

Region 12 APC Conference – San Diego CA

My conference experience started with a trip to the San Diego Santa Fe Train Depot downtown San Diego to pick up four ladies from the Central California Coast Chapter 174. I arrived just as the train was pulling into the station and passengers were disembarking. We loaded into my car and headed for the Bahia Resort. The weather was beautiful with typical San Diego weather; blue skies, light breeze and moderate temperatures. We checked into our respective rooms and headed for the hospitality suite for visiting, food and drinks. Thank you to all the San Diego members who went out of their way to provide hors d'oeuvres. Myrna Taylor had her Cabana boys, Ed and Dave play the role of host and they did a marvelous job. The evening was perfect as the hospitality suite was located on the bay with boats moored just outside and the Bahia Belle and other ferry boats were anchored there as well. We were able to watch the evening descend around us as we visited with friends and sisters from all around the region.

Saturday morning brought fog but the temperatures were still comfortable. I headed over to the meeting rooms to help set up the Sale table for Mentoring and to decorate the head table. I scooted over to the First timer's meeting which was lead by Donna Casteneta . (Yes I finally have attended each of the yearly conferences for our Region so I am no longer a First Timer). She did an excellent job of putting everyone at ease and explaining what all was to be expected throughout the day.

After the First Timer's meeting it was time for the official opening of the Conference. Cub Scout Troop 731 of Carlsbad presented the colors and led us in the pledge of allegiance. These boys presented themselves as respectful, and professional, clearly mindful of the solemn nature of the charge given them. Of course I am a little prejudice because my son is one of the Scout Masters and my grandson was one of the color guards. I did hear from quite a few ladies how impressed they were of these boys and what a great job they did. We extend our thank you to troop 731 for their willingness to participate. I understand the boys got a special treat on their way out. The animal keepers were going to feed the seals right when the boys were leaving and they were invited to throw fish to the seals.

The Inspiration was given by Cissy Levins of Honolulu Chapter.

Our Welcoming speaker was not able to attend and so Linda Young, CIT and I were asked to give an impromptu welcome address to the assembly. Luckily there is so much to do and see and so much that makes our city great that we had enough topics to cover that it worked out okay. (I did promise the marine layer would burn off, but as it turned out it really never lifted.)

Rukhsana Hafeez introduced our morning Keynote Speaker Patrick Owen, VP of Design and Engineering for Sea World San Diego. His topic was on Planning, Design, Construction and Operation. Mr. Owen did a great job of giving us the history of Sea World from inception to current day projects. It was particularly interesting to hear of all the recycling and composting that they participate in. Even the discarded uniforms are recycled. Sea World truly are leaders in setting examples of a “Green” organization.

After a short break the business portion of the APC conference took place. Pam Gibbs, CIT gave the Registration report noting that in attendance was 62 voting members, one NAWIC Board member, and 3 guests for a total of 68 attendees. Director Ellen Conglazier reported on the NAEIC Pre Annual Board Meeting report and the NAWIC Post Annual Board Meeting report. Committee reports were also presented to the assembly.

Our morning break-out seminars included Labor and Employment Law- Midyear Update 2009 presented by Carol Ross of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP; Fraud in the Workplace presented by Dana Basney of CBIZ MHM; and how to Win Conflicts between Drawings & Specifications Every time, presented by Anwar Hafeez of SDC & Associates, Inc.

I chose to attend the Labor and Employment Law – Midyear Update 2009. Ms. Ross covered topics such as; Discrimination, E-Verify and No-Match issues, EFCA update, Disability Discrimination and reasonable accommodation, ADA Amendment Act (ADAAA), Employee Privacy and Surveillance, Same Sex Marriage and Impact on Employers, Protecting your Intellectual Property, and Severance Agreements. As you can see the subject matter was very comprehensive and relevant for today’s business environment. There was so much information to cover and the time flew by too quickly.

Lunch was served at the top of one of the towers in the ballroom. The view was spectacular even if it was a little overcast. Still, the San Diego Bay was showcased for all our visitors to admire. Lunch consisted of delicious salads and luncheon meats and cheeses, fruits and a variety of desserts. It was a nice change from the usual heavy meals you tend to get at conferences.

The afternoon breakout Workshops were How to be an M&M (Membership) presented by our Regional Membership chair, Debbie Mello; NEF/CAD Drafting/ Block Kids presented by Cindy Johnson CDS, CIT and our own Myrna Taylor, and Keri Hawkins, National Chair; and MAGIC Camp – Mentoring which was moderated by our Linda Young, CIT.

As you would expect, I attended the MAGIC Camp – Mentoring workshop as this is where one of my passions lie. The workshop had a panel with members from three different chapters which had either put on or are planning on putting on a MAGIC Camp. The format was one of question and answer with ideas of what did work and what did not work presented to the

group. It was interesting to see the different approach each chapter has taken in their MAGIC Camps but how the underlying premise remained the same. MAGIC Camps for the coming year seem to be scheduled so that NAWIC members from the different chapters have the opportunity to visit and participate in each camp as it is put on.

A surprise party was thrown to celebrate Director Ellen's birthday at the afternoon break. It truly was a surprise for her and her joy was evident. It was great fun to share in this special birthday with her.

The afternoon Keynote speakers were the team for the San Diego Zoo – Elephant Odyssey-Design and Construction. The team did a great job of presenting all the special obstacles of undertaking such an enormous project including the difficulty of “elephant” proofing the exhibit, the waste water reclamation and treatment facility, and the final populating of the exhibit. I think every enjoyed the presentation and a lot of questions were asked at the completion of the presentation.

Director Ellen concluded our conference with the final region business including unfinished business, new business and announcements. Included in the business was the presentation to Pam Gibbs of the NEF Ladder pin. Ask her about it and how you can earn one for yourself. In addition, it was announced that Janice Ramsey is running for Region 12 Director. I am sure you will be hearing more from her in the future.

With that the 2009 APC conference was adjourned.

I cannot encourage you enough to participate in the Regional conferences that are made available to you. They are always held on weekends so they are convenient and do not normally interfere with your “day” jobs. One is generally held each quarter and the price of admission is very reasonable considering all the workshops and information that is presented for your edification. The next conference will be in January. We will make sure to give you updates as they are made available.

Lorelee Langworthy, GJT

President, San Diego Chapter 21