

Ladies, what can I say to all of you that would possibly convey my true feelings for this Association and its fabulous members? You have all amazed me this past year with your selflessness, commitment, mentoring, leadership and energy! When I say that I am proud of all that we have accomplished, these words pale in comparison to how humbled I have become through your examples.

I began my term as your President with the goal of keeping Unity in this membership and I believe that the proof is in our year end results. Your NAWIC TEAM provided you with great speakers, job walks, networking and mentoring and you took advantage of all of it. As a direct result of our professionalism and living our code of ethics (to enhance women in the construction industry) our chapter's membership has grown to almost double its size. Women and business owners in construction are realizing our worth in this industry and are sending their employees to find out more about us, learning the value of membership and becoming a part of NAWIC. And all of these positive results have come at a time when our economy is at its worst and job losses are at an all time high. Even though this is not the expected time for increase in membership, *we did it*, so just look at what the power of NAWIC women can do!

The definition of TEAMWORK is: n. *cooperative effort by a group of persons acting together as a team.*

All of you are more than aware of my push for teamwork because what we are and what we are aiming for in this Association can only be accomplished, not by the power of one, but by the collaborative effort of all of NAWIC. I know that you will all continue in your efforts to grow this NAWIC Team and I know that I will also continue to push forward, with all of your help, to make this NAWIC Chapter #21 the most revered and sought after association for women in the construction industry.

As I hand the Gavel over to Lorelee Langworthy, my only advice to you members is to continue on the path you have wisely chosen and go to your new Leader for guidance and advice. Keep the doors open to new experiences, knowledge, involvement and mentoring.

I have been honored to have served as the President of the greatest TEAM that any Association can ask for.

Go TEAM NAWIC!

Anita Villani Barnes

NAWIC 2008-2009 San Diego President Chapter #21 of Region #12