



It had been ten years since I had attended a NAWIC national convention and I was very excited. I was thinking back to when I attended my first national convention in Dallas in 1993, and was looking forward to watching and listening to Kita Haynes' enjoy her experience as a first timer.

The convention was held in the beautiful Renaissance St Louis Grand Hotel downtown across from the America's Center.

Naturally, the convention started off on Wednesday, August 31st with registration and NEF had a beautiful display of fund raising items you could take a chance on. The NAWIC store was also open for business. After you took the escalator up to the next level you were welcomed with the NAWIC Marketplace. Here is where the St. Louis Chapter and other chapters as well set up fund raiser tables to secure more funds for their local chapters. The St. Louis Chapter sold metal picture frames. You could also purchase chapter cookbooks, NAWIC shirts, bags, cases, etc.

Wednesday night's welcome party was "sports" theme. It was fun to watch the ladies come in the room wearing their favorite sports team wear. You saw from St. Louis Cardinals to yes, someone was wearing the Green Bay Packers Wisconsin Cheese Head. The room was delightful and every nook and cranny had something going on. There were games you could play from trying your luck putting a golf ball, playing darts, to throwing a football into a machine and also one for basketball. Naturally the DJ was playing some great tunes and ladies got up and danced. The food was awesome and ranged from the best nachos I ever ate, to chili 5 ways, hot dogs, brats and pizza. The evening was topped off with taking pictures with your friends with your sports gear on and a good time was had by all.



Thursday's Annual Meeting began at 8:30 AM in the Majestic Ballroom. The General Session was opened with an awesome tribute to 9/11.

Our own Annette Elich-Parker introduced Kathleen M Ratcliffe, President of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. Kathleen welcomed all 325 ladies attending convention to St. Louis and suggested visiting the St. Louis Arch & Grounds, City Museum, Old Courthouse, the City Garden Park area south of the hotel close to Keiner Plaza. She also mentioned the Japanese Festival at Missouri Botanical Garden. Kathleen also made mention of the some successful businesses here in St. Louis, which are ran by women; i.e., St Louis Business Journal, Brown Shoe, Enterprise and Tarlton.

The next speaker introduced was Louis G. Joseph, President and CEO of the Brewer-Garrett Company who delivered his keynote speech about the "Fundamentals of Success". These Fundamentals allow us to reach our goals in our personal and professional lives. Those seven pillars are: 1) Integrity 2) Attitude 3) Relationship 4) Leadership 5) Time 6) Focus and 7) FUN. It was wonderful, listening to Debra Gregoire, CIT – 2010-2011 NAWIC National President, speak and enlighten all of us NAWIC ladies.

The following professional seminars were offered at convention:

- Walk, Talk & Negotiate Like a CEO
- Saving 25% Off Your Utilities
- How Today's Trends Are Impacting the Construction Industry
- Time Management: n Achieving Your Highest Priorities
- What Every Construction Industry Professional Needs to Know about Lawsuit Protection, Tax Reduction, & Estate Planning
- New Energy Technologies
- Four Generations Working Under the Same Roof
- Powershift
- Threshold Thinking: Breakthrough to the Place Success is Possible
- Press Releases: Tips, Tricks and How-To
- Bridging the Employment Gap
- NEF Seminar – Jury Duty: A Sexual Harassment Mock Trial

I would like to acknowledge the following ladies who were chosen and assisted as Pages during Annual Convention Meeting:

Maggie Eichholz - Central Missouri Chapter
Brooke Eimers – Greater Kansas City, MO Chapter
Stephanie San Paolo, CIT – Southwest Missouri Chapter
Kita Haynes – St. Louis, Missouri Chapter



NAWIC National Awards Luncheon was held in the Landmark Ballroom and St Louis received a few surprises. Michael Cimo, St. Louis, Mo Chapter 38 received 3rd Place in the “national” NEF CAD/Design/Drafting. The St. Louis Chapter NAWIC members received recognition for our fabulous WIC week consisting of Magic Camp, Construction and mentoring and guiding students at the Construction Career School events. Our own Kita Haynes also received an award for setting up a NAWIC “Bulletin Board” at her office.

The next few days were full of seminars and interacting with new and old friends at these seminars. It was surely nice to be in the mix of all these wonderful women from all over the United States

The Installation Luncheon was moving, delightful and touching. It's truly wonderful to meet the ladies on the National Board and participate in sharing on all the wonderful educational programs offered to the ladies of NAWIC:

- CBT – Construction Bookkeeping Technician
- CIT – Construction Industry Technician
- CCA – Certified Construction Associate
- CDS – Construction Document Specialist

NAWIC also affords each Chapter members of the board an opportunity to participate in seminars about their perspective positions of the board; i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure, etc. I attended Chapter Leadership Training with all the chapter presidents and national board. Items of interest that were discussed were NAWIC'S value to women, NEF programs, membership recruiting, action plans and mentoring programs.

The whole NAWIC National Convention was wonderful. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing some old friends I hadn't seen in 10 years. I was able to make some new friends, assist them in a time of need, and have breakfast, lunch, and dinner with those ladies. Attending these national conventions are not only educational, but affords you the opportunity to meet more NAWIC sisters!

See you in Denver next year!

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Baldwin
President – St Louis Chapter 38



GO TO THE CHAPTER WEB SITE FOR MORE PICTURES OF CONVENTION!

