

The Centerline

President's Message

Hello to all members of the NAWIC Pikes Peak Chapter 356!

Our December holiday party at Valerie Bates' house with the potluck and white elephant exchange was quite a fun time! It was great to see everyone and to share what we are all doing for the holidays. Our chapter always brings wonderful dishes to potlucks and we walk away *stuffed*.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year in NAWIC. January's meeting will be at the Coronado High School with their Robotics Team, sponsored by Olson Plumbing. We will give them our annual \$500.00 donation at that time as well. We always look forward to seeing what this year's theme is for their competition.

Saturday February 3rd will be our Block Kids Competition at the East Library.

February's meeting will be with Tumbleweed Tiny Houses. We are looking forward to learning more about the tiny houses trend happening in Colorado Springs. We will also be collecting bras... yes, I said bras... at this meeting for freethegirls.com. Free the Girls help women get out of sex trafficking and start a business to support themselves and their families. Please bring a dollar with every bra to help with overseas shipping expenses. We are trying to reach our goal of 100 bras, having about 20 so far. Thank you for your support of this (pun intended).

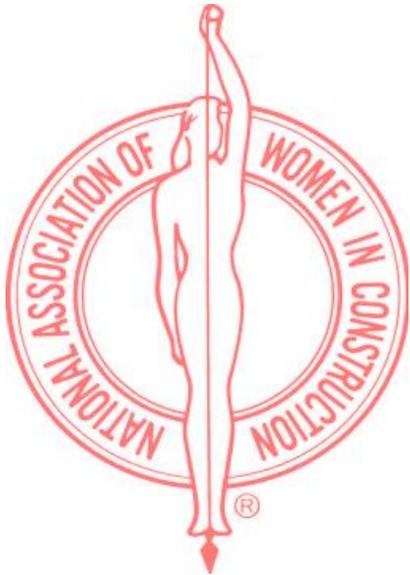
We are hoping to find some new community projects in which to participate this year. If you come across an organization you believe our team could serve, please let me know.

The End of the Year is upon us! Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Enjoy spending time with your family and friends. See you next year!

Berni Mount
NAWIC Pikes Peak Chapter 356
President 2016-2017

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“We see our future more clearly when we look into our past.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt

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2018 Block Kids Building Competition

Submitted by Committee Chair Karen Mitchell, CBT, CIT

The 2018 Block Kids Building Competition, sponsored by Pikes Peak Chapter 356, was held February 3, 2018 at the East Library and Information Center. Twenty-nine area students in grades K – 6 competed using 100 micro Legos and three of the following: a rock, string, foil, and/or poster board. Completed structures included an observatory, a marine biology station and a park. This year's participants demonstrated vast amounts talent and creativity. As always, our judges were impressed with the in-depth thinking and diversity displayed by our student builders.

Our judges selected Joshua R., a 3rd grade student at Martinez Elementary School, as our overall winner. Joshua built an environmentally-friendly space observatory with a telescopic dome and three sources of power: solar panels on the roof for the primary power source, wind turbines to power the observatory on cloudy days, and a dam and lake to serve as a backup hydroelectric power source. This is Joshua's third year competing in the Block Kids competition and he was excited to finally represent our chapter at the regional competition.

Thank you to all our NAWIC chapter members who volunteered their time ensuring a smooth competition and furnished prizes, snack and drinks.

In addition, thank you to the following judges who gave several hours of their valuable time and had the extremely difficult job of choosing and ranking finalists:

Cathy Andrew, CCA, Colorado Springs Utilities

Victoria Bartz, Expense Reduction Analysts

Ally Jencson, Frontline Floor Coatings

Chance Jencson

Naomi Kidd, Arapahoe Fire Protection, Inc.

Penny Metoxen

Leslie Miasnik, Contrack Watts, Inc.

Mark Mitchell, Double M Concrete LLC

Katie Trapp, CIT, Olson Plumbing and Heating Company



Finally, a special thank you to the East Library and Information Center staff who provided us with a meeting room which allowed our competitors to work comfortably.

Below is the environmentally-friendly space observatory built by third grader Joshua R. Note the three forms of power: solar panels on the roof, wind turbines (center) and a dam and lake for hydroelectric power (left).



These are the students who placed in both age groups.



Did you know?

CAD Design Competition

The CAD design competition is set up for high school students and in past years has also included Hand Drafting. CAD stands for Computer Aided Drafting.

In years past we have had a dental office, ADA two-story home, dollar store and this year a “tiny house” is the competition.

NAWIC national gives us the yearly problem in the late summer, early fall, which we pass on to the teachers in our area. Most schools that use it here in Colorado Springs use this curriculum in the fall and spring. We ask for the student forms to be filled out and returned to us each December. In January we let the regional CAD chair know approximately how many students are participating. This year we have 75. This includes four schools in our area: Doherty High School, Rampart High School, Florence High School and Canon City High School.

Students are required to do 5-7 pages of design on drafting sheets of paper. Sheet 1 is the roof plan. Sheet 2 is the floor plan. Sheet 3 is the electrical plan. Sheet 4 is exterior elevations. Sheet 5 is building section (framing, walls, etc.). Sheet 6 & 7 are optional and can include interior elevations, millwork elevations, additional building sections, door and window schedules and details, proposed construction schedule, proposed cost breakdown with total budget, etc.

We usually have the judging of the plans in early March. This year it will be March 10th. We find wonderful local judges who can read blueprints from the construction industry to come on a Saturday morning and look at the plans. Students are judged on how the plans look, the scale of the plans, did they follow the directions for this year’s competition, etc. Each set of plans is judged by three different judges.

Students are not allowed to put their name or school on the plans, so that no one knows where they come from.

Students can win monetary awards locally, regionally and nationally. NAWIC Pikes Peak Chapter 356 has the awards ceremony in April for the students. The plans are returned to the teachers along with the feedback from the judging. This way the teacher and student can go over what was written about the plans and hopefully learn from it.

Please let me or Paula Miller, Co-Chair, know if you are interested in sponsoring, judging or helping out with volunteering during the judging and awards.

Did you know?

Cougars Gone Wired – a district wide team for School District 11, is located at Coronado High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Students from Coronado High School, Palmer High School, and the surrounding areas participate on the team. The team is structured much like a business, with an all student-run leadership and participates in community events year round.

Robotics is part of the FIRST programs started in 1989 by Dean Kamen, who designed these programs for children, intending to invoke a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). FIRST, a non-profit organization, got its name from their motto: “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”.

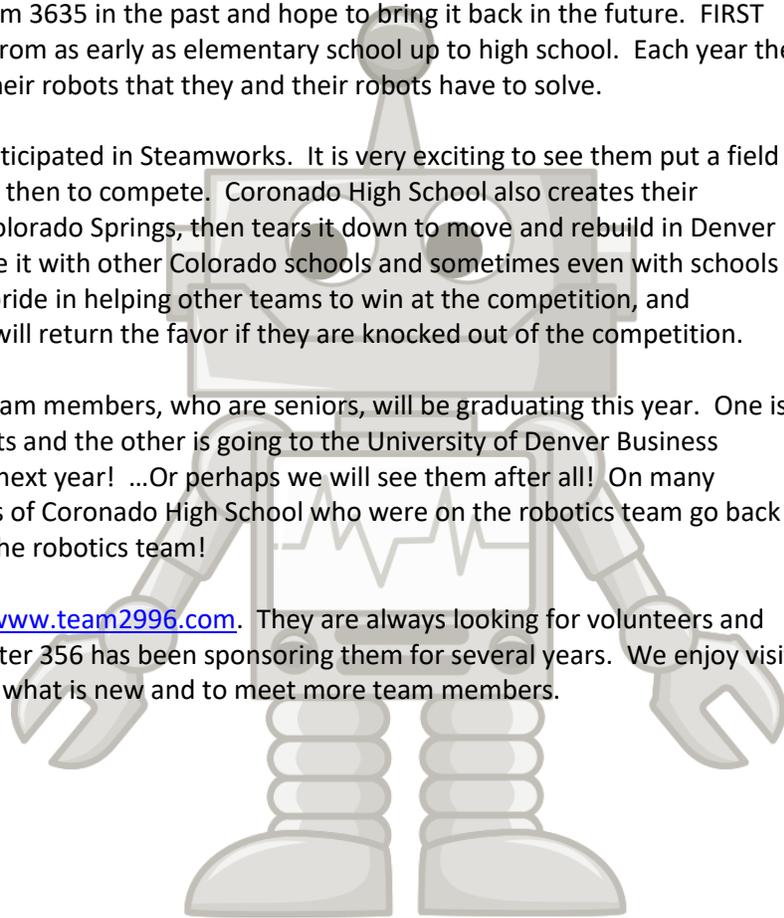
FIRST has four main programs – FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), FIRST Lego League (FLL) and FIRST Lego League Jr. (Jr. FLL). The Cougars Gone Wired Team 2996 is an FRC Team. They were also the FTC Team 3635 in the past and hope to bring it back in the future. FIRST offers their programs to students from as early as elementary school up to high school. Each year the team is given a new problem for their robots that they and their robots have to solve.

Last year, Cougars Gone Wired participated in Steamworks. It is very exciting to see them put a field together for their competition and then to compete. Coronado High School also creates their scrimmage practice field here in Colorado Springs, then tears it down to move and rebuild in Denver before the competition. They share it with other Colorado schools and sometimes even with schools nationwide. The team also takes pride in helping other teams to win at the competition, and surprisingly the competing teams will return the favor if they are knocked out of the competition.

Two of the Cougars Gone Wired team members, who are seniors, will be graduating this year. One is going to Poly Tech in Massachusetts and the other is going to the University of Denver Business School. We will miss seeing them next year! ...Or perhaps we will see them after all! On many occasions, several of the graduates of Coronado High School who were on the robotics team go back and mentor the new students on the robotics team!

Please check out their website at www.team2996.com. They are always looking for volunteers and sponsors. NAWIC Pikes Peak Chapter 356 has been sponsoring them for several years. We enjoy visiting with the team each January to see what is new and to meet more team members.

Go Cougars!



Women-owned firms

- Austin American-Statesman Sunday
- 21 Jan 2018
- By Joyce M. Rosenberg

More than twice as many companies in the U.S. are owned by women compared with 20 years ago. And the number of such businesses is growing two-and-a-half times faster than companies overall.

Those are two findings of an American Express report on women-owned businesses measuring the growth of these companies from 1997 to 2017. Also in the report:

There are 11.6 million companies owned by women in the U.S. accounting for 39 percent of all U.S. companies. Nearly half of women-owned businesses, or 5.4 million, are owned by minority women.

The number of women-owned companies grew 114 percent from 1997 to 2017, compared to 44 percent growth in all companies. The growth rate for women-owned firms was 2.7 percent between 2016 and 2017 versus 1 percent for all businesses.

Revenue grew more slowly at women-owned firms during the 20-year period: 103 percent versus 114 percent at all U.S. firms. The fastest growth in women-owned companies was in construction, which had a 15 percent increase; arts, entertainment and recreational businesses, with 12 percent growth; and services like hair and nail salon and pet care, also with 12 percent growth.

The employment growth rate for women-owned companies between 1997 and 2007 was 27 percent versus 13 percent for all companies.

American Express analyzed Census Bureau data from companies in compiling the report.

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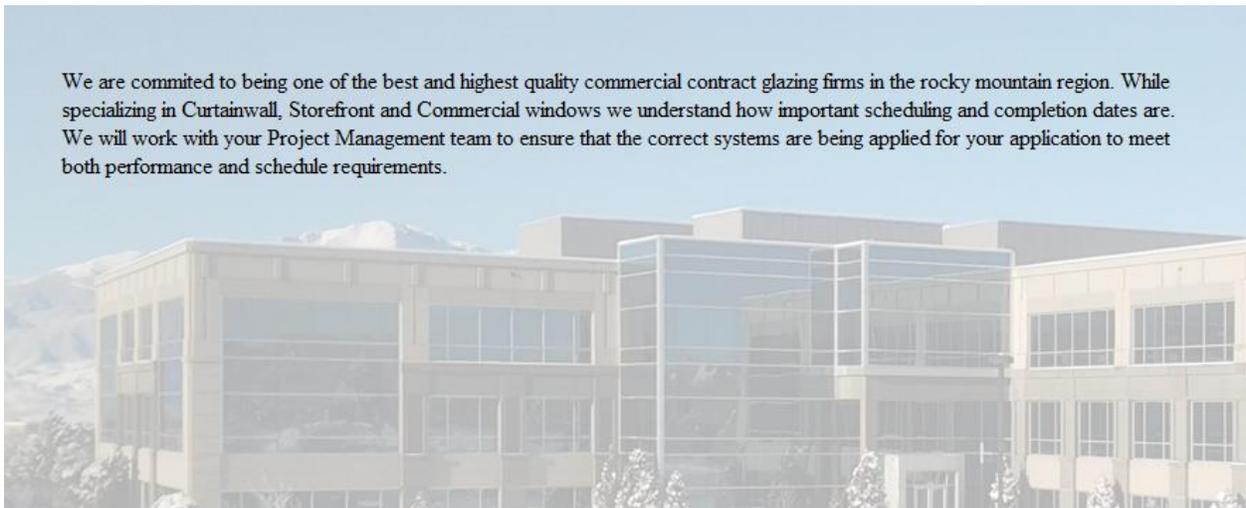


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