Did you attend NAWIC’s 2013 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference (AMEC) in Bellevue, Washington? If so, you experienced an extraordinary event. Hundreds of NAWIC members from every region came together at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Aug. 28-31, for this year’s AMEC. This year’s AMEC featured outstanding seminars, high-energy speakers, Association workshops, networking opportunities, NAWIC business, recognition of exceptional NAWIC members and a lot of chances to have some fun.

As in the past, the 2013 AMEC started off strong with two special pre-conference seminars. This year, attendees had the opportunity to sign up for a LEED Green Associate workshop and a Heartsaver CPR and AED course before the conference was officially underway. Those who attended the CPR and AED class had the chance to become certified by the American Heart Association in CPR and AED. Attendees of the LEED Green Associate workshop were able to fulfill the prep work needed to obtain their LEED credential. The two seminars were followed by the First Timers Orientation, which is designed to familiarize first-time AMEC attendees with the ins and outs of the conference.

The 2013 AMEC was officially kicked off by the Wednesday night Welcome Reception. The theme of this year’s reception was “Denim and Diamonds.” Attendees wore their favorite denim paired with their best bling. This was an opportunity for attendees to reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones. They also had the chance to capture some memories in the photo booth set up at the Reception.

After the exuberant fun at the Wednesday night Welcome Reception, NAWIC members got down to business Thursday Morning with the Annual Meeting. Bellevue’s mayor, Conrad Lee, welcomed NAWIC and the Association’s members to the city and keynote speaker Dawnna St. Louis spoke about the “Audacious Acts of Successful Women.”

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, NAWIC held its second annual Industry Luncheon. During the Industry Luncheon, AMEC attendees enjoyed hearing from the event’s keynote speaker, Jim Roberts of Granite Construction, Inc.
Thursday afternoon and most of Friday and Saturday, attendees were able to attend a slate of high-caliber professional seminars and Association workshops. Topics of the professional seminars ranged from cloud computing to the ABCs of DIY to safety to management skills to arbitrating contract claims to negotiating profitable agreements. Association workshops featured topics such as how to build membership with effective PR, strategic planning, the new Professional Development committee and much more. Handouts from a number of these seminars and workshops are available online at www.nawicconvention.org.

In addition to the number of seminars and workshops scheduled for Friday, NAWIC also held its annual Installation Luncheon. The 2013-2014 National Board was formally installed during this event. Later that evening, AMEC attendees had the chance to celebrate NEF’s 40th anniversary at the NEF Birthday Bash. During the event, NEF announced the winners of the fabulous items featured in its fundraising raffle.
The 58th AMEC drew to a close with the NAWIC Awards Gala. NAWIC unveiled three new awards at the event—Rookie of the Year, Member of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award. These three awards were established to recognize outstanding efforts of NAWIC members. Amanda Jenkins was named the 2013 Rookie of the Year. Jenkins is a sales engineer with Johnson Controls, Inc. and a member of the Richmond, Va. Chapter. The NAWIC Member of the Year Award was presented to Patricia Stagno, CUSP, CSHS. Stagno is the president and owner of Powerskills for Life, LLC, a safety and training consulting firm, and a member of New Hampshire's Granite State Chapter. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Joyce Newman. Newman is a charter member of NAWIC’s Maine Chapter and the membership coordinator for the Maine Better Transportation Association. NEF also presented its Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award during the Gala. This year NEF honored Jennifer Blanchard Belk, an assistant professor of Interior Design at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.

In addition to these special awards, NAWIC also presented members and chapters with awards from the national committees and the NAWIC executive committee. NEF also recognized the winners of the Block Kids and CAD/Drafting competitions.

Thank you to all of the AMEC attendees who took a moment to visit our sponsors during the NAWIC Marketplace on Wednesday. The sponsors for NAWIC’s 58th AMEC helped make the event a success. The 2013 AMEC sponsors included, Granite Construction, The Home Depot, UPS, United Rentals, SimplexGrinnell, Paxton Patterson, Otis Elevator and Caterpillar.