



# Central California Coast Chapter 174

September 2011



## Serving your Chapter

President, Joan Hertel, CIT  
Vice President, Denise Riegel, CIT  
Secretary, Melanie Smith, CIT  
Treasurer, Frances Talmadge  
Directors: Wendi Patterson,  
Jane Kokkinakis, Yolanda Clark

## Committees

Foster Kids, Jane Kokkinakis  
Block Kids, Lori Kruger  
MAGIC Camp, Denise Riegel, CIT  
Scholarship, Yolanda Clark  
Marketing/PR, Wendi Patterson  
Membership, Donna Castaneda,  
CIT  
Newsletter and Website, Joan  
Hertel, CIT

## Important Dates

### Region 12 Annual Plan- ning Conference

Ventura  
October 1

### Board Meeting

October 4

### General Meeting

October 18

Joni Anderson, Anderson  
Burton Construction

### Board Meeting

November 1

### General Membership

November 15

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last message as your President and I want to thank you for a wonderful two years. I couldn't have wished for a more capable and dedicated Board of Directors with which to serve and they served admirably.

Thank you to the committee chairs and to everyone who worked so hard to help Elizabeth and Donna with Forum. Each and every member is important to the functioning of our Chapter; without you, there would be no reason to keep our charter.

I encourage you to support your new President, Denise Riegel, CIT, and your Board of Directors, Jane Kokkinakis, Vice President, Frances Talmadge, Treasurer, Harper Lash, Secretary and Directors, Wendi Patterson and Divya Das, just as strongly as you have supported me and the team for 2010-2011. Denise is a strong and dynamic leader and she's passionate about growing and keeping our chapter healthy. So, when Denise calls upon you to get involved with a task or to serve on a committee, please know that you'll get more back than you give, it's nature's law!

Thank you, Linda Young, CBT, CIT, and Wanda Wild for coming all the way to Santa Maria to serve as the Installation Officers for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors. We felt so privileged and honored to have NAWIC's Elites in our midst.

I never fail to be amazed and impressed with the talent that erupts so unexpectedly from our members, so please take time to read the article by Harper Lash on Page 4. Harp, You make me so proud to be a member of this organization.

As a last minute reminder, Region 12 Annual Planning Conference is on October 1 and will be hosted by the Ventura-Oxnard Chapter at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Please seriously consider attending because as those of us who are going can attest—you will not be disappointed.

Joan

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST NAWIC ELITES



Patti Stephens



Donna Castaneda and Kristine Mollenkopf

## September 2011-2012 Installation Meeting

### Meeting Highlights

- ♦ Jane Kokkinakis, Russco Office Interiors, and incoming Vice President, presented the meetings' Inspiration, written by Erma Bombeck.
- ♦ Past Chapter President, Kristine Mollenkopf, won the First Responder Award.
- ♦ Judy Pearen, Brown & Brown Insurance, won the Membership Committee's Bring-A-Guest Contest. Go Judy!
- ♦ Long time member and past President and past (all chapter offices) Patti Stephens was presented with an appreciation gift for dedication and time devoted to serving our chapter.
- ♦ Jane Kokkinakis, Melanie Smith, CIT and Joan Hertel, CIT, presented a gift of appreciation to Donna Castaneda, CIT for her years of service as Membership Chairman and as the glue that has held this chapter together.
- ♦ Outgoing President, Joan Hertel, CIT, acknowledged her outgoing Board of Directors.
- ♦ Special guests Linda Young, CBT, CIT, and Wanda Wild presented the Candlelight Ceremony and served as Installation officers for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors.
- ♦ Denise Riegel, CIT, expressed her thanks and shared her upcoming plans for programs and that she'll be contacting members to serve on committees.
- ♦ Installation Officer, Linda Young, CBT, CIT, won the raffle, donated by Denise Riegel, CIT



Jane Kokkinakis reads an inspiration



Judy Pearen wins the Bring-A-Guest Contest



Donna Castaneda, CIT, was very surprised to receive gifts for her service to our chapter, particularly the Elmer's Glue-All!

Members and Guests enjoy a delicious buffet



September 2011-2012 Installation Meeting Pics



2010-2011 Outgoing Board of Directors

From left: Melanie Smith, CIT-Secretary, Frances Talmadge—Treasurer, Joan Hertel, CIT-President, Denise Riegel, CIT-Vice President, Jane Kokkinakis and Wendi Patterson—Directors



Duly Installed 2011-2012 Central California Coast Chapter 174 Board of Directors

From left: Joan Hertel, CIT, Westberg + White Architect-IPP, Wendi Patterson, United Staffing Associates-Director, Divya Das, Terra Construction-Director, Frances Talmadge, Rarig Construction-Treasurer, Harper Lash, Penfield & Smith-Secretary, Installing Officer, Linda Young, CBT, CIT, Jane Kokkinakis, Russco Office Interiors-Vice President, Denise Riegel, CIT, JR Barto Heating/AC/Sheet Metal-President, Wanda Wild, Assistant Installation Officer

# National Association of Women In Construction (NAWIC) by Harper Lash, Penfield & Smith Engineers

*Thanks is given to Harper Lash for giving me permission to publish the following article that she wrote for her company's internal employee newsletter, the*

*Penfield & Smith Reporter*

*Joan Hertel-*

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About four years ago, I stumbled across a meeting announcement for a NAWIC meeting and the topic was Operating Heavy Equipment. The speaker never showed up (he was confused about the dates), but the women made the best of the situation and had a more informal and social type meeting; this gave me the opportunity to begin to get to know the members. There are women from all types of local and national businesses, including Smith Electric, Westberg+White Architects, Rarig Construction, Thoma Electric, Traveler's Insurance, Cal Poly SLO, Russco Office Interiors, Pink Took Belts, E&J Electric, Inc., Quintron Systems, to name but a few, and the women are as varied as the businesses, from electrical engineers, to accountants, to business partners, to business owners, to technical support, to attorneys to project managers. NAWIC's core purpose is "To enhance the success of women in the construction industry" and the core values: "Believe. Persevere. Dare." I found it extremely interesting to be able to converse with such a dynamic group of women who share the same love of construction that I have. On every meeting agenda, there is a list of the members' companies, providing both networking and marketing opportunities. NAWIC has many charitable, educational, and philanthropic activities, including MAGIC Camp (Mentoring A Girl In Construction), Backpacks for Foster Kids (boys too!), scholarships for girls interested in pursuing a career in construction related fields, and of course, business networking and education for the members. What I found in our Chapter is a group of women who are all about friendship, caring, giving, teaching, and networking, mixed in with fun and professionalism.

I joined the Central California Coast Chapter #174 (Region 12) in May 2010. I was elected to the Board of Directors for 2011-2012, in the position of Secretary.

Penfield & Smith has been very supportive of my activities with NAWIC, and at my request, Brianna Daniels gave a presentation at the May Meeting on the award-winning Amargosa Creek Underground

Conveyance Project. Our 2011-2012 President, Denise Riegel, CIT, J. R. Barto Heating / AC / Sheet Metal, has expressed an interest in seeing more presentations of actual construction and projects. As our new President, she has already lined up speakers for October & November. "The October meeting will be Joni Anderson from Anderson Burton Construction. Their business had declined due to the economic downturn and were looking at the possibility of closing the doors. She and her son flew to Afghanistan to look for work. They had no contact there and went entirely on their own. They did find work - but not as expected. She will share the experience of that adventure with us. The November meeting is Cynthia Clayton, Chief, Acquisition Flight A, Construction 30 CONS/LGCA at Vandenberg AFB, CA. She will be telling us how their operation works and what construction scope of work they are involved in at VAFB. As many of us work on projects at VAFB it will be interesting to find out how much is actually going on out there. I am sure we will be quite surprised." Our Chapter meets the third Tuesday of every month.

I encourage any and all of the women of Penfield & Smith to attend a meeting (there's a Ventura/Oxnard Chapter) **The first meeting you attend as a guest at the Central Coast Chapter #174, your dinner is paid for by the Chapter. And if any of the meeting topics are of interest, men are certainly welcome to attend as a guest.**"

For more information on the Central Coast Chapter: <http://nawiccentralcoast.com/>  
For more information on the Ventura/Oxnard Chapter: <http://www.nawicventuraoxnard.org/>

Harper Lash  
Senior Designer/Senior Construction Inspector  
Penfield & Smith  
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Santa Maria, CA 93454

## Membership Report

Donna Castaneda, CIT

Alas, this is my last Membership Report. Been a fun ride, but definitely time for some new blood! I want to thank you all for my beautiful red rose scarf and the picture of the necklace and earrings looks beautiful. You can be sure I will be wearing all of it come the November meeting. For the October meeting, I will be on my way home from Disneyland. I will tell Mickey hello from all of you.

We had a great turnout for our September Installation. Can't say enough about the wonderful job Joan & Denise did on planning. From the pictorial show to the candle installation AND I certainly cannot ignore the Great out of town NAWIC members, Linda Young & Wanda Wild.

Welcome to new guests (brought by our Bring A Guest Contest Winner, Judy Pearen) Wendy Foster and Erica Salda. Looks like they will be new members within a couple of months! Great seeing Tami Jo Dotson NOW BATES! Welcome back and congratulations, TJ! Patty Northern again brought Gwendolyn Burries. Looking forward to seeing you initiated in the near future, too, Gwen! Denise brought her niece, Julie Darrah and her significant other, Craig Troup. I was pleased to meet Harper's mom, Judith Foster. You'll have to bring her back to see us, Harper. She's a kick! Joan brought her husband, Don who was and

always is a great help when it comes to our technical stuff and photography! Judy Pearen also brought her chauffeur otherwise known as her daughter, Michelle. Always a pleasure to see you, Michelle!

Thank you to all the members who have brought guests in this past year. Keep up the good work. Our chapter has gone from one of the weakest links to one of the strongest in the past ten years. So much we can accomplish with so many strong, intelligent professional women.

You all mean the world to me.

Donna Castaneda, CIT



## Birthday Celebrations

Wendi Patterson — October 24

Jean Mollenkopf — October 26

*Happy Birthday, NAWIC Stars!*



## Meetings / Events / Happenings

### NAWIC National Convention, St Louis, Missouri August 31 - Sept 3, 2011 Denise Riegel, CIT

At the last minute I was able to get the time off from work to attend this year's National Convention. I was the only one attending from our Chapter, but was welcomed by the many friends I have made during the various Region 12 conferences. Paula Daligcon and Darlean Kiyokane from the Honolulu Chapter graciously offered me the extra bed in their room after Annie Kuhlmann had to cancel. The other Chapters in our region included me in many of the activities that took place throughout the week and I am very thankful to them all. As it turns out Region 12 and Region 14 were the only regions who had 100% Chapter participation. I am very grateful to my boss, Ross Lorencz, for supporting my NAWIC membership.

I was unable to get to St. Louis until late Wednesday night and missed the welcoming celebration. There was a baseball theme (St. Louis Cardinals) and everyone had a great time dressing up with their Region sports jerseys and finished the night dancing away.

Thursday was a very long and fruitful day. The Annual Meeting started off the day with introductions of the National Board of Directors, National Committee Chairs and Regional Directors. The Keynote Speaker was National President Debra Gregoire's boss, Louis Joseph, President/CEO of the Brewer-Garrett Company. He gave a very animated presentation of the seven core values he has lived by throughout his life. Lou also had some very keen insight into Debbie and what drives her. Very interesting keynote.

The Awards Luncheon was next with a great meal and a chance to sit with people we had not met before. I sat with some members from Kansas City and Nebraska. It is always great to meet people from around the country and share ideas. Awards were presented for the National winners of Block Kids and Cad drafting along with other committee awards.

The afternoon was broken down into professional seminars. I attended *"Walk, Talk and Negotiate Like A CEO"* by Linda Swindling and *"Four Generations working under the Same Roof"* with Mark Towers. The presenters were very animated and the attendees participated along the way. Much useful information was packed into a short time.

There was a President to President meeting that was the most informational to me as an incoming President. The National Board and Regional Directors shared their insights into board responsibilities and took questions from the audience. We then broke out into Regions and had a Director and Presidents roundtable. This was the beginning of the bonding process for our region's incoming Presidents. I am impressed with the women taking on this challenge in our region for the next NAWIC year. It will be great working with them and I am looking forward to our APC meeting in October. This closed our very long 12 hour day!

Saturday was dedicated to NAWIC Workshops. I attended The Membership workshop, WIC Week, and Establishing a Team. I felt the Membership workshop was the best of them all. Not only did they present great ideas on how to retain old and gain new members, five of the Rose Coat ladies (18 new members recruited in a 3-year period) stood up and gave ideas that they used to gain their high rate of recruitment. What an inspiration they were. This will be my main focus this year as it is important to keeping our chapter vibrant and alive.

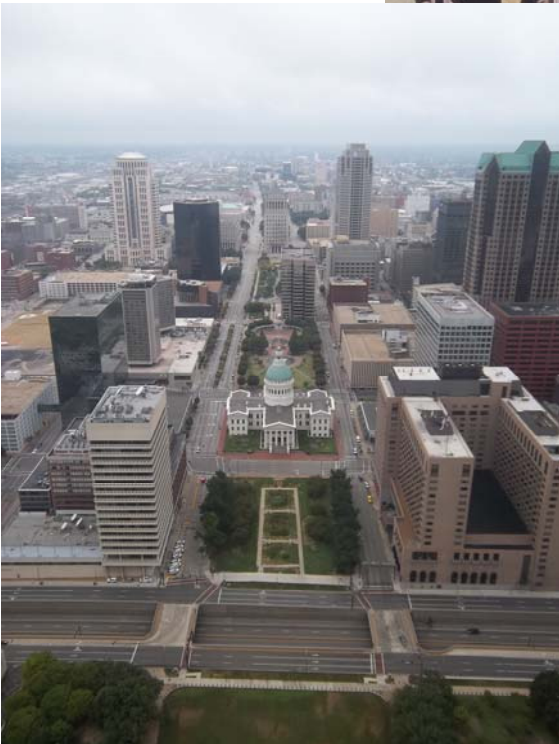
The Crystal Vision Award Banquet was great. There were 3 winners this year and all three were fantastic. Each was introduced via a video which built up all of their accomplishments and how they got there. These women offered great inspiration to NAWIC members to go out there and achieve all they can. The turning over of the National Board is always an emotional experience and this year was no different than most years. It was a wonderful capping off of a great week.

One of the most interesting aspects of attending Convention is the opportunity to get to know the various people involved at the National level – Board of Directors and Committees. I am so proud to be a member of this organization and going to National Convention only makes it feel bigger and better. I have many new ideas and information to share with not only the Board of Directors but also the members of our chapter and I will be starting right away.

# Meetings / Events / Happenings

## NAWIC National Convention, St Louis, Missouri August 31 - Sept 3, 2011

President Debra Gregoire  
CIT, introducing National  
Officers



View of St.  
Louis from  
the Arch



Denise with Darlean and Paula from the Honolulu  
Chapter



Out on the town with the San Diego Chapter Ladies