



NAWIC

National Association of Women in Construction

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Ladies, I must say that you all missed quite an event this past weekend in Las Vegas where our Region held its Annual Forum.

Lorelee Langworthy and I arrived on Friday evening with just enough time to check into our room and begin attending our meetings; Lorelee to her "first timer to Forum" meeting and I attended the President's meeting. Our National President, Pat McDonald, was in attendance and helped the Presidents to better understand the reasons for changes to our NAWIC Membership and the importance of following the IRS rulings in order to maintain our non profit business status. (More on that later).

The Friday evening WIGS party to raise money for NEF (NAWIC Education Foundation) was extremely well organized and kept us entertained with games and prizes and a full dinner. "Kudos" go out to Las Vegas for making this evening's event one to remember. Our Chapter #21 was represented by Vera Howell, Kim Briggs, Lorelee Langworthy, Pam Gibbs, Myrna Smith, Ruhksanna Hafeez, Patricia Looney and the Team of Myrna and Ed Taylor, who stole the show with Ed's long and flowing red hair and Myrna with her blonde bomb shell hair do. Of course, in my never ending effort to be taller, I had the Marge Simpson/Bride of Frankenstein piled high coif. (Our #21 photographer, Myrna Smith, took plenty of pictures to embarrass all of us, so be sure to check out our Web Site).

Saturday morning by 7:30, Vera and I began our Ways and Means ticket sales, while Lorelee captured more MAGIC camp jewelry purchasers. I am ever grateful to the Region members who attend and share in their support of each other's Chapter by helping to raise money via the Ways and Means offerings. Go TEAM NAWIC!!!!

Again, my emotions crescendoed as 12 year old Ellie Smith sang her heart out with her rendition of our National Anthem. WOW!!! God bless those lungs!! Our past Director, Cindy Johnson gave the Inspiration, "Dare to be remarkable" followed by Judy Smith, Las Vegas Chapter President, welcoming all of us to Forum 2009. The Mayor of Las Vegas welcomed and charmed us with his humorous stories of how he black mails the production companies who want to film in Las Vegas with the fact that they must put him in any movie that they make in Las Vegas. He had us all laughing and relaxed and ready to move forward with our sessions. Our Keynote Speaker was Punam Mathur whose topic was, "What Women Need to Succeed". She believes that nothing is an accident in life and we should all take the path of the road not taken. While she believes that we should "Dare to be remarkable", but we must be remarkable unto yourself. It is all about removing the barriers to allow yourself to be yourself; honest and more authentic.

NAWIC business was next and consisted of the adoption of Forum Agenda and Forum Rules, First Credentials Report and Memorials of our NAWIC Sisters who passed away this year.

After a short break we reconvened with our National President, Pat McDonald, giving her report where she emphasized the power of women is that we can help each other and the power of NAWIC is that we must! Our Region Director, Ellen Colglazier's report highlighted looking into the future and not seeing our association as what it is, but what it could be. The NAWIC Education Foundation, as well as, the Regional Fund Reports was both given, followed immediately by the Regional Fund Trustee Nominations. I was honored to nominate Myrna Taylor from our Chapter and she was voted in and has accepted the job.

Our next speaker was Mr. Joseph Vernola of Theming Solutions. The project that he spoke about was the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino in Connecticut where they had to design the interior, build it, make sure it worked, then completely dismantle it and crate it and ship it from their plant to the Hotel. Amazing! Their company goes from the procurement process to the sample process, the engineering and creating shop drawings, fabrication process, and the installation to the commissioning process. They do it all AND they are firm believers that they have no box to think outside of because they do not believe in there even being a box at all.

Our after lunch speaker was Doug Beckley who spoke about Working Intentionally, setting Smart Goals, being proactive and the 80/20 rule.

We continued with Longevity Presentations, Final Credentials Report, Unfinished Business and New Business, received our Invitation to the 54th Annual Convention on August 26 (www.nawic.org for more information) and the Donna Rosetti Award.

Our final speaker was the engineer for the Grand Canyon Skywalk which has a two story visitor center. As with all other Native Indian buildings, the theme must be one strictly adhered to by the Tribe in charge. Due to the fact that these Indians love rocks, they wanted to show and use as much of the natural rock landscape as possible without disturbing it. This way if they did not like the finished product, and/or it did not do well monetarily, it would not take much to put it back to its natural landscape. The Skywalk is anchored deep into the bedrock. The bridge is 1.9 million pounds and can hold 822 two hundred pound persons. With all of that security in place, I guess I have no reason not to enter the Skywalk!

Our Long Beach Cheerleaders and their school Principal (President Izzy Zandvliet) enticed us all to attend Forum 2010 via their very funny skit and we were adjourned until Banquet that evening.

What can I say to Las Vegas for their "no holes barred" attitude in presenting our Region with the Glitz and Glam Banquet, complete with DeMolay, Entertainers and Awards? (**DeMolay** International (also known as the Order of **DeMolay**), founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1919, is an international youth fraternity for young men. **DeMolay** derives its name from Jacques **DeMolay**, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. It is a Masonic-sponsored youth organization for boys, ages 12-21, and no relation to a Mason is required in order to join.) I felt like Queen for the evening when I was escorted by Ed Taylor down the red carpet and under the Arch of Swords.

Speaking of Ed Taylor, did you know that Ed and Myrna have been married for 44 years??? With that knowledge in hand, our Entertainer crooned an Elvis love song to both of them.

Again I say to those of you who have wondered, why not attend one of the Region meetings? You learn more than what is offered via the Speakers. You learn Leadership, make lasting friendships, and in my case, embarrass yourself (but all in fun).

Thank you! Thank you to Las Vegas! You exemplify true Team Spirit....Go TEAM NAWIC!!!
Anita Villani Barnes