

# National Association of Women in Construction



Career

Education



Future



## THE CONNECTION

Connecting leaders and members  
to news from NAWIC

May 2017

*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](http://www.RowanU.com/Construction)

856-256-4747 | [global@rowan.edu](mailto:global@rowan.edu)

#### Get Ready to Vote for the 2017-2018 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 from [AssociationVoting.com](http://AssociationVoting.com) by email in May. Please check your spam/junk mail. Eligible voting members without an email address or who have chosen mail as their preferred communication in their NAWIC profile 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](http://www.nawic.org) > Member Log In > Member Center > Update Your Info.

Below is the official slate of candidates running for NAWIC Office for the 2017-2018 year.

#### President-Elect

Dove Sifers-Putman, CBT

#### Vice President

Diane I. Mike, CBT

**Secretary**  
Ruth Fritts  
Jill Hanson, CIT

**Treasurer**  
Anne Pflieger, CIT

## **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. Remember to register for NAWIC's 2017 AMEC in Anaheim, Calif.

Your Credential forms may be found at [www.nawicconvention.org](http://www.nawicconvention.org) > Credentials and are due to the NAWIC Office on or before June 15, 2017. 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 Anaheim at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Education Conference!

## **Register for AMEC**

Start planning to attend the 2017 NAWIC Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Anaheim, Calif. Early Bird registration closed April 30, so registration is now \$685. [Click here to register.](#)

### **Registration Rates**

May 1-June 30, 2017

Members: \$685

Non-members: \$785

After June 30, 2017 and onsite

Members: \$785

Non-members: \$885

## **Reserve Your Room for AMEC**

When you register to attend AMEC, don't forget step number two. Go ahead and book your room at the conference hotel. The 2017 AMEC will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orange County. NAWIC has secured a conference rate of \$159\* a night for single and double rooms and \$179\* for triple or quad rooms. Please note that rooms with two beds feature two queen-size beds and some rooms feature limited closet space. Be sure to book your room online at <https://aws.passkey.com/go/NAWIC2017> or by calling 714-750-1234. Room rates are guaranteed if booked by Aug. 1, 2017. However, we cannot guarantee availability. Book your room today before our room block is gone!

## **NAWIC Adds New Partner—Columbia Southern University**



**COLUMBIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY**

## **LEARNING PARTNER**

Columbia Southern University recently welcomed NAWIC as a member of its Learning Partnership program!

As a member of the Learning Partnership program, employees or members of NAWIC receive a 10 percent tuition discount toward any Columbia Southern University online associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program. CSU degrees cover such topics as business, criminal justice, human resource management and occupational safety and health. As CSU is a family business, immediate family members of NAWIC's employees or members will also receive this 10 percent discount when they enroll in CSU.

Columbia Southern University also provides the Learning Partner Scholarship opportunity for members or employees interested in furthering their education and career. The winners of the scholarship will receive tuition for up to three years, or until the completion of their selected online degree program with CSU whichever comes first. To learn more about applying for this exciting scholarship, please visit: [www.columbiasouthern.edu/community/partnerships/scholarships](http://www.columbiasouthern.edu/community/partnerships/scholarships).

Find out more about Columbia Southern University and your Learning Partnership benefits by contacting Christie Ball at [Christie.Ball@columbiasouthern.edu](mailto:Christie.Ball@columbiasouthern.edu) or by calling 800-344-5021.

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

Plans for the 2017 NAWIC Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC) are well under way. The NAWIC Mini Trade Show will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 17, 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 the NAWIC office your sales tax money. NAWIC will then pay all sales tax owed with one payment to the state.

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](http://www.nawicconvention.org) > Trade Show.

All reservations for tables must be returned to the NAWIC Office no later than June 1, 2017. 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](mailto: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!

## **The Chapter Leadership Training Series Continues in May**

The May session of NAWIC's Chapter Leadership Training Series will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 1 p.m. Eastern time. Please note that the session, unlike previous sessions, will be held during the workday.

The session, "The Legal Relationship Between NAWIC National and Chapters" has a target audience of chapter presidents, but is open to any interested NAWIC member. NAWIC legal counsel Darren Moore will present the session. Join this training session to learn about the relationship between the national office and local NAWIC chapters. To join, call the dial-in number at 515-604-9309 or go to <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/nawicleadershipskills> on your computer. You will need the meeting access code 391116.

The Power Point presentation will be made available on the NAWIC website ([http://www.nawic.org/nawic/Leadership\\_Training.asp](http://www.nawic.org/nawic/Leadership_Training.asp)) at least one week prior to the scheduled webinar for review. It is subject to change. Any questions should be directed to Colleen Cribbs, NAWIC National Committee Liaison, at [colleenc@nawic.org](mailto:colleenc@nawic.org).

To see a calendar of future sessions of the Chapter Leadership Training Series, go to [www.nawic.org](http://www.nawic.org) > Member Center or [click here](#).

## **Attend ASHRAE's 2017 Annual Conference**

Attend ASHRAE's 2017 Annual Conference, June 24-28, 2017, in Long Beach, Calif. Registration is open now at [www.ashrae.org/longbeach](http://www.ashrae.org/longbeach). The Long Beach Convention

and Entertainment Center will be your one-stop shop for Registration, Bookstore, Speakers Lounge, and the Technical Program. Committee meetings will take place at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, the Renaissance Long Beach, and the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

The conference includes tracks that demonstrate the benefits of net zero energy and ways to achieve that goal in the design and operation of buildings. The fifth annual Research Summit brings together distinguished researchers to present the latest research results on building science and renewable energy and its impact as we move towards NZE buildings. The conference Technical Program features new tracks that focus on resources to design, build, control, commission and operate these high efficiency facilities:

- Building Life Safety Systems **NEW**
- Commissioning: Optimizing New and Existing Buildings and their Operation Controls **NEW**
- Fundamentals and Applications
- HVAC&R Systems and Equipment
- Net Zero Energy Buildings: The International Race to 2030 **NEW**
- Refrigeration
- Residential Buildings: Standards Guidelines and Codes **NEW**

The ASHRAE Learning Institute (ALI) provides high-quality training presented by industry-recognized experts. Choose from full-day professional development seminars and half-day short courses to stay current on new HVAC&R technologies. ALI seminars and courses are approved for renewal of professional engineer and professional architect licenses, as well as for industry certification programs. For more information, visit [www.ashrae.org/longbeachcourses](http://www.ashrae.org/longbeachcourses).

To register or learn more, go to [www.ashrae.org/LongBeach](http://www.ashrae.org/LongBeach).

## **New Region Pages on NAWIC.org**

NAWIC has set up new pages on [nawic.org](http://nawic.org) for all of the NAWIC regions. Each page will pull together information such as links to region and chapter websites, links to Forum information and registration, new member/recruiter reports, and more. The purpose of the pages is to make it easier for members to find region information. To see your region's page go to [www.nawic.org](http://www.nawic.org) > Member Center > Regions > [Your Region].

## Attend Oregon Solar Energy Conference in Portland



The Oregon Solar Energy Conference, to be held May 9-11 in Portland, Ore., is the fastest growing regional solar conference in the U.S. It will host more than 500 attendees in 2017 at the Portland Crowne Plaza. The conference will feature more than 25 exhibitors, policy sessions, technical training, networking, large scale and utility PV sessions, sales and business training and of course solar + storage sessions. For more information and to register, please go to [oregonsolarenergyconference.com](http://oregonsolarenergyconference.com).

## 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. Dede Hughes must receive all nominations and required forms at [dedeh@nawic.org](mailto:dedeh@nawic.org) by June 1, 2017.

The winners of each award will be recognized at the NAWIC Awards Gala, Friday, Aug. 18, during the 2017 Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

## NAWIC Partners with Troy University



NAWIC is pleased to announce the national agreement between NAWIC and Troy University. This corporate partnership between NAWIC and Troy will encourage both professional and personal development among our members by offering tuition discounts and scholarship opportunities at Troy University to all national NAWIC members and staff.

What began as a seed of inspiration in NAWIC's Montgomery, Ala. Chapter #267 has sprouted into a national partnership. Troy University is an international university with sites all over the world, offering undergraduate degree programs, graduate degree programs, certificates and professional development courses on several campuses and online. Carl Collins and Amy Waters attended a NAWIC Montgomery, Ala. Chapter business meeting where they shared information about Troy University's Corporate Partnership program. Through this program, partnership organization members and staff can receive education benefits at Troy, including waived registration fees, a 10-percent tuition discount, and the opportunity to apply for Corporate Partner Scholarships. These benefits are available to all NAWIC members and NAWIC staff. They may be used at any Troy University campus, including Troy Online.

Troy University is world renowned for excellence in education. NAWIC's Montgomery, Ala. Chapter members and associates include Troy alumni, parents of current Troy students and alumni, and Troy faculty and staff. NAWIC's ties with Troy run deep and the Montgomery, Ala. Chapter is honored to have a role in the development of this partnership.

NAWIC members can learn more about the Troy Corporate Partnership on Troy's partnership site at [www.troy.edu/partnerships/women-in-construction.html](http://www.troy.edu/partnerships/women-in-construction.html).

## 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.

Items featured in the NAWIC Store this month include:

- NAWIC stylus pen, now \$2.75
- NAWIC valet key ring, now \$4.50
- NAWIC can cooler, now \$1.75
- NAWIC card case, now \$7.50
- NAWIC anniversary tote bag, now \$7
- NAWIC portfolio, now \$8

Visit the NAWIC Store online at [www.nawic.org/nawic/NAWIC\\_Store.asp](http://www.nawic.org/nawic/NAWIC_Store.asp).

## The NAWIC/UPS Savings Program can help you ship more efficiently



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](mailto:upsfreightassociations@ups.com)

To learn more, visit [savewithups.com/nawic](http://savewithups.com/nawic).

## 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 15, 2017. All members will count toward the number of chapter delegates. Forms will be available online at [www.nawicconvention.org](http://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.

## NATIONAL OFFICER'S MESSAGE



## NAWIC Offers Opportunities to Further Your Education

By Dove Sifers-Putman, CBT, NAWIC Vice President

How are you furthering your education? Have you attended your region Forum? Is your chapter providing education for your career, leadership or professional development? These are just a few ways to further your education as a NAWIC member.

Did you know that you can learn different types of lien laws, how to protect your business from fraud, team building, how to interact with different people, OSHA training, leadership training and more? NAWIC strives to provide education that you can use in your chapter, your business and your every day life. NAWIC encourages its members to step out of the box and gain education that can help them achieve promotions at work. We encourage you to step into the leadership role in your chapter and even at your job.

Don't forget that the NAWIC board has been having leadership workshops throughout the year via Free Conference Call. If you were unable to participate, you can find this information on the NAWIC website at [www.nawic.org](http://www.nawic.org) > Toolbox > Podcasts or YouTube Channel.

What better way is there to gain education than by making plans to attend the Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Anaheim, Calif., August 16-19? President Connie Leopard, CIT and President-Elect Catherine Schoenenberger have worked diligently to offer education, leadership training, professional development, and more at this event. Our keynote speaker will be Aimee Cohen, author of "Woman Up! Overcome the Seven Deadly Sins that Sabotage Your Success." There will be professional seminars on topics such as How to Deliver Extraordinary Customer Service, OSHA's Role in the New Administration, Active Shooter and Workplace Violence Preparedness, Applied Situational Leadership, and more. Of course we will also have Association workshops such as Chapter Leadership Training/Mock Board Meeting, NAWIC National Committee Speed Networking, PR/Marketing and Membership, WIC Week, NEF and NFSF. Finally, we can't forget the networking opportunities and friends that you make while attending NAWIC events.

Become a NAWIC member, and then attend chapter meetings, region events and the Annual Meeting and Education Conference to further your education. You could become the next leader in your chapter, your business or your community.

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Region Directors report on NAWIC activities across the country.



### Midwest Region | Vickie Nickel, CIT

Greetings from the Midwest. As I write this article, I'm only a few days away from the Midwest Region Forum in Omaha, Neb. The theme for our Forum, "It's a Zoo Out There: Tame It!," alludes to the busy lives that exist for all of us. It's work, home, family and NAWIC.

For more than 20 years, NAWIC has become an integral part of my everyday routine. The value of information and the ability to meet new members from across the region and country continues to impact my life. For me, NAWIC has enabled me to stay ahead of the game in terms of industry support and resources.

The opportunities that we have from attending NAWIC events, be it a chapter meeting, a regional conference, or the Annual Meeting and Education Conference (AMEC), are powerful. Seek opportunities to network; to collaborate; and to stay up to date on construction trends, new technology, workforce management, and more.

During WIC Week, I was in awe of all the social media posts from around all around the chapters. Members, we are the faces of NAWIC. Let's keep this momentum going. Social media can be a persuasive outlet for spreading the word about women in construction.

We are busy women, so invest in yourself and your personal and professional development. Our lives and workload can be zoo-like—swinging through the jungle from one project to the next. But who are we? We are women in construction!

#Hear-NAWIC-Roar

### North Central Region | Jenny Mangas

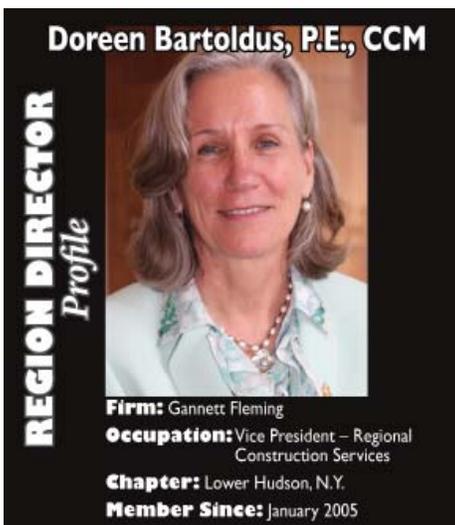
"Happy spring" are the first words I want to say to everyone, but Mother Nature just keeps us guessing every day! Hang in there, warm weather will be here before you know it!

Along with the warmer weather, spring forums are upon us. The North Central Region Forum took place April 21-22 in Indianapolis, Ind. We had some great speakers, as well as some very informative seminars to help everyone develop their own personal business skills and potentially enhance their careers. I'd like to give a special thank you to the Indianapolis, Ind. Chapter for its efforts in planning this event and securing sponsorships. Congratulations to our New Leader, Erin Luke from the Cleveland Chapter, and our Foremost Leader, Kate Csizmadia from the Cincinnati Chapter. These ladies are on fire for NAWIC!

WIC Week seems to have been quite the success in our region this year! Spreading the word over social media was a huge part of our push this year. Luncheons, banquets, and volunteering were just a few of the ways we informed companies and women working in the construction industry about NAWIC. Several chapters even gained some new members! Way to go ladies!

I also had the privilege of attending the South Central Spring Forum in Dallas, Texas! Everything is bigger in Texas, especially their hospitality! I learned a great deal from their seminars, including how to stay safe in the work place and how to communicate with those who aren't always easy to communicate with.

Our membership is a solid 482 members as of March 31. Keep up the hard work and recruiting efforts! Let's keep NAWIC strong and constantly growing!



## Northeast Region | Doreen Bartoldus, P.E., CCM

As I write this, the Northeast Region is about to meet in Burlington Mass, right outside of Boston for our spring Forum, April 28-30. For anyone who follows the running world, the Boston Marathon was just held on April 17. This year, at 70 years old, Kathrine Switzer ran and finished the marathon—50 years after being the first woman to ever officially run it. Check out her story. The Boston Marathon is going to retire her number (#261) in honor of her trailblazing. What an inspiration!

We will be honoring another trailblazer at Forum—NAWIC Executive Vice President Dede Hughes! We cannot wait to spend time with this amazing lady.

The women of NAWIC continue to blaze trails. We have had so much to inspire us this year in our quest to empower women in our industry. The NAWIC women of the Northeast continue to amaze me and make me proud.

Our membership continues to grow in every chapter. I think this is a result of much hard work from the bottom up (our members and chapter boards) and from the top down from our national board. President Connie Leipard's Support, Encourage Grow campaign is significantly evident.

The national board met at mid-year just before the start of WIC week. Great work has been done and positive moves forward have been made as all will see in our summary of actions review at Forum and as results go out to all chapters.

WIC week on every level of every chapter was awesome. I was able to attend the Hartford, Conn. Chapter's MWBE networking event hosted by its president Penny Nigro. They have a great partnership with state and local programs. And the presenters, who were all woman business owners, were inspiring. Our NAWIC President-Elect Catharine Schoenenberger was also in attendance and gave a captivating talk about NAWIC.

Schoenenberger also joined with the Greater Worcester, Mass. Chapter and the Boston, Mass. Chapter on their third annual Habitat for Humanity Build Day. They joined the beginning of a project in Northborough, Massachusetts remodeling two historic buildings.

The Greater Worcester, Mass. Chapter president, Jessica Murphy, Esq., and charter chapter member and secretary, Jennie Lee Colosi, taped an interview for Woman2Woman Today, a local cable access show with a devoted online following. The show highlights successful women, supports female ideas, businesses and resources that make women the best they can be. The 15-minute segment was introduced with the tag line: "Hard Hats. Strong Women. Thriving in Male-Dominated Industries." The interview played locally during WIC Week and is on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtJCH\\_eTshY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtJCH_eTshY).

Jillian Penkin and Jennifer Harter, president and vice president of the Greater Rochester, N.Y. Chapter, were interviewed on their local news station WHEC 10 for "Rochester in Focus" sharing what NAWIC is doing in the community and their focus on outreach

I also participated in the Lower Hudson, N.Y. Chapter's small but powerful "Find your power" session hosted by president Rose Jesse and lead by empowerment coach Lane Cobb.

Then came the NY Builds conference at Javitz Center. The Greater New York/Long Island Chapter was hard at work at their booth again this year. Kudos to Ingrid Sletten, Rochelle Behar, and Priscilla DeJardin for the many contacts they made and for getting our message out there one conversation at a time. You may have also seen this advertised on Linked In and other social media. We had fantastic exposure. Carol Henry, past director and a member of the Capital District, N.Y. Chapter took the long ride and supported our panel discussion on diversity in construction. I moderated the panel, which included Ingrid Sletten, Greater New York/Long Island president; Kathleen Culhane of NEW (Non Traditional Employment for women); Olivia Rousso, a project manager from Gilbane; and Chelsea Lemar of PWC. We had more than 60 men and women in attendance. And the questions we received made it obvious we still have work to do, but you all know that. This was also a kick off to a partnering relationship with PWC!

The next week found me with the Capital District, N.Y. Chapter at the annual MWBE showcase hosted by chapter president Eileen Venn. Another amazing event, it featured two rooms of booths, which included government agencies, contractors, attorneys, and insurers. There was great food and a raffle at the end! It was phenomenal. I was introduced to almost everyone. I spoke to many men and women in the industry.

The entire Northeast was excited and busy during WIC week, and social media was hot with events everywhere. Congratulations to everyone!

And from the top down, well it's out there. I'm talking about NAWIC president Connie Leopard's interview with Kathy Ireland on national TV. Way to go! The video is great, Connie is a pro, and NAWIC was well represented. The video is out there in social media doing its rounds now. Congratulations Connie! I am sure as we move forward this year we will see more return on this investment in getting our message out.

We also had sad news this month with the passing of Gay Sanderson. Gay was a member of the Hartford, Conn. Chapter. Over the years she served NAWIC in many capacities including several chapter positions such as president and treasurer, and as chairman of numerous committees on a chapter and national level. Gay was a fellow fund trustee with me just before the regions merged. I spoke with Gay at many events, and was so impressed that she owned her own drywall business. She was gentle and strong, and just an amazing human being. Personally, I thank her for those special moments I got to just sit and talk with her. Our condolences go out to her family and friends; she is already missed.

Congratulations to my fellow directors on the successful forums this spring! I continue to look forward to working with the Northeast Region and national to continue to grow with this great Association.



## Pacific Southwest | Elizabeth M. Teramoto, CIT

As we roll into National Infrastructure Week, it is impossible not to think about the awesome power of Mother Nature and how spring, with all of its weird, wild glory, has come to the Pacific Southwest. From the desert lowlands to the island tropics it has been a pretty beneficial time, empty reservoirs are now filled and long-lasting droughts cancelled, but it has also brought washed out roads, flash floods and a myriad of other challenges. Amidst this natural chaos San Bernardino/Riverside, Calif. Chapter's April meeting covering "Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Workplace" and the San Gabriel, Calif. Chapter's "How We Can Enhance the Human Firewall" covering cyber security acted as reminders that no matter if the cause is weather related or man-made, it is impossible to know when disaster may strike. However, you can still take steps to put a plan together to counteract whatever may arise.

On a lighter note, we are just weeks away from Forum 2017. The Region will be spending the Cinco de Mayo weekend in beautiful Arizona. The Tucson, Ariz. Chapter has put together an incredible program featuring topics as wide ranging as urban redevelopment, the tie between leadership and customer service, and what it's like to be responsible for all construction projects at a military airbase. We are all looking forward to celebrating our diverse region by "Expanding Borders with NAWIC" and taking a moment to cheer each other on.

The party doesn't stop there! At the end of May, many of us will head to California to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ventura, Calif. Chapter. What can I say, the Pacific Southwest loves to have a good time and if we can incorporate a good cause, like the Los Angeles, Calif. Chapters 31st Annual Day at the Races benefitting their scholarship fund, it's even better!

I hope that the remainder of your spring is beautiful. Don't forget to grab some sunscreen as summer is just around the bend!

## CORNERSTONE

Get connected to the latest news from NAWIC Committees.

### **NFSF Scholarship Award**

By Cindy Johnsen, CBT, CDS, CIT, NFSF Administrator

The NFSF Scholarship Awards Committee met in April and awarded more than \$69,000 in scholarships! We awarded 11 trade and 57 undergraduate scholarships to deserving students throughout the United States. We received more than 130 applications so we were not able to help everyone who applied and will continue to work to help more students in the future. We also administer approximately 24 chapter scholarship funds, so if your chapter is interested, please let us know.

Part of our goals for this year has been to begin our outreach efforts marketing to more schools. We can use your help. Several chapters actively solicited trade schools and colleges and it showed in the number of applications from those areas we received. Let's continue this effort! Please do not hesitate to reach to your local trade schools and colleges in your area. There are so many that have not heard about NFSF.

The trustees of NFSF this year are Cindy Johnsen, CBT, CDS, CIT, NFSF Administrator; Judy DeWeese, CBT, CIT; Yasmine Branden, CCA; and Sandy Field, CBT, CIT. We thank you for utilizing NFSF and if we can be assistance, please email us at [NFSFscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NFSFscholarship@gmail.com).

### **U.S. Transportation**

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

Self-Driving Vehicles: Trucking and the Future

You might say that this sounds like something from the movies. It is sooner than you think. With a little bit of research, I found some information in this developing technology. Here's the scoop on automated trucks that could be a part of the transportation system by 2025.

U.S. Department of Transportation is reviewing self-driving guidance issued in September 2016. Major automakers called for a review of the guidelines and some have called for significant changes including legislative changes to speed self-driving vehicles to U.S. roads. USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao said that self-driving vehicles could dramatically improve

safety, noting that 94 percent of traffic crashes were due to human error. They will be evaluating the guidelines and consult with stakeholders to update them to ensure the right balance.

Daimler, the German multinational automobile and large truck manufacturing corporation is testing the first semi-autonomous freight truck. As a side note, Google hopes to bring their self-driving cars to the marketplace by 2020.

Some interesting facts about freight trucks: they represent 5 percent of the total vehicle population yet consume 20 percent of total transportation fuel; this technology could reduce fuel consumption and haul more freight; there are more than 7 million truck drivers with the number falling in recent years; by 2022 there will be a shortage of about 40,000 drivers.

How do these self-driving trucks work and is it safe? Freight carriers have started to equip trucks with active safety features like lane control and automatic braking. These trucks still need drivers since they need to maneuver the highway exits, navigate around crowded city streets and slower vehicles, and backing up into loading docks. On the highway, a lead truck would have a driver who would control, maybe a dozen, self-driving trucks that follow the lead truck in a caravan-style. As of now, these trucks cannot handle bad weather. The driver in the first truck would take over in that case and also have the ability to override steering, brakes, and throttle at any time.

Uber, a subsidiary of Otto, tested a self-driving truck by delivering 51,744 cans of Budweiser beer 120 miles across Colorado from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs with no driver at the wheel though one was in the cab. The biggest issue for these vehicles is non-technology issues. The initial cost may be high—nearly \$15,000 to \$20,000 per truck to include the sensors and computers with software according to the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). They predict that improvements in safety, fuel economy, and route efficiency should convince even smaller owners to see that autonomous trucking is a benefit.

*Sources: U.S. Department of Transportation, [www.transportation.gov](http://www.transportation.gov); American Truck Business Services, [www.atbs.com](http://www.atbs.com); [www.trucks.com](http://www.trucks.com)*

## Strategic Planning

By Cindy Johnsen, CBT, CDS, CIT, Strategic Planning Chair

### Are You Working Your Plan?

You have just created your strategic plan and now what? You need to work your plan! You should know where you are today so you can see where you want to be in the future. To get to where you want to be, let's look at the drivers of each goal—these are the positive things that will help you get to your goal.

I would like you to identify the drivers to achieve each of your goals. These can be committees set up with tasks, budgets for funding what you need to do, and identifying other resources needed as examples. The drivers are key to working the plan and keeping it moving forward. The drivers may be added to once you start moving toward your goals. This is all part of working the plan.

With everything good, can there be something inhibiting movement towards your goals? Yes, these are barriers that are a part of life, those negative items that pop up and need to be dealt with. Barriers can be as simple as lack of people to do the work to achieve a goal. How do you break through a barrier? Start small—remember this is a 3- to 5-year goal. Don't make the barrier insurmountable; break it into little pieces you can accomplish to move you towards your goal.

In addition, don't forget to check on how you can support your chapter's goals. A positive outlook will allow the drivers to do their work. A negative attitude is just another barrier that needs to be worked through, whether it is a personal opinion or group perspective. It only takes one positive person to start the chain reaction within your chapter and change the way the something is viewed. Be that positive change, which will help drive your chapter to their desired goals. If you need any assistance or would like to discuss your ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me, Cindy Johnsen, at [cindy.johnsen@gcinc.com](mailto:cindy.johnsen@gcinc.com).

## Membership and PR/Marketing

By Laurie Jimenez, PR/Marketing Chair, and Angelina Sacco, Membership Chair

### #TakeAimForNAWIC

It's not too late to work on those chapter sponsorships. Did you put together a sponsorship card for everyone connected to the construction industry? We have examples that we uploaded to our Dropbox or feel free to email anyone on the Membership and Marketing/PR committee and we can send it to you directly. Once you have your sponsorship card, you can email it to your chapter



contacts and post it on your website and social media pages as well. Print cards and bring them to your meetings. Remember that most companies have budgets to sponsor associations. NAWIC should be in their budget. Once they sponsor, renewing them each year can be as easy as just emailing them your updated sponsorship card.

Back in November, we announced that PR/Marketing would be having two contests this year, where you will be submitting entries.

The first contest is a photo contest. Did someone in your chapter take a great WIC Week, Block kids, Forum event photograph, or series of photographs? Use this link to describe the event depicted, and how your chapter is "Enhancing and Promoting" NAWIC.

The second contest is Best Website for Design and Content. Is it up to date? Does it include widgets for social media? Does it contain links to the national and regional sites? Does it "Roar NAWIC?" Use this link to submit your website for this contest.

Membership Awards will be presented for membership renewals and membership growth. These will be awarded in categories for small, medium, and large chapters so that chapters are competing in their group size, making it easier for each chapter to compete.

- Small Chapter: 15 or fewer members
- Medium Chapter: 16-34 members
- Large Chapter: 35 or more members

The third award is the NAWIC Innovation Award and will require a description of what your chapter did to make NAWIC shine, which allows your chapter to attract new sponsors and members! This can be a chapter meeting, contest, a presentation, something related to marketing/PR, etc. This will be part of an upcoming Survey Monkey survey.

The deadline for all submissions is June 15, 2017. Winners will be announced at AMEC.

## Legislation and Policy

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

This is a summary of an article that was featured in Construction Dive.

*The construction industry-related directives that have elicited the strongest reaction from the general public are those giving a push to U.S.-Mexico border wall construction as well as two controversial pipeline projects—the Dakota Access and the Keystone XL.*

*While the wall is only in its planning phase, House Republicans have authored a bill that would allocate \$12 billion to \$15*

billion for construction. However, according to New America Foundation fellow Konstantin Kakaes, who conducted an estimate of the wall's price tag based on Trump's descriptions, the cost for the project could reach \$40 billion, with \$27 billion in labor costs alone.

No funding mechanism has been established to pay for wall construction yet, but the possibility of a 20 percent import tax has been floated by the administration and Republicans.

Industry groups like the Associated Builders and Contractors of America are hesitant to comment on wall construction plans as there are no details yet beyond the presidential announcement, but ABC's Vice President of Regulatory, Labor and State Affairs Ben Brubeck told Construction Dive that one of the organization's top priorities would be to ensure that any new federal projects—related to the wall or not,—are bid in a way that would allow all interested and qualified contractors to compete on a level playing field.

The pipeline projects could come with an extra boost for manufacturing as well. Along with directing the operators of the XL project to reapply for approval and urging the secretary of the Army to give the Dakota pipeline the once-over before a quick approval despite local Native American protests over the danger it could pose to their water supply, Trump also mandated that all pipeline project steel be manufactured in the U.S.

To read more about this article, go to: <http://www.constructiondive.com/news/how-trump-has-impacted-the-construction-industry-so-far/435067/>

It is important that we stay in tune with policy that has a direct impact on our industry as women in construction. These projects will flow down to other projects that hopefully will increase business for businesses where we work.

## OSHA/NAWIC Alliance

By Kathi Dobson, CIT, OSHA/NAWIC Alliance Chair, and Schell Wood, OSHA/NAWIC Alliance Co-Chair

Here are some updates. OSHA's recordkeeping rule has been rolled back—the administration is no longer looking at records that go back five years for maintaining records, although they are still looking at requiring OSHA 300 logs by July 1 for companies that fall into their high-risk category (construction is one of them). The upload link has not been activated yet, so we think this may be eliminated or delayed. We'll keep you informed.

Enforcement of the silica standard has been pushed back until September. Remember, the easiest way to comply is to meet requirements for Table 1 in the revised silica standard.

OSHA and NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health, OSHA's research arm) are moving ahead with some great programs.

The first is their annual Fall Prevention Campaign, scheduled this year for May 8-May 12, and we are pleased to announce that NAWIC, through its alliance with OSHA, is partnering with them to support and promote this effort.

NAWIC's OSHA Alliance team encourages all our members to join the National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction, May 8-12, 2017, designed to raise national awareness about fall hazards and preventing injuries and fatalities. This year's activities focus on residential construction and working from heights, as falls continue to be the number one cause of serious injuries and fatalities in both residential and non-residential construction.

Employers can get involved and help reinforce the importance of fall prevention by taking a break from work operations to focus on fall hazards and talk directly to employees about safety. OSHA's stand-down web page offers resources for conducting a safety stand-down, including posters, a training guide and other educational materials, publications about ladder and scaffolding safety, certificates of participation, an interactive map of regional events and FAQs. Other groups, such as NIOSH ([www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)) and CPWR ([www.cpwr.com](http://www.cpwr.com)) ([www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)) are also participating and have material free for download as well.

Spread the word about this important safety campaign or share how your company is getting involved with #StandDown4Safety. NAWIC has permission from OSHA to share our logo on the 2017 poster. For a copy (in English or Spanish), go to the NAWIC home page.

Fatalities caused by falls from elevation continue to be a leading cause of death for construction employees, accounting for 350 of the 937 construction fatalities recorded in 2015 (most recent BLS data). The National Fall Prevention Stand-Down raises fall hazard awareness across the country in an effort to stop fall fatalities and injuries. This year's campaign is focused on residential construction.



OSHA, CPWR (Center for Construction Research & Training) ([www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)), NORA (National Occupational Research Agenda) and NIOSH are all offering resources to promote the campaign and encourage

participation. CPWR probably has some of the most comprehensive resources <http://stopconstructionfalls.com/prevent-falls-training-other-resources/> and many of the items they list are available to order (if you hover over the photo to the right, you can see what is available with the control + click option). They also have daily toolbox talks that you can use for your projects and companies. Contact Kathi Dobson ([kdobson@alberici.com](mailto:kdobson@alberici.com)) if you need additional information.

OSHA's fall prevention campaign page (<https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/>) has some great resources to share and plan. We encourage all our members to mobilize their companies to join the campaign and share their successes.

Several chapters and NAWIC companies reported last year that they held events to educate their members and employees regarding fall prevention. One group held a harness and lanyard inspection day; others conducted toolbox talks every day; and one chapter had a fall protection demonstration during its regularly scheduled meeting. This campaign has been highly successful, and has reached millions over the previous three years.

In addition, participants can receive a "Certificate of Participation" for holding a Stand-Down, which is signed by the OSHA Directorate of Construction in appreciation for participation. (Companies or individuals can go to the Stand-Down certificate webpage after their stand-down, complete a short survey, and then print a certificate.) OSHA also wants you to share your stand-down experience and pictures with them for possible posting on the OSHA website.

We look forward to hearing your success stories!

Next, through the Alliance, NAWIC is also partnering with OSHA on their Safe+Sound Campaign—Safe Workplace = Sound Business (<https://www.osha.gov/shpcampaign/>) as well as co-sponsoring the first Safe + Sound week, June 12-18.

The safety and health program approach has been proven by "best in class" employers that have reduced injuries and illnesses and improved their businesses. While there are different approaches, all effective safety and health programs have three core elements that we are certain NAWIC member companies' support:

- **Management leadership.** Top management commits to establishing, maintaining, and continually improving the program, and provides any necessary resources.
- **Worker participation.** Effective programs involve workers in identifying solutions. Improved worker engagement is linked to better productivity, higher job satisfaction, and better worker retention.
- **A systematic find-and-fix approach.** All effective programs are centered on a proactive process of

finding and fixing hazards before they can cause injury or illness.

And finally, campaigns! There are several to discuss this month. We blew past March's first ever Ladder Safety month, but you can still download material from that campaign to use as training tools via the link [www.laddersafetymonth.com](http://www.laddersafetymonth.com). This very successful campaign hosted several webinars on ladder safety and we would encourage you all to check out the safety resources as well as our alliance partner in all this, the American Ladder Institute. They have several articles on ladder (and fall prevention) safety and are a good resource for our industry. One of their members, Little Giant Ladder, has offered to come to any NAWIC member jobsite and conduct training. We encourage our members to take advantage of the alliance partnership and the tools offered by other construction roundtable partners.

And just to get everyone geared up for what's ahead, June is National Safety Council's Safety Month. The NSC ([www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)) is best known for work, home and on-the-road safety and have many resources for use. They are also an alliance partner with OSHA and participate in the roundtable meetings twice a year. One of their most familiar programs is the distracted driving program and their distracted driving campaign, "Don't text and drive." The link to Safety Month is: ([www.nsc.org/act/events/Pages/national-safety-month.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/act/events/Pages/national-safety-month.aspx)). Each week has a different theme, and you can use one or all of them throughout the month.

Another program offered by NSC is called "Journey to Safety Excellence" and is available for NSC members and non-members. By completing the quick online form, you gain instant access to free, practical safety tools and resources. These include hundreds of articles, recorded webinars and case studies from the Council and beyond, located in the Journey Guides and periodic updates on upcoming events and new safety resources. It also offers three safety measurement tools.

- **NSC Safety System Assessment:** It's often what you don't know that can hurt you. This tool empowers you to see what you're doing well and focus on where you can improve.
- **NSC Employee Safety Perception Survey:** Wondering what your workers think of your safety program? Ask them. This survey provides a quick snapshot of your organization's safety culture.
- **NSC Incident Rate Calculator:** Having incidents and not sure why? Use this tool to find trends in your data and see how you compare to others in your industry

That's your OSHA/NAWIC Alliance team in action! Please take advantage of these important resources and let your employer

know how valuable and integral your NAWIC membership can be to their corporate safety program, safety culture and safety compliance. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kathi Dobson (kdobson@alberici.com) or Schelle Wood (schelle@dolphinsheetmetal.com).

As always, we are your link to all things OSHA. Feel free to contact us with questions or comments.

## Highlights

Discover how members and chapters are enhancing their success.

### **Members and Chapters were Recognized During the South Central Region Forum**

Darlene Lee, CCA, CIT, CRRL received her 40-year longevity pin at the South Central Forum, April 8, 2017, in Dallas Texas.

The Corpus Christi, Texas Chapter #4 won the South Central Region PR/Marketing Post the Most Award. The award was presented at the South Central Forum, April 8, 2017, in Dallas Texas. Jessica Huff, the South Central Region PR/Marketing Chair, presented Vickie Thompson with the award.

### **Share Your News With NAWIC Members**

Have you been promoted? Have you won an award? Has a member of your chapter been honored or promoted? Did your chapter hold a successful event? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, NAWIC encourages you to share the news in the Connection newsletter. Simply send an email to Autumn Daughetee at [autumnd@nawic.org](mailto:autumnd@nawic.org). Be sure to include all the pertinent details and related photos. Then sit back and see your news reported in the next Connection!

## **Safety Newsletter**

### **Mental Health Awareness**

May is mental health awareness month. To bring attention and awareness to mental health in the construction industry, NAWIC has entered into a strategic alliance with CFMA called the CFMA/NAWIC Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

There are many CFMA partnership seminars being held across the country during the months of April and May to bring awareness to the high rate of suicide in the construction industry. These educational seminars are very informative and provide much-needed conversation and resources for employers.

The latest NAWIC Image has more information regarding this topic, and can be accessed [here](#).

Leah Curran, NAWIC Safety & Health Awareness Committee Co-Chair, has written an article highlighting a personal struggle with mental health to help bring awareness to this important topic. Please read below for her touching story.

### **Let's Support-Encourage-Grow to Help Break the Mental Illness Stigma**

Leah Curran  
Wilmington, DE Chapter #96 President

Anxiety, panic, depression, stress, trauma. We have all felt them before, but do we ever talk about them? Are you feeling alone? Feeling so alone that you let these feelings fester until you can't control them anymore? Before you know it, it has been days, then months, then years of trying to control it. I'm sure this sounds familiar to some, and for me it has been a personal battle.

I, along with many others, can write their testimonials until the cows come home about how important mental health is. Yes, mental health should be treated just as any other ailment, but we often wait to take care of it. One in five people will suffer from some form of mental illness in any given year here in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Is there such a thing as waiting too long? Absolutely. Because on any given day there is an average of 121 suicides.<sup>2</sup>

What can we do as NAWIC members to support Mental Health Awareness? We can LISTEN and SUPPORT each other. NAWIC has been instrumental in my continued recovery. NAWIC gave me the opportunity to break my silence.

It was at my very first board meeting in 2013 that I mentioned to the other board members that I recently experienced some trauma and I was in therapy. I wasn't sure if was going to be able to perform my duties as a director and didn't want to let my chapter down. Yet, by the end of our meeting, I had members reaching out to let me know I wasn't alone. NAWIC offered me an overwhelming sense of comfort. My silence was broken.

It was tough as a chapter director the first year. Between doctors, medications, and time away from work, I really began to lose sight of who I was. But I soon realized that NAWIC provided me with a constant—a group of supportive women. I began to look forward to our meetings. Our meetings gave me the opportunity to rebuild my confidence and reconnect. My NAWIC sisters did not shun or belittle me. Instead they encouraged me to stand on my two feet again. With the transition of our chapter leadership over the years, I had the opportunity to serve in various chapter, regional, and national roles. NAWIC allowed me to grow.

NAWIC's theme of "Support-Encourage-Grow" couldn't be more appropriate for Mental Health Awareness Month. We need to continue to support each other through any form of mental illness. We need to encourage each other to speak up, speak out, and listen. We need to allow each other time to grow, remembering we all recover at different speeds. Similar to how NAWIC provides its members with an opportunity to be amongst other women who are experiencing the same in the construction industry, I found myself using NAWIC as a platform to recover. NAWIC is unique in the fact that all of us are joined for the same common purpose. Have you ever felt the "power in the room" at a NAWIC conference or forum? Let's take that momentum and use it to fuel the awareness against the stigma of mental health. You never know who you may touch.

With more than 200 classified forms of mental illness<sup>3</sup>, it can be extremely hard to identify if someone is suffering, especially because symptoms are going to be different for everyone. So

I ask all of you, whether you are at your next NAWIC meeting, work event, family reunion, or wherever you may be, take a moment and listen. You never know what that person is trying to say. Remember, pain isn't always physical and wounds aren't always visible.

Citations:

1. Mental Health By the Numbers. (n.d). Retrieved April 18, 2017, from [www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-By-the-Numbers](http://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-By-the-Numbers)
2. Suicide Statistics. (n.d). Retrieved April 18, 2017, from [www.afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/](http://www.afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/)
3. Mental Illness and the Family: Recognizing Warning Signs and How to Cope. (n.d). Retrieved April 19, 2017, from [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/recognizing-warning-signs](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/recognizing-warning-signs)