Stay Ahead! The Connection is designed to keep you informed with pertinent Association news. Read up on timely announcements and messages from the NAWIC Board, and learn about the outstanding activities our regions, chapters and members are involved in!

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Get connected to what you need to know!

Your Partner in Learning
Earn Your B.A. in Construction Management from Rowan University.

Rowan University’s B.A. in Construction Management Online is designed as a degree completion program for individuals with experience in the construction field who already have an associate’s degree or equivalent number of credits, and prefer to continue working while earning a degree. However, applicants with less than 60 credits may work with an enrollment counselor to explore available options. The program prepares individuals to supervise, manage, and inspect construction sites, buildings, and associated facilities.

• Created in cooperation with the North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU)
• 100% online courses with opportunities to interact with faculty each week via web conferencing

• Affordable tuition
• Academic credit towards the degree may be awarded for prior work and experience

Apply Today!
www.RowanU.com/Construction
856-256-4747 | global@rowan.edu

Change to Recruiter Awards
At the recent NAWIC mid-year board meeting, it was decided to change the membership recruiting award period to run from August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 for this year only. In subsequent years, the award period will be from July 1 through June 30.

This change was necessary because we have changed the dates of our Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC) to mid August and the national office would be unable to order the awards in time for AMEC if we waited until the end of July.

Nominate a Member for the NAWIC National Awards
Now is the time to nominate a NAWIC member for NAWIC’s national awards. They are the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Member of the Year Award and the Future Leader of the Year Award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was established to recognize outstanding efforts of a NAWIC member who has been actively involved throughout their NAWIC membership. A member is only eligible to win this award once.

The Member of the Year Award was established to recognize outstanding efforts of a NAWIC member who has been actively involved throughout the current NAWIC year. A member is only eligible to win this award once.
The Future Leader of the Year Award was established to recognize outstanding efforts of a new NAWIC member who has been actively involved throughout their first two NAWIC years as of May 31 of the current year. A member is only eligible to win this award once.

Award guidelines and nomination forms may be found online. All nominations and required forms must be received by Dede Hughes at dedeh@nawic.org by June 1, 2016.

The winners of each award will be recognized at the NAWIC Awards Gala, Friday, Aug. 19, during the 2016 Annual Meeting and Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Take advantage of Early Bird Registration


**Registration Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Early Bird Registration Rates</th>
<th>After June 30, 2016 and onsite Rates</th>
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Congratulation on a Successful WIC Week 2016

The celebration of WIC Week is over, and we had wonderful chapter participation. Thank you to all chapters and members who participated in the nationwide event. It was a huge success! Don’t forget to turn in your WIC Week recap forms.

Also, the 2016 WIC Week Poster is double-sided, and the reverse side can be displayed year-round. So, don’t throw your poster away, just flip it over!

Groundbreaking Women in Construction

Attend ENR’s Groundbreaking Women in Construction, June 20-21, at the Park Central Hotel in San Francisco, Calif. The event, presented in partnership with Peckar and Abramson, P.C., will focus on the key steps women are taking to build career success, and how they are inspiring and empowering their peers to do likewise.

GWIC welcomes women at all levels of experience who seek to boost their careers in any construction industry markets, and for both private and public-sector employers. Join other industry women to share best practices, learn how to identify and create new opportunities, and build networking potential.

For more information or to register for the event, please go to www.gwichconf.com.

President’s Letter to Employers is Available Online

NAWIC President Riki F. Lovejoy, CBT, CIT has written a letter for members to pass on to their employers outlining the many reasons to send their female employees to the 2016 Annual Meeting and Education Conference. Click here to download a copy of the letter.

Sign Up for Chapter Table Sales at the NAWIC Mini Trade Show

Plans for the 2016 NAWIC Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC) are well under way. The NAWIC Mini Trade Show will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 18, from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Chapters and Regions are invited to participate in this event. This program is being offered as a cost-effective method for chapters to increase non-dues revenue by increasing sales of their NAWIC items. Each chapter will be responsible for collecting sales tax on the items that they sell at AMEC. A form will be given to you so you can give us your sales tax money and we will pay it with one check.

Tables are available to chapters at $100 per table. A maximum of two chapters may occupy one table. Region tables, for three or more chapters, are also available for $150. Space is limited and all tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reservation forms and the rules and regulations governing the event will be sent to all chapter presidents. You may also download the form and rules online at www.nawicconvention.org.

All reservations for tables must be returned to the NAWIC Office no later than June 1, 2016. A check, made payable to NAWIC, must accompany the Reservation Form. Sorry, no verbal commitments or requests will be honored. For more information, contact Dede Hughes at dedeh@nawic.org.

NAWIC members love to buy NAWIC items. Don’t miss out on this once-a-year opportunity to display your items and network with NAWIC members. Return your form today!
NAWIC Regions Host Annual Spring Forums

Annual Forums provide an outstanding opportunity for personal and professional growth. Forums offer educational seminars, solutions for your business, networking and more. Forums will be held all over the country this spring.

Get ready to learn, network and have fun. You won't want to miss all that your region has in store for you. Check out www.nawic.org/nawic/Region_Forums.asp for the 2016 Forum Preview Guide.

Vote for 2016-2017 National Officers

Plan on exercising your right to vote by participating in NAWIC’s one-member, one-vote election! Members classified as “Active,” “Corporate” and “Member-at-Large” as of May 1 are eligible to vote. Each voting member will receive voting information by email in May. Eligible voting members without an email address will be mailed a ballot. Ballots will be sent no later than May 15. Online voting will be held May 15-31.

Please make sure your contact information in the NAWIC Database is accurate. Ballots returned to the NAWIC Office will not be forwarded. To update your information, visit www.nawic.org > Member Log In > Member Center > Update Your Info.

Below is the official slate of candidates running for NAWIC Office for the 2016-2017 year. For more information, visit the 2016-2017 candidate guide at www.nawic.org/nawic/Candidates.asp.

President-Elect
Stephanie Crane, CIT
Catherine D. Schoenenberger

Vice President
Amy Berg, CBT, CIT
Dove Sifers-Putman, CBT

Secretary
Diane Mike, CBT

Treasurer
Anne Pfieger, CIT
Donnalyn Revis, CIT

Visit the NAWIC Store’s Spring Sale

Purchase a gift for fellow NAWIC members or treat yourself to great NAWIC merchandise. Also, don’t forget Forum is coming up soon. Do you need some speaker gifts? If so, the NAWIC store is a one-stop shopping opportunity. Pick up a NAWIC padfolio for $6 or a NAWIC travel mug for $12. These are perfect speaker gifts! Forum coordinators—don’t forget to order your ribbons.

Also, there are two new items available in the NAWIC Store. Check out our new NAWIC valet key ring, $6, and the new NAWIC stylus/pen, $3.50.

Items featured in the NAWIC Store this month include:

- NAWIC Valet Key Ring, $6
- NAWIC Stylus/Pen, $3.50
- NAWIC Luggage Tag, $4
- NAWIC Collapsible Can Cooler, $2
- NAWIC Travel Mug, $12
- NAWIC Large Padfolio, $6

Visit the NAWIC Store online here.

Who will your chapter send to AMEC?

Every year, the NAWIC Office gets asked, “What do we do if we don’t know whom our chapter will send to AMEC yet? Can we still secure the early bird registration rate?”

The answer is yes. You can secure the early bird registration rate for your chapter, even if you’re not sure which members will be attending. Here’s what you do. Send Lauri McCullough a Registration form with “TBD” in the name field along with the chapter information filled out at laurim@nawic.org and let her know how many members your chapter will be sending to AMEC. Next, send a check for the entire amount of the early bird registrations to the NAWIC office, 327 S. Adams St., Fort Worth, TX 76104. You must contact Lauri and your check must be received by the early bird registration deadline of April 30. Finally, once your chapter elects new officers or decides who will be attending AMEC, you must send their completed registration forms to the NAWIC office. In addition, although we must have your check to secure your early bird registrations, it will not be deposited until all of your registrations are complete.

Please note: Completed registration forms must be submitted no later than June 19, 2016. There will be no exceptions. If a chapter has submitted payment for an Early Bird registration and has not submitted its delegates’ names before June 19, 2016, the Early Bird registration will be invalid and the regular registration rate will apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauri McCullough at laurim@nawic.org.

NAWIC Members—Discover The New Logistics

Logistics has always been about getting things where they need to be exactly when they need to be there. And doing it as efficiently as possible. The NAWIC/UPS Savings Program is here to help NAWIC members do just that at a discounted rate.
Package Shipping

- NAWIC Members save up to 28 percent on UPS Next Day Air® and Worldwide Express® with the UPS Savings Program, an unmatched selection of package delivery services at a discounted rate.

Freight Shipping

- NAWIC Members with LTL freight shipments of 150 lbs. or more, receive customized discounts for all three types of freight shipments—regional, interregional and long haul. Call for a free savings analysis or quote.

Enroll online!

Call: 866-443-9303, ext. 4082
Email: upsfreightassociations@ups.com
To learn more, visit savewithups.com/nawic.

Get the Latest NAWIC News on Facebook and Twitter

Have you liked NAWIC on Facebook yet? Are you following NAWIC on Twitter? If not, you are missing out on all the latest NAWIC news, AMEC updates and more.

To see NAWIC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/nawicnational and click “Like.” You can also follow NAWIC on Twitter at www.twitter.com/nawicnational or @nawicnational.

NAWIC Career Center Offers Employment Tools, Jobs Targeted to NAWIC Members

Employers want you. The NAWIC Career Center features hundreds of jobs that employers want you to see. Where do employers go when they want a talented woman with experience in the construction industry? They go to the NAWIC Career Center. You can post a resume, view jobs and set up personal job alerts. Best of all, it’s free. Visit the NAWIC Career Center today.

CORNERSTONE
Get connected to the latest news from NAWIC Committees.

U.S. Transportation
By Cari L. Durbin, U.S. Transportation Chair

Investments in Transportation

Every $1 billion invested in federal highway and transit projects would support 13,000 jobs. Infrastructure improvements are a great opportunity to ensure that every type of infrastructure benefits as well as rebuilding communities energized by increased employment. USDOT established a pilot program—U.S. Employment Program by the Jobs To Move America Coalition—designed to apply the purchase of rolling stock, the trains that ride our freight, passenger, commuter, and transit rail. This gives companies that manufacture rolling stock contractual incentives to create American jobs, locate facilities in the U.S. and provide training and recruitment efforts targeted toward unemployed American workers.

There are three types of infrastructure where there is opportunity to make improvements and increase employment.

Airports. Thousands of jobs in communities of all sizes help commerce and tourism. They provide the revitalization of neighborhoods and connect to essential services and jobs. More than 756 million passengers board commercial flights in the U.S. annually. Commercial airports support 9.6 million jobs and $358 billion in wages. Airports are more than flights. They are thriving business centers with concessions, retail outlets, and much more. Construction-related activities include the basic jobs of building and maintaining runways, taxiways, and terminals.

Freight. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics and Federal Highway Administration report show the number of freight tons moving on America’s transportation system will grow by 40 percent in the next three decades while the value of freight will almost double, increasing by 92 percent. In 2015, nearly 18.1 billion tons of goods worth about $19.2 trillion moved across America. Efforts are being made to fund this increased need by using the FAST Act recently approved by Congress. Eight hundred million dollars in FASTLANE grants were made available.

Ports. Every day our ports handle millions of tons of domestic and international cargo. In 2014, $1.7 trillion worth of U.S. goods moved in our ports. Currently not a single U.S. container port is in the top 15 container ports globally and the demand to move goods and raw materials on the U.S. transportation system is predicted to increase by 45 percent by 2040. Numerous Federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants have been awarded to help improve U.S. ports’ efficiency and capacity.

Source: www.dot.gov/blog/fastlane; www.fhwa.dot.gov

OSHA/NAWIC Alliance
By Kathi Dobson, NAWIC/OSHA Alliance Co-Chair

The single item that should be of utmost importance to every person on a project is the safety of every worker. Everyone should be confident that when they pass through the construction gates at the start of their work day that he or she will leave through those gates at the end of the day. They may be tired, they may be sore, but they should be better educated in some way and they should be walking on their own two feet.
When we put this article together, we always look for items of interest on the OSHA [www.osha.gov] web page. Our Construction Alliance Roundtable is coming up rather quickly, and we will be pleased to announce at that time that we have our sanitation product on line, and we will be finalizing an orientation checklist that we believe contains all the essentials to cover in a site-specific orientation. The item that caught my eye on the OSHA webpage this week was the scrolled list of workers who have been killed on the job since the beginning of the year in 2016. The list includes all workers in all industries, but these are the ones that are construction-related.

Starting on Jan. 2 in Chicago, a worker was killed when a masonry wall fell onto him. A worker was asphyxiated by exhaust from a forklift. A worker’s life ended when he fell off a scaffold. Another never came home to his family when he fell from an aerial lift. An individual who was struck and killed by mobile equipment. A trench collapsed. Another fall from height. And this is only federal plan states and only through the end of February.

Why did these things happen? Why was there no fall protection? Why were shortcuts taken? None of those workers will ever be able to tell us why. We can only guess and mourn the loss of co-workers, colleagues, friends, family members and those we never knew, but are tied to them through our mutual love of construction.

Take time to plan your work. Take time especially to review when there is a scope change or scope creep. Many incidents occur when one single thing changes from the “normal” routine of the day.

And now is the time for you and your employers to make plans for a week’s worth of activities surrounding OSHA’s National Safety Stand-Down for Fall Prevention, May 2-6. They have a great web page with lots of links to help you plan for this week at [www.osha.gov/stopfalls/index.html]. There are educational materials and resources, training materials and even media resources to help you/NAWIC Chapters and the Association promote our efforts to help prevent falls. They are the leading cause of death in our industry. If you want or need promotional materials, please visit the site, or contact OSHA/NAWIC Alliance co-chairs Kathi Dobson (kдобсон@alberici.com) and Schelle Wood (schelle@dolphinsheetmetal.com) or any member of the NAWIC Health and Safety Education Committee for assistance. You can also download this year’s poster in English and Spanish here.

Strategic Planning
By L’Tryce Slade, MRP, JD, Strategic Planning Chair

Strategic Planning Resources
If you are working on your strategic plan, here are a few resources that you may find helpful.

- Strategic Planning Tool. Understand the market instantly at quid.com.
- Wharton Business Strategy [Upenn.edu] and Executiveed. wharton.upenn.edu.
- Strategic Plan Templates. Bridgespan.org/strategic planning
- The Basics of Strategic Planning, Strategic Management and Strategy Execution. Balancedscorecard.org
- All About Strategic Planning [Managementhelp.org]
- Ten Keys to Successful Strategic Planning for Nonprofit and TCC Group [www.tccgrp.com]
- Five Steps to a Strategic Plan. Forbes.
- Strategic Planning. Harvard Business Review.

Legislation and Policy
By L’Tryce Slade, MRP, JD, Legislation and Policy Chair

Workforce and Jobs
I would encourage you to research in your state if legislation exists to allow companies engaged in accredited apprenticeship training programs to take advantage of a tax credit for training their employees. Iowa, North Carolina, and Kansas are a few other states that have a Historical Tax Credit Bill. This bill may affect the construction industry, because it could lead to more...
construction projects that will increase construction employment opportunities. Furthermore, if employers can obtain tax credits for training employees, the employees get training to improve their career, and it becomes more affordable for employees to train employees. Tax credits are also beneficial to developers to use the tax credit to turn old houses, factories and warehouses into spaces that can be used for home and work. The Historic Tax Credit is a recruiting tool to recruit industry and young professionals into communities. If your state has these tax credits great. These tax credits are needed and work!

**PR/Marketing**

By Diandra J. Staples, PR/Marketing Chair, and Laurie Jimenez, PR/Marketing Co-Chair

WIC Week has come and gone for another year. Have all of your press releases been distributed, showcasing all of the awesome events your chapter hosted during this important week? Remember that it is never too late to send press releases out, post on social media, or share chapter accomplishments. Keep up the great work!

We so appreciate everyone’s diligence in responding to the Survey Monkey requests. We’ve had wonderful responses, but we also know it can be better. If your chapter is behind (check with your region chair to confirm), you can always submit a response for a prior month anytime. If you need the links, contact one of us (Diandra or Laurie).

Here are the numbers by chapter, for the past two months (the March numbers are as of March 18, so if you submitted after this date, your region’s numbers will have changed). Some regions are doing a great job of responding to Survey Monkey!

If you have any questions about using Survey Monkey, or need explanations, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your region chair, or one of us. The region chairs have been doing a great job of contacting us for clarifications. Thank you.

### February PR/Marketing Numbers by Chapter

<table>
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<th>Total Responses</th>
<th>Average # Response per Region per Month</th>
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### March PR/Marketing Numbers by Chapter

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We are expecting to see awesome changes in membership as a result of WIC Week! Again, keep up the great work!
Membership
By Hilda F. Cox, AC, CIT, OSHA, Membership Chair

It’s never too late to work on retention on our chapters. Even though we are almost halfway through this NAWIC year, it is not too late to reach out to those members who did not renew. I truly feel retention is the key to growing our Association. We can recruit, recruit, recruit, but if we do not retain members, our Association will not grow.

Remember retention starts when a member joins NAWIC. Immediately after a new member is recruited and oriented, begin thinking of ways to retain her. Again, retention begins with recruiting and orienting new members about NAWIC. We must give new members, as well as tenured members, value for their membership. If we do not inform new members of the value that is available, they may not know what is available, and what our Association is about. Page 18 of the Membership Handbook has a great tentative meeting schedule to help you in hosting a new member orientation.

Do not assume you know what the new member wants from her membership. Ask first, and then strive to meet her needs. You might send an email; ask why she joined NAWIC and what she expects to get from her membership. Not only will it help in learning what she is expecting, you will also learn a lot about that new member.

Fact: Membership retention starts the minute a member joins, not when it’s time to collect dues!

Fact: Members who become active during their first year are more likely to renew than those that do not.

Fact: Each year NAWIC loses approximately one-fourth of its membership because of non-renewals.

Fact: You can make a difference and reverse this trend by establishing a regular, on-going chapter retention program. Please see page 19 of the Membership Handbook (can be found on the NAWIC website) for some suggestions on chapter retention strategies.

Please Note: Some of the ideas may already be in place in your chapter, however, many are proven programs just waiting to be implemented.

NATIONAL OFFICER’S MESSAGE

NAWIC President-Elect Connie Leipard Encourages Members to Lead
By Connie M. Leipard, CIT, NAWIC President-Elect

WIC Week 2016 was a resounding success! Facebook posts included videos and photos illustrating great work accomplished on community service projects, professional education seminars, industry appreciation events and trade shows. There were too many worthy events to recap in this article!

Visibility was achieved in promoting NAWIC and women in the construction industry through creative marketing campaigns and proclamations from local and state governments. NAWIC across America spoke loud and strong! Way to go, ladies!

President Riki Lovejoy, CBT, CIT has encouraged all NAWIC members to embrace change. Specifically, to “Be the Change.” Embarking on a new project, leading a new team, deciding to make a difference or become different are all examples of change. Change is exciting and hard. Anyone who has successfully made a lifestyle change such as quitting smoking or losing weight can share the ups and downs of the process.

To effectively change anything requires vision, planning, commitment and sharing best practices with others. Sharing with others builds support and momentum to make sure the change will “stick” and become an ingrained culture or habit.

NAWIC is in the annual “change” season. Chapter, regional and national leadership positions are gearing up to change through the election process. I encourage any and all who are thinking about stepping into a NAWIC leadership role to do so.
Leadership roles in NAWIC are uniquely positioned to help you succeed in your career path and in your personal life. Effectively planning and organizing chapter events and meetings build crucial skill sets needed to help you move up the corporate ladder or become a better business owner.

Leadership roles in NAWIC make a difference in the lives of other women. Women need to become involved in leadership roles in the construction industry in order to lay the foundation for other women to succeed. Currently, women account for less than 10 percent of the construction work force. The industry needs more women employed and in key leadership positions.

The barriers that exist for women to succeed in the industry will be broken down by women. Women equipped to lead. Women equipped to succeed. Women surrounded by others who support and encourage them to greater accomplishments.

NAWIC needs leaders. Why not you?

CHAPTER OFFICER REMINDERS
Are you a chapter officer? Get helpful tips and reminders here!

Chapter Presidents
The Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC) Promo should have arrived in everyone’s mailbox last month. It is also available to download at NAWIC Online. Please share this information with your chapter. Encourage members to use the Conference Promo and Employer Letter as tools to solicit financial support from their employers. Get an idea of how many members will be attending Conference as early as possible. These members should be considered as delegates and alternates to represent your chapter. You must have your delegates and alternates elected no later than June 17, 2016 (60 days prior to AMEC). Credential forms are due to the NAWIC Office June 17, 2016. Credential forms are currently available on NAWIC’s Conference website at www.nawicconvention.org.

It’s time to begin thinking about leadership for your chapter for the 2016-2017 year. Your chapter should have its nominating committee elected. If not, now’s the time! The next step for this committee is to submit the names of one or more nominees for each chapter office and chapter director. The nominating committee should present these candidates to the membership at your April or May meeting. Refer to the NAWIC Operations Manual, page C-3, Article VI-Elections for election guidelines. Voting should take place no later than the meeting immediately following the presentation of candidates. Each chapter should decide if the election of officers, delegates and occasional propositions should be handled by mail ballot or by vote at a regularly scheduled meeting. Once the chapter decides which method will best meet its needs, the selected method should be adopted as a chapter standing rule. Refer to page F-59 of the NAWIC Operations Manual for guidelines regarding standing rules, voting and ballots.

Chapter Treasurers
The following is a reminder of important duties as listed on page three of the Chapter Treasurer’s Handbook. Please review to ensure you are in compliance.

• Record electronic chapter dues deposits from the NAWIC Office.
• Prepare monthly treasurer’s reports for the membership and board meetings.
• Keep itemized accounts of all receipts and disbursements.
• Reconcile bank statements monthly. Review outstanding checks.

For a complete list of annual and monthly duties, refer to page 35 of the Chapter Treasurer’s Handbook

Membership Chairs
Does your chapter have a system of communicating monthly meeting notices and information to its members and prospects?

You can take the initiative to ensure everyone is informed. Here are a few ideas:

• Email monthly meeting notices to all members and prospective members one week prior to the meeting. Include a meeting agenda to spark interest and increase attendance.
• Get a local newspaper to advertise monthly meetings. Invite representatives of the newspaper to attend meetings to get more publicity.
• Ask members to display flyers detailing monthly meetings one week prior to the meeting.
Midwest Region | Debbie Speake

The Midwest Region celebrated WIC Week in the most phenomenal fashion. Many different events including industry appreciation nights, community fundraisers and outreach programs, jobsite tours, hard hat happy hours, and meet and greet mixers were held. Chapters also wore NAWIC apparel, hired billboards on major a highway, generated numerous articles about ladies in our region and NAWIC as a benefit to their careers, held a 50th anniversary celebration, partnered in programs, shared recipes on the region Facebook page and much more. Everyone did a great job of sharing NAWIC and the construction industry.

Forum season is just around the corner. This is another great opportunity to share NAWIC through networking, seminars and workshops. The Midwest Region is excited to be holding Forum in beautiful Branson, Missouri. The speakers, networking events and workshops planned are fantastic. You do not want to miss this event. A couple of add-ons are available for you to attend that will give you a small sample of what Branson has to offer. The add-ons include a Thursday night show at the Baldknobbers Theatre, a Friday morning is a tour of the Titanic, and an opportunity to dine together at the Outback Steak and Oyster Bar on Saturday night. Register today!

Membership continues to climb each month. Great job ladies. keep on sharing NAWIC!

North Central Region | Anne Pfleger, CIT

The North Central Region isn’t letting the crazy winter weather slow us down! We are continuing to recruit and retain NAWIC members. The Columbus, Ohio; Lansing, Mich.; and Indianapolis, Ind. chapters have already met national’s overall goal. Way to go! As this article is being written, North Central stands at 88 percent to meet national’s goal with 525 members. There are five chapters (Grand Rapids, Mich.; Kalamazoo/Battle Creek, Mich.; Lexington-Bluegrass, Ky.; Pittsburgh, Penn.; and Toledo, Ohio) within three members of reaching the overall goal. In addition, the Cincinnati, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; and Pittsburgh, Penn.; chapters have all exceeded the 20 percent growth goal.

With April brings the start of Forum season. The Region’s past directors are very excited to be hosting Forum for the North Central Region April 22-23 in Fort Wayne, Ind. with the theme “Be the Change. Build YOUR Future.” There are an array of speakers and workshops planned on topics such as leadership, networking, safety and personal development, plus some other surprises the Past Directors have up their sleeves. This is definitely a Forum you don’t want to miss! For more information or to register, please visit http://www.nawic4.org/2016-forum.html.

“You must be the change you want to see in the world.” This anonymous quote provides some great inspiration to vote this year for the candidate you believe will best serve our Association. Discussion forums and candidate profiles are available on the national website. Be sure to check for updates periodically until voting is completed. Remember the voting timeframe is different this year. Ballots will be sent out May 15 and must be returned by May 31 to be counted.

On a final note, there’s a poem written by Ms. Moem for International Women’s Day, which was March 8 and fell during WIC Week. It is reminder to celebrate women in construction and acknowledge the great things we do for the construction industry.
“Today is a celebration for women all around the world; 
Ladies who’ve dared to dream big, ever since they were little girls 
For the diversity and talents that lie within a feminine heart; 
For the courage and determination that prevents us falling apart.

We can raise families, build businesses and be proud of all we’ve achieved 
Where once over, visions of that scale, could never have been believed. 
Ladies, stand up and be counted, smile at how far we have come 
And cherish every single day as daughter, wife, companion or mom.

Don’t let anybody tell you that there are set paths for you to follow 
As a little girl with a passion is an inspiring woman of tomorrow. 
So celebrate all women and acknowledge the great things they do 
And tell a lady close to your heart, just how much she means to you.”

Northeast Region | Catherine D. Schoenenberger
What a fantastic March it was. Celebrating women in construction wasn’t limited to just a week. We celebrated all month long. Proclamations at every level were sought and received. The week of awareness celebrating women in construction was well captured and captioned on all social media and traditional media outlets. Some of the highlights from the Northeast included:

• Greater New York/Long Island #240 combined efforts with Lower Hudson #379 at the NY Build Expo in New York City. Our own Doreen Bartoldus served as moderator of a four-woman panel of “women in construction.” It was literally standing room only. Nearly all the women listening, came into the National Association of Women in Construction’s booth and signed onto their mailing list. One of the simplest take aways: by spelling out NAWIC, no one had to guess what it stood for. Women in Construction is attractive.

• The Hartford, Conn. Chapter #165 orchestrated a quite impressive (and professional) event at the state capital, which included the governor’s proclamation presentation by Connecticut’s Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. The stately room was filled to capacity with people seeking resources to become Women Business Enterprises. They also were availed to the value of NAWIC first hand.

• The New York Capital District Chapter # 261 killed it with their first ever New York State WBE Showcase. The companies represented at this event were all women-owned businesses, firstly, and secondly, nearly all of them were NAWIC members. The brainchild of member Eileen Venn, this just three-hour event, attracted more than 150 people. This is a model of success that we all should study and implement in our home states.

As with March so goes April. I am anxious to see where our membership numbers end up by the end of April. The Northeast is still hanging onto the second place slot in the region new member/retention challenge. We have one chapter (Greater Rochester #314) already over 50 members! I have a strong feeling, however, that the Capital District will not be denied their crack at the top spot. What’s even more exciting is that there is great momentum throughout the Northeast. It only takes “one” to ignite the spark, and then it takes “all” to fan the flame and keep it going. The Northeastern programs from Bangor to D.C. continue to be diverse, educational and all promise an opportunity to network. Included in this is the Construction Showcase of Maine, April 13-14 in Augusta, hosted by the Maine Chapter #276, which encompasses all things construction in Maine. It is an excellent example of how even something with a great many years of successful executions, can still be catapulted to a new level when fresh eyes and ideas come into the fold.

Thus, this leads right into the 2016 Northeast Spring Forum, The Strength of our Past and the Force of our Future! Seaside Mystic, Connecticut is the destination, May 20-21, where we will welcome President-Elect Connie Leipard, CIT to our Region. Please make plans to attend, if not in the Northeast, then find another that will work for your schedule. The NAWIC.org Forum Preview
will introduce you to each of the eight Forums, running April 15 through May 21. You are worth it. You. Your Industry. Your NAWIC.

Happy Spring!

Pacific Southwest | Lorelee Langworthy, CBT, CDS, CIT

The Pacific Southwest Region welcomes you to April. I hope you enjoyed March with all the WIC Week activities. Some chapters focused on one or two events while others packed the week full of activities. The Salt Lake City, Utah Chapter chose to spread WIC Week throughout the entire month, with each week presenting an activity, first on Monday, then Tuesday, Then Wednesday, etc. Thus a “week” of activities filled the month to remind us we should keep NAWIC in the forefront, not just one week out of the year, but every week of the month, and every month of the year. The Salt Lake City, Utah Chapter also put out an exciting contest challenge to the entire region. They figured out how many miles connect each chapter in the Region and set out a plan where we are going to “walk” to each chapter. This is done through any kind of exercise activity and tracked on a weekly basis. Chapters combine their miles and report to the Salt Lake City, Utah Chapter where calculations are kept. The chapter that logs the most miles will win a prize at AMEC. Thank you Salt Lake City sisters for coming up with a unique way to keep is connected in a fun and healthy competition. May the best chapter win!

Our Forum is being held April 15-16 in Santa Maria, Calif. Come join us for a wonderful weekend in the heart of the Central California Coast. We will start on Friday with a museum tour, followed by our leadership workshop. Friday evening will be our Welcome and Hospitality party, topped off by a wine tasting. While the wine tasting event is sold out, there will be plenty of live entertainment offered by the hotel. Saturday will be our general session with keynote speakers sprinkled throughout the regional business. We will end Forum with our banquet. Our theme is “On the Runway,” so break out your fun outfits from whatever era you relate to most and join in the fun. All in all, it should be a wonderful weekend. Please plan to join us. Registration is still open. You can find the registration form on our website at nawic.net.

Speaking of registration, the AMEC early bird special is available until April 30. Take the time to send in your registration early and then start making plans for a great time in San Antonio, Texas. I hope to see you there.

Safety Newsletter

Spring has Sprung!

The ground is no longer freezing and the sun is setting later, which means more workable hours in the day. Be sure you are getting enough sleep, staying hydrated, and eating a well-balanced diet to ensure optimum productivity if you find yourself required to work longer hours. Stay in tune with your body, know your rhythm, and your limits. Remember…your ultimate goal at the end of the day is to return home in the same condition as you left that morning!

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

The National Safety Council observes this month as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. NSC’s campaign this year is specifically geared towards the dangers of using your cell phone while operating a vehicle. Did you know an estimated one in every four car crashes involve cell phone use? How can you participate to help prevent distracted driving?

• Stop using your phone while driving
• Use social media to tell others about the dangers of cell phone distracted driving
• Use this a Toolbox Talk topic
• Take the pledge to drive cell-free and encourage others to pledge
• Take a defensive driving course (it’ll save you money on car insurance, too)
Want more info? Visit the National Safety Council’s site here!

We Want Your Ideas!!

We want to emphasize the value of safety and health within your chapters and overall NAWIC membership. Your regional chairs are looking for ideas on how to bring safety and health related meetings to your chapters. Have an idea? Please submit it to your regional safety and health chair, along with WHY you think the membership would benefit from the specified idea. After all, everyone values their safety and health, so why not make a meeting out of it?

Stay Engaged with this Free Webinar!

Worker Fitness: Wellness meets Health Surveillance
April 20th at 2pm EST
Click here to register!

OSHA’s National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls

We are joining efforts with our OSHA Alliance Committee in order to support OSHA’s National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction occurring May 2-6! Last year the campaign reached over 2.5 million workers! This year, OSHA’s goal is to reach 5 million workers. As NAWIC members let’s do our part and be part of the 5 million workers! Anyone who wants to prevent falls in the work place has the ability to participate. Not sure how to participate, visit these FAQs to get your Stand-Down under way! Still have questions? Please reach out to our OSHA Alliance Committee co-chairs, Schelle Wood or Kathi Dobson.

Plan Provide Train.
Three simple steps to preventing falls.