

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



October starts a new NAWIC year and your 2011-2012 Board of Directors has been busy. Financial budgets, reports, audits and IRS forms are all completed. Membership will be one of our focus points throughout the year. While our member numbers have dropped a bit, we have picked up new members and are holding at 24. I am a firm believer that interesting topics and guest speakers for our dinner meetings is a major way to retain and recruit. In October, we had a wonderful presentation from Joni Anderson, President, Anderson Burton Construction. She shared with us the development and growth of her construction company along with the adventure of a trip to Afghanistan in search of work when they were almost ready to close the doors. It was very entertaining and inspiring.

Our November speaker will be Cynthia Clayton, Chief, Infrastructure Support Acquisition Flight, 30 CONS/LGCA, at Vandenberg AFB. We all get jobs here and there from the base, but do we really know or understand the

whole scope of work completed there? Cynthia will explain the work contracted through her department at VAFB and the types of projects they manage. As a woman working in a non-traditional role, it will be interesting to hear her story and how she got to be Chief.

December 6 will be our annual Foster Teen Gift bag stuffing and pot luck dinner at Jennifer Arnold's home. It's a great way to start off the Christmas season and give back to the community. Jane Kokkinakis, Foster Kids/Teens Chair, has been working very hard all year to make this a wonderful Christmas for our local foster teens. We will be increasing the number of gift bags from 60 to 90 this year. Be sure to attend and share the Christmas spirit with your chapter sisters. Keep knitting those hats!

The guest speaker for January will be Diane Auten, M.A. Her topic, "What's Sex Got To Do With It?" will explore the role of gender in our everyday interactions. Diane is a full-time college instructor and owner of Compe-

tent Communications, and a consultant in the area of communications. She will open our eyes to the subtle gender differences and teach us how to be more effective when dealing with the opposite sex.

I've received some great ideas for speakers. If you have someone you'd like to suggest, please call or email me. I am also open to finding out what brings you to our meetings, what brings your guests, what turns you away, what can we offer to bring in more new members? Let's open communication and see how we can continue the great job our past presidents have been doing and grow our chapter even stronger.

Denise Riegel, CIT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

Central California Coast Chapter 174



## Important Dates

### November 1

**Board Meeting—5:30 pm.**

### November 15

**General Membership Meeting  
Keynote Speaker—Cynthia Clayton,  
Chief, Acquisition Flight A Construc-  
tion, VAFB**

### December 6

**Annual Foster Teens Christmas Bags /  
Christmas Potluck / Gift Exchange**

## Core Values

- ♦ ***Believe in ourselves as women***
- ♦ ***Persevere with the strength of our convictions***
- ♦ ***Dare to move into new horizons***

# Events / Happenings

## October General Membership Meeting



President, Denise Riegel, CIT, presiding at first General Membership Meeting for 2011-2012



Past President Kristine Mollenkopf sharing a well received inspiration



Melanie Smith, CIT, Jane Kokkinakis, Frances Talmadge and Yolanda Clark participating in a recognition skit for Joan Hertel



From L: Yolanda Clark, Melanie Smith, CIT, Jane Kokkinakis, Joan Hertel, CIT, Frances Talmadge, Denise Riegel, CIT recognizing Immediate Past President, Joan

### Meeting Highlights

- ♦ **Inspiration and flag salute by Kristine Mollenkopf**
- ♦ **Kristine also won the First Responder Award**
- ♦ **Joan Hertel, CIT, Immediate Past President, was recognized for her leadership contribution as President from 2009-2011.**
- ♦ **Jane Kokkinakis distributed a list of items needed for the December 6 Foster Teens Christmas bag stuffing, potluck and gift exchange.**
- ♦ **President, Denise, announced we have 24 members and encouraged members to invite guests**
- ♦ **Denise announced that membership dues may be increased as announced at APC and that the 2012 Region Forum will be at Lake Arrowhead on May 4-5.**
- ♦ **Harper Lash won the 50/50 and donated the proceeds to the Foster Kids Program**

# Events / Happenings

## October General Membership Meeting

### Joni Anderson Finds Work Through Perseverance

Denise Riegel, CIT

Ms. Joni Anderson spoke to the Central California Coast Chapter about how she grew up as a kid with an interest in building things, along with the personal difficulties that encouraged her to get into a career where she could still get home to take care of her family.

Joni started working on rehab of homes and got so busy that she asked her girlfriends to join her. The chic crew was having so much fun that her son joined the company. He encouraged Joni to apply for her contractor's license and then the company that she and her son started took off and she was still able to keep her goals of being home for the family. The company grew to over 300 employees when the industry took its downturn.

Joni shared that because she was desperate to find jobs for her employees, she went to Afghanistan looking for work. She had talked to a local contractor who had served in Afghanistan with the reserves who suggested they look for work there and 30 days later she and her son were on a plane. They couldn't get permission to go straight to Afghanistan, they had to first go to Dubai. There they were met by an Afghani and a US Military friend who not only drove them to various locations, but were their body guards! She said they got onto all of the military bases in the region saying, "It was amazingly easy to gain access", and had many meetings with contractors. They even met with the local contractors as all workers on the job were required to be Afghani men. They met with a contact at Haliburton and he was amazed that they just came there, all on their own. Joni gave Haliburton a proposal for work for the rehab of a hospital, but before they got the contract, Haliburton pulled out of the country. Their connection was lost.



**Guest Speaker Joni Anderson, Anderson Burton Construction**

Haliburton did give them a contract here in California and from that point they were able to get the work needed to keep the business open. They now have 25 employees.

Ms. Anderson said they were there for 2 weeks and that she was more scared when she got back. She says she wouldn't go again, unless it was pure desperation as before. She said people were so desperate here that they went there to work as job superintendents. She didn't wear a burka, but did wear a head scarf in respect for their culture. She was the only woman on the plane from Dubai to Kabul and said, "All the men looked like Osama Bin Laden". It was really an adventure!

Joni is a wonderful woman and it was great to hear her story about how she got into construction, her personal trials, the growth, the loss and to have the perseverance to still be in the construction business. Wow! We are fortunate to have her help on our MAGIC Camp Committee as an awesome 'Project Manager' and mentor to the students.

# Events / Happenings

## Region 12 Annual Planning Conference—Ventura-Oxnard

**The Annual Planning** Conference in **Ventura** was well represented by Chapter 174 with six members attending. Region 12 Director Janice Ramsay-Gonzales, the Regional Committee Chairs and the Ventura-Oxnard Chapter presented a wonderful conference. The meeting was truly a Planning Event more than it has been in the past. The keynote speaker was Lyn Kreiger, Director of the Channel Islands Harbor Department and she presented “History of Development in Channel Islands Harbor”. A very fascinating discussion. Our afternoon speakers were from Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County and shared with us some of the experiences and people they have helped in their county.

There were four break out workshops in the afternoon on NAWIC committees: Membership, Scholarships, NEF and Block Kids/CAD Drafting. All Chapter 174 members attending split up into the various workshops and brought home great information and new ideas to stimulate our various chapter projects. As with all of the regional conferences, we came away motivated and inspired.

Denise Riegel, CIT



2011—2021 Region 12 Chapter Presidents

# Events / Happenings

## Region 12 Annual Planning Conference—Ventura-Oxnard



**Region  
12 Com-  
mittees  
Chair-  
women**



**Janice Ramsay-Gonzales  
Region 12 Director**



**Friday night dinner party—Italian Restaurant, Ventura  
Harbor**



**Keynote Speaker Lyn Krieger,  
Director, Channel Islands Har-  
bor Department**

# Events / Happenings

## San Gabriel Valley Chapter Installation Of Officers—October 12



**San Gabriel Valley Outgoing Board of Directors**



**Gwen Garis-Stone and husband, Steve, who facilitated the Installation Ceremony**

Denise and Joan played hooky for the afternoon and took a relaxing scenic route on Hwy 150 past Lake Casitas, Ojai and caught the 15 at Magic Mountain to attend the San Gabriel Valley #110 Installation of Officers. The dinner and ceremony was an intimate location outside and poolside of the Double Tree Hotel in Monrovia. It was a beautiful setting for this event even though it was unusually warm at 85 degrees. A wonderful, plated dinner was served and we enjoyed meeting new friends, and renewing old friendships; Denise even won a table decoration. The installation ceremony was presented by Gwen-Garis-Stone's husband, Steve. He used the NAWIC 'Your Tools For Success' theme and did a fantastic job. Hazel Esguerra, President of the Simi-Conejo Chapter 154 also attended. Hazel is trying to visit as many chapters as possible to get new ideas. Hazel and her husband attended our meeting this month, as you'll recall.



SGV is a small, but very active chapter and we both agreed that this experience was well worth our time and we urge all members to visit and check out what our sister NAWIC chapters are doing. You'll be warmly received and appreciated for your support. Come join us on the next adventure.

*Joan*



**Gwen with Newly Installed 2011-2012 Board of Directors**

# About Us

## Board of Directors

President	Denise Riegel, CIT denise@jrbarto.com
Vice President	Jane Kokkinakis janek@russco.com
Treasurer	Frances Talmadge camountaingoat@verizon.net
Secretary	Harper Lash hll@penfieldsmith.com
Directors	Wendi Patterson Wendi.patterson@unitedwestaff.com Divya Das Terraconstruction108@yahoo.com
IPP	Joan Hertel, CIT jhertel@wwarch.com

## Committees

Foster Kids	Jane Kokkinakis janek@russco.com
MAGIC Camp	Denise Riegel, CIT denise@jrbarto.com
Scholarship:	Joan Hertel, CIT jhertel@wwarch.com
Marketing / PR	Wendi Patterson Wendi.patterson@unitedwestaff.com
Newsletter, Website	Joan Hertel, CIT jhertel@wwarch.com

## Membership Report *Denise Riegel, CIT*

At the end of August, we had 27 members. As it stands now, we have 24. Some of our lost members could not continue their membership due to the declining economy. We were distraught to lose them and look forward to their return soon. But, we are fortunate to have gained 3 new members. One of them is a returning member after a 2-year hiatus for personal reasons—Judy Pearen. We also gained 2 more members from the Bakersfield Chapter which relinquished their charter this year. Shelly Marin and Katrina Barnum Huckins. They join Jimmie Shettters, who joined our chapter the previous year. We hope to see these ladies at some of our meetings—Bakersfield is a bit of a drive!

## The Central California Coast Chapter

of the National Association of Women in Construction extends its membership from Paso Robles to Santa Ynez in the Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara.

We are immersed in our local communities through service events and by entering regional competitions. We introduce students to the construction industry from the grade school, high school and college levels through our Kids and Teens in foster care, offering scholarships, mentoring high school girls at our summer 100% free MAGIC camps on the campus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and during our annual Women in Construction Week, a national NAWIC outreach program.

We seek to become better educated within our industry and enjoy partnering with educational organizations that offer opportunities for NAWIC members to take advantage of certification courses, seminars and teleconferences through Clemson University, NAWIC Education Foundation and Lorman Education Services.

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST CHAPTER 174 NEWSLETTER

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