

NAWIC 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
August 26-29, 2009 - Phoenix, Arizona

I arrived by airplane in Phoenix on Wednesday, August 26. The first event that I attended was the "Welcome Fiesta" which was great fun. They had a lively Mariachi band; yummy Mexican food buffet; a special drink and a dessert bar that was irresistible. There were carnival type games to get the attendees moving around the room and mingling. What fun it was to flip a red chili into the spinning pot, or toss a ring on the bottles, or shoot a hanging can and many more.

Thursday morning the annual meeting convened with President Pat McDonald presiding. The keynote speaker, Edith Washington, FCSI, CCS was positive and encouraging. She spoke about "Turning Points". She challenged us to recognize that people are America's greatest resources. She talked about many instances of people who had come to a turning point in their life and took the opportunity to succeed. She had everyone laughing, whooping and crying.

When the annual meeting came to "new business" the motion of NAWIC officer electronic election procedures was put to vote and passed. It will be reviewed. The motion to change the Membership categories in regard to voting ability brought much discussion and many amendments to the motion. The motion to end the discussion was passed. It will be reviewed and researched as to legal status.

The NEF and Awards luncheon was inspiring, motivating and jovial. Awards were presented for perseverance, longevity and participation in Committees. Region 8 Director, Linda Champlin-Frank accepted one for winning a membership competition.

I attended a seminar on "Volunteering in the Real World" by Jeffery Daily, MSS, LSW, Consultant. We talked about good and bad volunteering experiences. That evening, I attended the "Chapter Board Training" given by the National Board Officers.

Friday morning, we had Regional photographs taken. Then, I attended two seminars given by Carol Hagen, President of Hagen Business Systems, Inc. The first one was "Records Retention and Destruction in Construction" and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was "The Paperless Construction Office". Both of them were very informative and worthwhile. Following those was the Installation Luncheon for the National and Regional Officers. The new President, Robin Fulton-Meyer was presented with a huge gavel by the past Presidents.

Saturday morning, I attended the Membership Committee workshop where we saw how to navigate the nawic.org website. Then I went to the Construction Profession and Education workshop where we brainstormed new and already done ideas for speaker and meeting topics.

Saturday night was the final event, the "Crystal Vision Awards Gala". The recipients were as follows: Jeffery C. Callahan, Director of the Division of Construction and Design Technology at the University of Alaska's Community Technical College in Anchorage received the "Carol Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award". Catherine Escobar, 36 yr. member of the Monterrey Bay, CA Chapter received the "Crystal Achievement Award". Judith Ritter, owner of Ritter Contracting in Philadelphia received the "Crystal Vision Award".

The Annual Convention leaves you energized and ready to serve and promote the construction industry at work and in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Trapp 2008/09 President, Colorado Springs Chapter 356

