May 2016

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!

A Blueprint for Your Future
Earn your Master’s in Construction Management online at Drexel University and gain the advantage you need to take your career further. Drexel’s accredited online Master’s in Construction Management provides students with both the business expertise and hands-on experience to manage complex construction projects. With concentrations in Construction Project Management, Real Estate Development, and Sustainability and Green Construction, you can take courses that target your specific interests. Our program is offered fully online so you can earn your degree without interrupting your career. Start building your future today. Learn more.

Get Ready to Vote for the 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” 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.

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.

President-Elect
Catherine D. Schoenenberger

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

Secretary
Diane Mike, CBT

Treasurer
Anne Pfieger, CIT
Donnalyn Revis, CIT
Your Partner in Learning

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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!

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856-256-4747 | global@rowan.edu

Membership Awards Have New Award Period

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 run from July 1 through June 30.

This change was necessary because NAWIC has changed the dates of the Annual Meeting and Education Conference to mid-August. The NAWIC office would be unable to order the awards in time for AMEC if the award period ran until the end of July.

Credentials for NAWIC National Board, Past National Presidents and Members at Large

A postcard and the Conference Promo featuring registration deadlines and details of NAWIC’s Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC) should already be in members’ mailboxes. These are both reminders to remember to register for NAWIC’s 2016 AMEC in San Antonio, Texas.

Your credential forms may be found at www.nawic.org/nawic/Credentials.asp and are due to the NAWIC Office on or before June 19, 2016. You may learn more about credentials there as well. Please remember to register for AMEC before you send in your credentials.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Education Conference!

Register for AMEC

Start planning to attend the 2016 NAWIC Annual Meeting and Education Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Early Bird registration closed April 30, so registration is now $665. Click here to register.

Registration Rates

May 1-June 30, 2016
Members: $665
Non-members: $765

After June 30, 2016 and onsite
Members: $745
Non-members: $865

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

Plans for the 2016 NAWIC Annual Meeting and Educational 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!

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 at www.nawic.org/nawic/Awards.asp. 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.

Visit the NAWIC Store’s May Sale

Purchase a gift for fellow NAWIC members or treat yourself to great NAWIC merchandise. The NAWIC store is a one-stop shopping opportunity.

Other items featured in the NAWIC Store this month include:

- NAWIC operations manual binder and dividers, now $15
- NAWIC complete operations manual, now $35
- NAWIC note cards (with envelopes), now $9
- NAWIC valet key ring, now $6
- NAWIC stylus pen, now $3.50
- NAWIC glossy folder, now $1.50

Visit the NAWIC Store online here.

The NAWIC/UPS Savings Program can help you ship more efficiency

When it comes to order fulfillment, inventory management, and customer billing NAWIC Members are always looking for ways to be more efficient and reduce costs in their outbound operations.

By integrating UPS shipping technology with your existing order management and accounting systems, you can reduce order fulfillment time and reduce errors. You can also prepare your shipments choosing from the broadest portfolio of package and freight services in the industry.

NAWIC Members can realize the following discounts:

- Up to 28% on UPS Next Day Air® and Worldwide Express®
- Up to 21% on UPS 2nd Day Air®
- Customized pricing on LTL freight shipping (Call for a free quote)

The NAWIC/UPS Savings Program offers free enrollment for all members, with no fees or minimum shipping requirements.

Enroll online!
Call: 866.443.9303, ext. 4082
Email: upsfreightassociations@ups.com
To learn more, visit savewithups.com/nawic.
NATIONAL OFFICER’S MESSAGE

Research your officer candidates
By Stephanie K. Crane, CIT, NAWIC Vice President

We are just a few short weeks away from the end of Forum season, and that also means we’ll be getting ready to vote for our incoming NAWIC board soon. All Active and Corporate members will be receiving voting instructions this month and I encourage you to vote. As a member it is your duty to get to know the candidates and make an informed decision regarding the future of this Association. If you are not a voting member, make sure you share your knowledge of any of the candidates with the members of your chapters; you can still make an impact.

There are many ways to get to know the candidates. The national office has published a profile for all candidates on the NAWIC website with an abundance of information on each candidate’s professional background, experience within the Association, their reason for running, etc. This is a great tool to learn about these members, but it’s only one way. There is also a forum on the NAWIC website bulletin board dedicated specifically to asking questions of your candidates. If you haven’t had a chance to check the bulletin board out, please make sure you do so. We’ve had some members ask some important questions and the candidates have been diligent in answering. You can also reach out to the candidates on their Facebook candidate pages, by email and by phone. I know each of these women would be happy to hear from you and gladly answer any questions you have.

With it being Forum season, I also know the candidates are traveling near and far to be available to meet the members of every region possible. This is an amazing opportunity for you to meet them in person and have a conversation and just get to know them. Time spent with each region and the members also gives them a chance to get to know members and what’s important to them. So, please share your thoughts, ask your questions and vote.

On a side note, for those of you who haven’t heard, I’ve made the decision to withdraw my candidacy for President-Elect. My work schedule and some minor health problems have taken their toll and I knew it was in the best interest of the Association for me to step aside for now. However, I do plan to stay involved and look forward to one day serving on the national board again.

I hope to see you all at AMEC in San Antonio this year!

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

Chapter Presidents
Credentials forms are due to the NAWIC Office on or before June 19, 2016. All members will count toward the number of chapter delegates. Forms will be available online at www.nawicconvention.org > Credentials. Please note: Even if your chapter will not have anyone attending AMEC, it is still necessary to submit the form with “no representation” indicated. This allows the NAWIC Office to submit the proper reports regarding chapters attending AMEC to the national secretary. Please contact the NAWIC Office if you have questions about completing the forms.

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

In addition, to ensure you’re receiving communications from the NAWIC bookkeeper, make sure we have a correct email address listed for you in the NAWIC database.
Chapter Membership Chairs

Learn to overcome prospective member objections. One of the most common objections you may hear is, “I don’t have time to attend meetings.” You might consider responding with the following: “I know what you mean. My schedule seems to get more hectic every day. But when I think about not attending, I also think about how important it is to my own career to nourish business contacts. Attending NAWIC meetings is putting me in control of my career. When something’s that important, you’ve just got to find time to take care of your future.”

Remember, there is no need to answer an objection with a long-winded explanation. Keep it simple and be honest. This response may also be useful when persuading members to attend meetings.

CORNERSTONE
Get connected to the latest news from NAWIC Committees.

OSHA/NAWIC Alliance
By Kathleen Dobson, CSP, CHST, STS-C, LEED AP BD+C, OSHA/NAWIC Alliance Co-Chair

Schelle Wood and I had the opportunity to represent NAWIC at the March OSHA Construction Alliance Roundtable. Most of the discussion was regarding OSHA’s May 2-6 Fall Prevention Campaign and the new Silica standard. We continue to work on projects with the entire group for development of an orientation plan for anyone to use and modify and develop a strategy to reach small contractors in residential construction. These two projects will have a direct impact on a large number of our members. We strategically approached participants from CPWR (the Center for Construction Research and Training) and the NHCA (National Hispanic Construction Association) to help spread the word about our alliance and to possibly partner with them on ergonomic issues and harassment issues affecting women in the industry. A few other areas of interest included a review of OSHA severe injuries and fatal statistics, additional information on OSHA’s revised Safety and Health Management Guidelines, revisions to OSHA’s documentation to prevent identity theft and backover prevention. The eye and face PPE (1926 subpart E) references have been changed to reflect the 2010 ANSI Z87 standard.

We hope you all planned and/or conducted an activity for OSHA’s Fall Prevention Campaign. No matter what, we’d like to know. Our alliance receives credit for anything OSHA-related that our members do. Did you know you can print certificates of participation for your companies, projects or workers? [www.osha.gov/stopfalls]

OSHA’s next big thing was announced on March 24 with news releases, press announcements and proclamations. What is it? The newly revised Silica Standard, which will affect general industry, maritime work and construction. Two separate rules were announced and the final rule for all will go into effect on June 23, and compliance for construction will begin June 23, 2017.

Respirable crystalline silica is a hazardous substance known to cause silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, and kidney disease. The existing permissible exposure limits are more than 40 years old, based on research from the 1960s and do not reflect recent scientific evidence. Common construction exposure to crystalline silica dust occurs when cutting, sawing, drilling or crushing concrete, brick, block, rock and stone.

In a nutshell, the standard sets the action level for silica at 25 micrograms/meter3 and the permissible 8-hour time weighted average exposure at 50 micrograms/m3. This is a reduction in permissible exposure for respirable quartz from 0.1 milligrams/meter3.

For the most common tasks where workers have exposure to silica, a table is in the standard, which identifies specific tasks and control measures. OSHA has indicated that if an employer follows this table, they do not have to put in place other monitoring measures such as air sampling.

Where exposure exists, employers will be required to use engineering controls (water, ventilation and vacuuming); provide respirators when engineering controls are ineffective, limit worker access to high exposure areas, develop a written exposure control plan, offer medical exams to highly exposed workers and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.

OSHA’s webpage [www.osha.gov/silica] is a good place to start your education on silica. The CPWR has created a webpage [www.silica-safe.org], which is a one-stop source of information including a way to create your own silica exposure plan. The Laborer’s Health & Safety Fund of North America (www.lhsfna.org) also has good information on silica exposure and protective measures.

Companies have a year to prepare, so please share this information if you are not the responsible person for health and safety within your company. They should start with the development of a silica exposure plan. They must identify the company’s competent person for silica. They should understand Table I and decide if they will use it or conduct monitoring, and most importantly, they must train employees.
U.S. Transportation
By Cari L. Durbin, U.S. Transportation Chair

What is a roundabout and why are they used?

It seems that they are becoming more common here in the U.S. and have been used in other areas for many years. It does take some getting use to. And with a little practice and exposure to them, the traffic really does flow smoothly. Half of the world’s roundabouts are in France (more than 30,000 as of 2008), although the United Kingdom has more as a proportion of the road than any other country.

Aroundabout is a type of circular intersection, but is quite unlike a neighborhood traffic circle or large rotary. Roundabouts have been proven safer and more efficient than other types of circular intersections.

Roundabouts have certain distinguishing features and characteristics. Roundabouts are adapted to the context of the location. Successful roundabouts come in all shapes and sizes. Some are oval-, teardrop-, peanut- and dogbone-shaped. Some have as few as three legs and others as many as six. There are small, simple mini roundabouts, and larger, more complex multilane roundabouts. However, regardless of size, circular shape, or number of legs, the fundamental and essential characteristics of all roundabouts include:

- **Counterclockwise Flow.** Traffic travels counterclockwise around a center island.
- **Entry Yield Control.** Vehicles entering the roundabout yield to traffic already circulating.
- **Low Speed.** Curvature that results in lower vehicle speeds, generally 15-25 MPH, throughout the roundabout.

They are often safer, more efficient, less costly and more aesthetically appealing than conventional intersection designs. Roundabouts are an excellent choice to complement other transportation objectives—including Complete Streets, multimodal networks, and corridor access management—without compromising the ability to keep people and freight moving through our towns, cities and regions, and across the nation. The FHWA Office of Safety identified roundabouts as a “proven safety measure” because of their ability to substantially reduce the types of crashes that result in injury or loss of life. Roundabouts are designed to improve safety for all users, including pedestrians and bicycles.

Most significantly, roundabouts reduce the types of crashes where people are seriously hurt or killed by 78-82 percent when compared to conventional stop-controlled and signalized intersections, per the AASHTO Highway Safety Manual. By reducing the number and severity of conflict points, and because of the lower speeds of vehicles moving through the intersection, roundabouts are a significantly safer type of intersection.


Membership
By Hilda Cox, AC, CIT, OSHA, Membership Chair

It is spring and many of the NAWIC Chapters have sprung into action. Nationwide we are 91 members stronger than we were at this time last year. Way to go ladies! With that news I felt you might want to know which chapters are the most successful in their recruiting efforts, so I did some calculations to see who is growing by the largest percentage, and listed below are two chapters from each region that have grown by the largest percentage this year (based on renewal/new member numbers from the Monthly Membership Reports we receive from the NAWIC office).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Midwest Region</th>
<th>Greater Omaha, Neb. 115 percent (13 Renew, 15 New)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NE Kansas 50 percent (12 Renew, 6 New)</td>
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<td>And a shout out to SE Kansas for four renewals and three new members!</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central Region</td>
<td>Pittsburgh 80 percent (15 Renew, 12 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Detroit, Mich. 66 percent (50 Renew, 34 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Penn. 76 percent (21 Renew, 16 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greater Rochester, N.Y. 65.6 percent (32 Renew, 21 New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>Puget Sound 52 percent (33 Renew, 17 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacramento, Calif. 50 percent (10 Renew, 5 New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Southwest</td>
<td>Metropolitan Denver 107 percent (14 Renew, 15 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orange County 57 percent (28 Renew, 16 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Atlantic</td>
<td>Charlotte, N.C. 56 percent (34 Renew, 19 New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Durham, N.C. 50 percent (10 Renew, 5 New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Houston, Texas 58 percent (31 Renew, 18 New)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Austin, Texas 44 percent (36 Renew, 16 New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Nashville, Tenn. 122 percent (18 Renew, 22 New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Ga. 114 percent (21 Renew, 24 New)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You have been hard at work and it shows. Please join our Membership GoToMeetings the last week of each month to learn recruiting and retention ideas from the successful chapters. We have a specific topic each month. Info on each meeting is shared with directors, region membership chairs, chapter presidents, and chapter membership chairs (those for whom I had contact info). If you would like to receive notices of the calls, please email me your contact info and I will add your name to the distribution list.

If there is anything I can help your chapter with, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email is hildacox@aol.com and my cell number is 501-951-3404.
Legislation and Policy
By L'Tryce Slade, MRP, JD, Legislation and Policy Chair

Risk Insurance

Why are insurance companies trying to lower their risk with contractors? Through the years there has been an increase in subcontractor default, more frequent and severe workers compensation and disability claims, and generally less favorable risk-transfer negotiating conditions for contractors.

How can you help your insurance company understand your risk profile? Persistent low investment returns have forced insurers to assume more conservative underwriting standards, necessitating a much deeper understanding of their clients’ risk profile.

What are your key risk insights for your company? The new normal in the insurance industry is the construction industry will be built around “key risk insights” derived from insurers’ incorporation of a multitude of data sources in the service of predictive analytics and risk modeling.

What technologies are your company using? Contractors are increasing integration of new technologies and project delivery arrangements designed to mitigate many of the most pervasive risks in the new construction marketplace.

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

Do you go through each day feeling like you are not going in the direction you planned? Well they say that lack of planning means plan to fail. In order to grow, we must change our behavior and start strategic planning.

Overdrive. Change is in our power!

- We make the choice to be a victim of our changes
- Or to be empowered, embracing the change and be the change agent
- On our board. We are there for each other…
- We are making the Association a stronger organization for our members and for our industry
- Going through these “gears” you will find that you will shift through changes with
  - Creativity
  - Enthusiasm
  - A Sense of Possibility
- The ripple effect. You will have a positive impact on the people around you.

You will lead powerfully by your example … influencing others to shift through change with energy, enthusiasm and creativity!

REGIONAL ROUNDUP
Region Directors report on NAWIC activities across the country.

Pacific Northwest Region | Ruth Fritts

Wow, what a great Pacific Northwest Forum. The theme for the Forum this year was #LeadLikeAGirl. The inspiration behind the theme came from the #LikeAGirl campaign from Always. Why is being like a girl so negative? This weekend was all about turning a phrase from an insult into an empowering message.

The South Sound Chapter #187 did a fantastic job of empowering us by bringing interesting speakers along with fun mixed into the Forum held in Tacoma, Wash. We had 93 members in attendance with 45 first timers and 14 non-members, who after this weekend I am sure will want to join. The event started out with two tours on Thursday showing major renovations on the University of Washington’s Tacoma campus and the $39 million renovation of a historic elementary school. Friday started out with a funny duo representing the Pierce County Economic Development. The duo talked about career advancement and overcoming the challenges of their career climb in a male-dominated industry.

We had speakers addressing Leadership Development: Taking the Next Steps to Step Up; Addressing Mental Health Issues in the Workplace; Taking the Lead in Disaster Preparedness; Unlocking the General Code: Leading across Generations; Leading in Technology; Drones in Construction; and Being a Leader in Safety. The Washington AGC also provided a very entertaining Safety Fashion Show. At lunch on Friday we watched videos on each candidate running for office. A question and answers session would be held later on Saturday afternoon. The Monte Carlo night fundraiser brought proceeds to NAWIC Education Foundation, NAWIC
Founder’s Scholarship Foundation and the Family Renewal Shelter that helps bring healing hope and new life to victims of domestic violence.

After a morning of great speaker topics on Saturday, the afternoon business session brought many questions on the Summary of Action and the National Budget meant to engage and educate the new members in attendance. To end the Forum at the Saturday night Gala, we announced winners of the regional awards; members received longevity pins for 25, 30, 35 and 45 years; and the entertainment for the night was master magician, hypnotist and author Maritess Zurbano. She began as a Las Vegas magician and has performed at every major casino on the strip. She wowed us with her abilities to hypnotize and control the minds of some of our members. A big thanks to those members that volunteered to be hypnotized. They provided us with an evening of continuous laughter. People were standing up and moving closer to get a better view. Our own national President, Riki Lovejoy, did not willingly volunteer, but provided us with many laughs. The key to not volunteering is to not close your eyes. There were many videos being shot of the members participating. This may just break the rule of what goes on at Forum stays at Forum. OMG! It was so funny.

The Courtyard Marriott and the Pacific Grill Events Center provided awesome accommodations, good breakfasts at the Bistro every morning, and great meals during the event. The food was fabulous and it seemed to be never ending. This Forum rocked! If you did not attend you missed an inspiring, educational and fun time.

The next event for the Pacific Northwest Region will be the Fall Conference in Boise, Idaho, Oct. 14-15, 2016. Start planning to attend now.

South Atlantic Region | Lorie Lythgoe

We have been busy, busy, busy here in the South Atlantic Region. Block Kids, CAD, Build Design, and WIC week. All of these events drew large participation from the members, with some teaming up with other associations in the construction industry. There were proclamations issued on all levels, education, time spent with teammates, and time spent in community service.

We have two chapters celebrating anniversaries this month. The Charlotte, N.C. Chapter #121 is celebrating 50 years and the Roanoke Valley Chapter #226 is celebrating 40 years. It was truly an honor to attend both celebrations.

Our Annual Spring Forum will be held April 29-30, right before the Connection publishes, in Asheville, North Carolina. The past Region Directors and Elite members have put together a weekend full of educational workshops, informative speakers, networking and a “Class Act” Black Tie formal awards ceremony.

For 50 years, this region has worked to enhance the success of women in the construction industry. Elite members share their knowledge and experience, shaping our future leaders. We are the change. We are paving the way and soaring into our future.

South Central Region | Dena Rowland

April showers bring May flowers, or so the saying goes. Spring is the full bloom. The flowers are abundant, the birds are joyfully chirping and NAWIC regions are celebrating with their Forums across the country. If you have never attended a region Forum, this is the year to do so! This will be the first Forum for many of the regions that merged on Oct. 1, 2015.

Forum is a wonderful opportunity for the members to really see the “value” of NAWIC. There are educational seminars, networking events and time to see old friends and make new ones. You will also get the opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates who are running for national offices. Please make sure you attend your Forum or contact the candidates directly to get your questions answered before you turn in your ballots. The voting will still be open after all the Forums have taken place.
The South Central Region Forum will be held in New Orleans the weekend of May 20-21, 2016. We are holding the last forum of the season, so if you didn’t get to attend your own Forum and would still like to attend a Forum, come celebrate with us!

The month of May also brings another time to celebrate. I would like to wish a Happy Mother’s Day to all of the beautiful mothers as well as NAWIC “moms” out there. Thank you wonderful women for all you do and I hope you enjoy your Mother’s Day!

Highlights
Discover how members and chapters are enhancing their success.

Program Helps Women-Owned Technology Small Business Compete for Funding

The American Society for Engineering Education, Women in Engineering Division (ASEE-WIED) has partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) Phase 0 SBIR/STTR Assistance Program with the goal of helping more women-owned high technology small businesses compete for federal funding.

Each year, the federal government injects $2.5 billion into U.S. small businesses via the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. By encouraging women to seek DOE SBIR/STTR funding, ASEE-WIED hopes that women can level the uneven playing field and take advantage of this opportunity.

“This partnership will encourage women to leverage the critical services that are so important in the early stages of proposal preparation,” said Dr. Beth Holloway, Chair of the ASEE-WIED as well as Assistant Dean of Purdue University’s College of Engineering. “Services like business mentoring, Letter of Support writing assistance, and SBIR Phase I proposal preparation assistance all increase the likelihood of receiving an SBIR or STTR award.”

ASEE-WIED is encouraging others to recommend the Phase 0 program to any company that might be eligible. These include women and minority owned small businesses, and those companies that reside in underrepresented states. For a full list of eligibility requirements, please visit www.dawnbreaker.com/doephase0/apply.php.

“Partnering with ASEE-WIED is another exciting step for the Phase 0 program,” said Richard Smerbeck, Program Manager for Phase 0. “Not only because of their reputation among women-owned research and development firms, but also their extensive reach within the technology sector.”

Services provided by the DOE Phase 0 initiative are completely funded by the Department of Energy, and are free to eligible small businesses.

The objective of the Women in Engineering Division (WIED) of the American Society for Engineering Education is to study, promote and improve the role of women in the professions of engineering and engineering technology through collection of data, publications, presentations at appropriate meetings, sponsorship of conferences, and similar activities.

Safety Newsletter

This is such an exciting time of year for the Safety & Health Committee! Spring is in full swing, which means so are our regional Spring Forums! With a few forums happening at the end of April and the remaining in May, we are thrilled to see which member companies will receive the prestigious Regional Safety Excellence Awards! The winners are then forwarded to be scored with all the other regional winners. The top three will be awarded at AMEC during the gala on Friday night!

DON’T FORGET! The committee is collecting ideas for chapter meetings that are focused on safety and/or health. We ultimately are going to create a ‘book’ of ideas that chapters can reference to help promote safety and health. Please send us your ideas and why you think your membership would find VALUE that meeting. Send your ideas to committee chair, Leah Curran.

Join the National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction

The first week of May brings OSHA’s campaign to prevent falls in construction! We are teaming up with the OSHA Alliance committee to raise awareness and help prevent falls. Here are some resources for your chapters and workplaces if you’re considering participating.

Don’t hesitate--Anyone can participate!

We love the opportunity to share what our members and chapters are doing to promote safety!

Greta Gardner, South Atlantic’s Regional Safety & Health Chair, created this handout to share the importance of having a fall protection plan!
During WIC Week, Randy Ortiz from Contract Erectors, spoke to the membership about fall protection. He shared information on slips, trips and falls. Handouts were provided covering walking on surfaces and how to be aware of what is on the ground. He also discussed ladder safety, safety awareness, and caution tips. **Kudos to chapter member, Michelle Bostick, for coordinating this beneficial meeting!**

**STAY ENGAGED WITH THIS FREE WEBINAR!**

Enhance Your Safety Culture from the Inside Out
May 12th at 2pm EST
Click HERE to register!