key note speaker, Vicki Hitzges, was absolutely terrific. She provided insightful tips on how to reach out to others and stressed the importance of communication skills and how it relates to our careers. Vicki shared the statistic, provided by research at Harvard University, that 93% of our ability to be successful in business is based upon our people skills. The remaining 7% is our technical skills. That was quite an eye-opener for many of us!

Thursday afternoon and all-day Friday was spent attending various seminars. I was so impressed by our key-note speaker, Vicki Hitzges, I chose to attend another of her sessions. Her presentation of "Here I Am - There You Are" was indeed entertaining as well as educational. By the end of the session, it was clear that we all want to be the "There You Are" person where we are the ones reaching out, putting others first, and how it benefits us in every aspect of life, especially the workplace.

I attended two seminars led by Marian York with WORDpower Institute. Possessing good communication skills was the theme of Marian's presentations. The first session was entitled "You Win or Lose with the Words You Choose." The second session was "Think On Your Feet ... Communication Excellence." Some of the tips shared by Marian that I noted:

- Venting your frustrations to a friend, co-worker, family, etc. is great to a point. Be aware it can begin to drain you instead of providing healing. Know when to stop.
- Do you tend to procrastinate? Are you over-whelmed? Break the task down into baby-steps. Much more doable. And when asked to volunteer and you find you can't say no, add "if I have can" then ask for additional details.
- Be certain to set your own boundaries and stick to them. It may annoy others but that's easier to deal with than your own stress and frustration.
- Keep people in the loop. It contributes to everyone's quality of life.
- Remember that words mean different things to different people.
- The word "but" creates conflict. Marian suggests replacing "but" with "and."
- To help eliminate brain freeze - especially at a business meeting, do a "brain dump." Write down all your thoughts, then go back and prioritize before having your discussion. Writing your thoughts down helps lock them in.
- Create written records to avoid misunderstandings later.

Marian has many more great tips to share. Check out her website: www.mywordpower.com

Friday afternoon I attended a session led by Janice Urbanic, CDS, CIT - a member from Region 4, Cincinnati, Ohio. Her topic, "Diversity in the Workplace: Unleashing the Power of a Multi-Generational Workplace." There are four basic generations: Veterans - born 1922-1945; Baby Boomers - born 1946-1964; Generation X - born 1965-1980; and Millennials - born 1981-2000. Janice advised that your generation is not always determined by the year of your birth, but rather your values, style and sense of belonging to the generational personality that exists for each group. Janice went on to describe defining events and trends for each generation. It became quite clear to all in attendance why the generations seem to "clash" upon examining the quite different values and beliefs we share. Janice provided her PowerPoint presentation to me by email. Please let me know if you'd like a copy.

Convention closed with the Crystal Awards banquet on Saturday evening. Thank you Chapter 54 for allowing me the opportunity to represent you. - Gloria Bruning

Convention Report - Redford Style

Ahhhhhh..... the National Convention, i.e. Annual Meeting. No matter who you talk to, you will get a wide range of opinions regarding this event. Is it worth the money, time and energy a member puts into it? Is it worth the same for an employer? In my opinion, yes, definitely! I've been a member since January 1992 and have spent quite a few days at regional and national meetings. But everyone should go to convention....at least once.

This trip I had just resigned from my 19 year position at CWI. I was feeling pretty sour on all things. I arrived at the airport and headed to the kiosk to automatically get my boarding pass on American Airlines. Whoa... first thing it asked me if I wanted to upgrade to first class for \$90.00 on the leg from Houston to Orlando. Is this a sign of fun times? I jumped all over that. You members with long legs understand my happiness.

I arrived in Orlando about 12:45 am Thursday morning - very humid; arrived at Caribe Royale Orlando about 1:30 am and FINALLY to the suite where Barbara and Gloria were snoring loudly at 2 am. When they say they weren't - don't believe them. About 6:45 am I had coffee by my bed. I'm pretty sure it was a "I'm sorry for snoring" gift of remorse. I jumped up and got to it while listening to the antics of my two roomies. Air boats looking for gators, roller coasters at Universal Studio, lying around the pool getting sunburned, and how our chapter won the lottery on our chapter sales. Now this was my type of fun.

I threw on the appropriate work attire (thank goodness for air conditioning) and headed to find more coffee and other kinds of stimulant for keeping my eyes opened. After all, Region 9 was taking over convention; President Wigginton was presiding, President Elect Tamie Taylor would be installed on Friday and our own Little General Branden would be stepping up to take over for Pam Wright as Region 9 Director. We - Region 9 - had front row seats!

Keynote Speaker, Vicki Hitzges CSP, gave a great wonderful talk on "Reaching Out". All of us know how to have a conversation, but with a little bit of finesse you can use the principles from this fun, motivational presentation to sharpen your listening and conversing skills and enjoy productive relationships with clients, vendors and co-workers.

The SAWIC contingency was there (NAWIC from South Africa). They had beautiful beaded jewelry and adornments that they had made and sold to pay for their trip to Florida. There is a flyer from SAWIC around; I'll send mine to Gloria for the chapter to view.

After the luncheon and Carhartt Fashion Show (yes, Carhartt finally got the message: Make Clothes for Women!) I took another power nap and then headed to a seminar called Here I Am - There You Are. Vicki Hitzges presented this seminar also and it was packed! We discovered the pay-off of building relationships by making other people feel important. You'll probably hear a lot of us saying "There you are!" We didn't want to be the "Here I am" gals.

Thursday evening the Swinging Salem girls (Shirley Wertz and Susan Wood) and the Portland crowd went to an Italian restaurant for a bit of dinner. We decided to eat family style. Not at all expensive, but very filling to put it mildly. This is where I finally overcame my "driving skills" and will be forever known for my "restroom etiquette".

Friday morning and another day of convention. But it was a bit different. This was the first national meeting NOT to have a 2nd day of the general session. How great was that? Thank you Chris! Professional Seminars / Workshops all day.

Marion York from WORDpower Institute presented an effective communication seminar called "You Win or Lose With The Words You Choose". Other seminars during the day included: NEF K-12 Programs, Turning Around A Troubled Project, Training 101: 10 Steps to Successful Skills Training Implementation, Think On Your Feet, NEF: News and Know-How, Effective Project Management, Construction Industry Update, Diversity in the Workplace: Unleashing The Power of a Multi-Generational Workplace, and about 6 or 7 more for the day.

(Continued on page 4)

(Judy Redford - Convention report continued)

At lunch NAWIC did installation of new national officers and "odd" region directors. It was a great to watch each person being installed. The ceremony was creative, at times serene, but most of all, a declaration of what NAWIC brings out in an individual. When someone has a lot to offer, NAWIC is a good place to channel that drive and determination and use it for the betterment of all folks in the construction business. Watching Yasmine being installed and at the same time watching her mother being so proud was a powerful emotion. Yasmine has come a long way in a short time. She's watching you.... Friday evening a many from Region 9 got together for a great steak dinner to celebrate Tamie and Yasmine's new endeavor.

Saturday was spent investigating what the difference was between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean; why you want to choose your breakfast place carefully; and why NIKE Outlet Stores are placed strategically and set-up to appeal to all generations.

Saturday evening was the Crystal Vision Award Banquet. Every lady put on her sequins and sparklies and enjoyed a fine dinner and camaraderie. Our entertainment was presented by Jeanne Robertson and her "Humor: More Than a Laughing Matter". This woman is 6'-2" tall and has an accent to put all southerners to shame. She made the evening. One last power shopping trip to the mall, power packing, and a 4 am drive to the airport ended our trip. Sunday morning we were all back in Portland feeling pretty proud of being a member of such a wonderful association.

By the way... Barbara and Gloria **do not** snore. However, I do! Also, if you ever get the opportunity to travel with these fine ladies, just do it (Nike's terminology). You will not only be embraced by their friendship but will experience NAWIC fully. And, you'll have memories to relive forever. Get ready - Convention 2008 is at the Flamingo in Las Vegas, Nevada September 3rd through the 7th. Thank you for the opportunity to represent Portland Chapter 54. ~ Judy Redford

SWE Columbia River Professional Development Presents:

How to Spot an Effective Manager (and then become one yourself)

Presented by Niki Steckler, Ph.D

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 – 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Managers come in all shapes and sizes-- how can you tell which ones are effective (and which one you'd prefer to work for)? This workshop will identify the key behaviors effective managers use to get things done, including how effective managers lead projects and teams over whom they have no formal authority. We will examine strategies for managing your relationship with your own manager in order to optimize your group's performance, and build skills for becoming a more effective manager yourself.

Niki Steckler is an Associate Professor in the Management in Science and Technology Department at the OGI School of Science and Engineering at Oregon Health & Science University. She holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Harvard University.

OGI
Wilson Clark Center Room 403
20000 NW Walker Rd
Beaverton, OR 97006
<http://www.ogi>.

Dinner is Included. Cash or check only. Pre-paid - \$20. At the door - \$25.

RSVP by October 11 to: aespx@aol.com Your pre-payment guarantees your seat.