



Patty Wylie

Arrived Wednesday morning and set up San Antonio table for the Mini Trade Show. We were there from around 10:30 to around 5:30. I then went to the Fiesta themed Welcome Party and had fajitas and yummy desserts.

Thursday started off bright and early with region pictures at 7 AM – ugh! Breakfast at Denny's with Mauze Construction, Workplace Resource girl and Esther. Essentially ran back to hotel for the beginning of the annual meeting. After announcements Coach Jen Lee was our keynote speaker and the topic was "Make Great Things Happen". Lunch speakers were Nicole LeVine from Exelon and Rosie Zamora from UPS. Rosie is actually my daughters manager at UPS ☺ I kind of felt sorry for her as she was told at the last minute that she was going to be the speaker representing UPS.

I wanted to see Jen Lee's preso on Masterful Mindset and Maneuvers but was busy manning our trade show table. At 3:30 I went to Barbara Jacksons "Navigating the Barriers: Detours not a Deterrent". She told us that it's not a glass ceiling it's a stick floor, we offer up and volunteer what we're good at, we set up self-imposed barriers, etc. Went to dinner with Kari and Esther for Mexican food. Headed back to our suite where Judy was finishing up her meeting with the past national presidents. Talked with Luci for a bit while we cleaned up the room then to bed.

Breakfast was at Denny's again. 8:39 went to preso by Courtney Clark. Detour: Coping when Life Doesn't go According to Plan". I really enjoyed this one considering everything I was going through. It's not a dead-end, it's a detour, let go of the plan, how to deal with what you're dealt, we're not entitled to easy, never compare your insides to someone's outsides, regain your lost perspective by helping someone else. Next was "Zap the Gap" with Meagan Johnson. Another great lesson learned. It's amazing how the younger and older generations perceive each other. Lunch was installation of new officers and more announcements. I wanted to hear our own Elizabeth Connally speak, but was too worn out and went back to room for nap before our big night and I knew it was going to be a long one. Went to awards gala at 7:00. Food was great and my steak was cooked to perfection. A lot of awards were given and hopefully San Antonio and the South Central Region will be on stage! Back to room with our entourage from San Antonio. Stayed up talking and laughing with past and present members from San Antonio. Finally heard some of the stories from past national conferences and had one of our own to tell. If you want to know stories, you have to go to AMEC otherwise our lips are sealed. Spoke with Jennifer on ideas for my installation and came up with some really great ideas. I can't wait! Finally got to bed around 1:00 AM.

Saturday began with attending Laurie Jimenez and Angelia Sacco's "Leverage Your Best: Increase NAWIC's Influence through Membership and Marketing/PR". Got some really good ideas to take back to San Antonio. Last meeting NAWIC National Officers Chapter Leadership Training/Mock Board Meetings. Learned some new things – just wish it was longer and we had more time. This goes for all the NAWIC meetings. They were informative but seemed short.

Our las meeting was our AMEC regional meetings. AFC is 11/11 and 11/12 at the Hotel Sonesta in Houston; 2017 Forum will be in Dallas at the Hilton Lincoln Center on 4/7 through 4/9. All chapters are doing squares for DeeDee's retirement.

AMEC is done for another year. Hope to see a large group from SA next year in California!

Thursday 8/18/16

Annual Meeting

NAWIC Business

Keynote Speaker – Jen Lee

Effectiveness of direct communication in Business

Break out – Seminars

Protecting Your Business in the Age of Immigration Enforcement

Presented by Irma Plumlee

Discussed the importance of following I-9 procedures and the possible consequences if not followed.

Navigating the Barriers: Detours not a Deterrent

Presented by Barbara Jackson

Presented ideas and procedures to avoid perceived barriers in the workplace that can impact ones ability to be an effective leader.

Friday 8/19/16

Detour: Coping when Life Doesn't Go According to Plan

The presentation taught techniques to deal with the pressure and disappointment when things do not happen according to plan.

Zap the Gap

Presented by Meagan Johnson

Reinforcement of skills and techniques to be successful working within a multi-generational environment. I was surprised to hear so many negative comments from the audience about other generations in the workplace.

Saturday 8/20/16

Presentation Skills for Success

Presented by Christin Spray

Techniques to become more proficient with the skills of providing information to others

Saturday 8/20/16

NFSF: Building the Future of the Construction Industry

Presented by Past National NAWIC Presidents

Report of Celeste Estep
On the NAWIC 61st Annual Meeting and Education Conference
August 17-20, 2016
The Grand Hyatt
San Antonio, TX



The Welcome Party kicked off the meeting for me. It was great to see our chapter members, as well as acquaintances from our Region and others that I had not seen in a while. The food was good as was the company. I thought that the entertainment was limited, as compared to other AMEC's that I have attended in the past. But, a good time was had. The photo booth was great!



Regional photos were taken at 7:00 AM Thursday morning as we wiped the sleep from our eyes. I did mention that it was at 7:00 AM... It wasn't easy getting up and getting there with a smile on my face, but I did it. Photos that you had to purchase in the past are now available for free at <http://jacquelineassoc.com/>. NAWIC made an arrangement with Jackie Price, the NAWIC Convention photographer.

The general meeting began promptly at 8:30 AM on Thursday with our own Michelle Urbanczyk leading the Pledge of Allegiance and followed was a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem by Ms. Fox of the Joint Base San Antonio and their color guard. I was disappointed that our Mayor Ivy Taylor could not give the Welcome to San Antonio. Scheduled in her place was the Mayor Pro Tem, Shirley Gonzales. However, Ms. Gonzales did not show up either! President Lovejoy read a statement from Mayor Ivy Taylor. The attendance at AMEC was reported to be 390 with a voting strength of 273.2.

Once the introductions, the appointment of the Audit Committee, the adoption of the meeting rules, and the adoption of the meeting program with corrections was made; the keynote speaker was introduced. Jenn Lee's speech was "Make Great Things Happen!". Ms. Lee spoke on saying, "yes and..." and not saying, "yes, but..." She emphasized just saying what you want to say and to have direct communication. Hold yourself accountable ("put the grocery cart away when you are finished with it")... She was very energetic and on-point with the current environment. She would make an excellent speaker at any future meeting.

After a brief break, Memorials were made to the NAWIC members that died this past year. Past President Yasmin Branden gave this report to the background music of the Bee-Gee's "You Should Be Dancing" (which I thought was a bit strange and inappropriate giving the topic of the report). Thankfully, I can say that I did not know any of the ladies mentioned in the Memorial.

Karen Long of NEF gave the NAWIC Education Foundation Report. Quite a few of the courses have been updated. She mentioned that NEF would soon be doing online testing. This will be great for our chapter, as do not think anyone has tested since NEF converted to the PROV method of testing. I don't believe that San Antonio even had a site for testing locally. Our last tests were taken at the last Forum in San Antonio. I also think that there should have been testing available at AMEC this year. When I inquired, President Lovejoy informed me several months prior to AMEC that there would not be testing.

I think that NEF testing should be offered at every Regional and National event, provided we meet the minimum requirement for testing, until such time as NEF can get the online testing implemented.

NAWIC Executive Vice President, Dede Hughes gave the report for her office. She spoke of the progress the NAWIC office has made since she came on board. This year was her 20th year of serving NAWIC as the EVP. Let me tell you, she made a world of difference to NAWIC and its processes. She announced that she will be retiring as of December 31, 2017. She will be missed. The National Board is looking into the replacement of Dede.

The invitation to the 2017 AMEC was presented by incoming president Connie Leipard. It will be at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Anaheim/Garden Grove, California on August 16-19, 2017.

There was no new business brought before the assembly, so Judy DeWeese read the Resolutions. Announcements were made and the meeting was adjourned.

At noon on Thursday the Industry Luncheon was held. A couple of our national sponsors (UPS and Exelon) spoke.

Thursday afternoon was filled with seminars for me. I attended "Masterful Mindsets and Maneuvers!" by Jenn Lee and "Protecting Your Business in the Age of Immigration Enforcement" by Irina Plumlee. Both seminars were insightful and informative.

Friday morning, I attended "Detour: Coping When Life Doesn't Go According to Plan" by Courtney Clark and part of "The Great Misconception: Construction Contracting Cost Structure" by Matt Stevens. I also attended "Zap the Gap!" by Meagan Johnson. Zap the Gap was one of the best programs I have seen.

Friday was the Installation Luncheon with the retirement of the old national board and the installation of the new national board. Our own National Treasurer, Jennifer Swinney, was retired.

The Friday afternoon workshop I attended was "Do you know what your contract file can say about your project? Will it be friend or foe?" by our own Elizabeth Connally. I found this workshop very informative and took away new knowledge that I can use at work.

Friday evening was the NAWIC Awards Gala. It was a fun time to dress up and mingle with fellow WIC's. The Future Leader of the Year Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented along with NEF's Carol Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award.

On Saturday morning I attended the "Chapter Leadership Training/ Mock Board Meeting" workshop. All incoming board members should attend this workshop! Past Presidents of our chapter will endeavor to pass along the information learned to our chapter workshop for our incoming board.

This is the first AMEC that I have attended since Phoenix, AZ in 2009. Quite a bit has changed since then. Back then reports were made in person by various committee chairs. This year these reports were published in a booklet included in our registration packet that we received upon arriving. In addition to the published reports, the workshop and seminar handouts were available for printing from the NAWIC website. Go to <http://www.NAWIC.org/nawic/Handouts/asp> to see them. Back then the general session lasted 2 whole days. This year it was completed in one morning, which left the remainder of the time open to attend workshops and seminars. Another scheduling change for me was

the Awards Gala, held on Friday night. In past, the Awards Gala was on Saturday night. Almost guaranteeing that you had to remain at the meeting site until Sunday morning. By having it on Friday night, you can still attend the Saturday workshops and catch a flight home on Saturday afternoon or evening. Consequently, lessening the financial and time burden associated with going to AMEC. I like the change!

I am hopeful that you gained something from this report. I think that attendance at any regional/national meeting is a benefit to a women wanting to make NAWIC their association of choice and to be a participant in NAWIC, to make it be all that it can be, for yourself and for your chapter.

Michelle Urbanczyk

From: Esther L. Wong <eswong1818@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 9:39 AM
To: Michelle Urbanczyk
Subject: FW: AMEC San Antonio, Texas

Michelle,

This is my third attempt to send this to you. I don't know why I have been having so much trouble sending this to you as I never had a problem before. I am hoping this will go through to you this time.

Esther

From: eswong1818@live.com
To: michellu@urbanconcrete.com
CC: kari@mauzeconstruction.com
Subject: RE: AMEC San Antonio, Texas
Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2016 19:08:17 -0600

NAWIC 61st AMEC
17-20 August 2016
Grand Hyatt Hotel
San Antonio, Texas

Wednesday, 17 August 2016

Registration from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Welcome Reception from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Food was not that great but seeing old friends from the various chapters from the other regions made it worthwhile. A live band and disc jockey furnished the music for members to dance to.

Thursday, 18 August 2016

South Central Region was scheduled first for the regional photo shoot at 7:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting was called to order by NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy at 8:30 a.m. The National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance was led by IlluMen and Joint Base San Antonio Honor Guard. Inspiration given by Stephanie Crane, NAWIC Vice President. Introduction of Dignitary Mayor Pro Tem Shirley Gonzales by NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy, who welcomed the attending membership to San Antonio.

Introduction of the head table by NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy, followed with the appointment of an audit committee.

- First credentials report was given by Cindy Johnson. The Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules was moved by Robin F. Meyer and NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy moved for Adoption of Annual Meeting Conference Program.

NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy introduced the key note speaker, Coach Jen Lee. Her topic was "Make Great Things Happen!"

Memorials were read by Yasmine A. Branden; NAWIC Education Foundation Report given by Karen E. Long, NEF President; NFSF Report given by Judy DeWeese, Fund Administrator; Board of Directors' Report by Diane I. Mike, NAWIC Secretary; Executive Vice President's Report by Dede Hughes, Executive Vice President; Dede Hughes also announced her impending retirement at the end of 2017 after serving for 20 years at NEO. Staff recognition was given by NAWIC President Riki Lovejoy.

An invitation to the 2017 AMEC in Anaheim CA was extended by Connie M. Leopard, NAWIC President-Elect. Second and final credentials report/voting instructions given by Cindy Johnson. New business by Riki Lovejoy, NAWIC President. Resolutions presented by Judy DeWeese followed by Announcements and adjournment by Riki Lovejoy, NAWIC President.

Nicole LeVine from Exelon and Bobby Clayton from UPS provided updates to the NAWIC members at the Industry Luncheon. Lunch was okay. Nothing spectacular.

Thursday - 18 August 2016 - Workshops/Seminars

Professional Seminars/Workshops in the afternoon. I attended the "Protecting Your Business in the Age of Immigration Enforcement" presented by Irine B. Plumlee. Did not understand her too well as she spoke with a Russian accent but she said that I-9's should be kept in a separate file, the old ones needed to be kept for 3 years from the inception of the worker's employment date, inactive I-9's should be kept separate from active ones, and never give out any more information than asked for. This would only cause more problems in the long run as other agencies would start their investigations, which could open a huge can of worms and cause multiple problems.

The second seminar I attended was "The Great Misconception: Construction Contracting Cost Structure" presented by Matt Stevens, Ph.D. Did not really get much out of this seminar as he spoke too fast and jumped around on the subject matter he was speaking about. It could also be that I was more architecturally rather than construction oriented so the seminar was sort of like Greek to me.

Friday - 19 August 2016

Attended "Zap the Gap" workshop presented by Meagan Johnson. She compared the various people still working in the work force today. Categorizing them into several groups: The Traditional Generation born pre-1945, Baby Boomers born 1946-1964. Generation X born between 1965-1980, Generation Y born between 1981 - 1995 and the Linkster Generation born after 1995. Each group has their complaints as well as things to

remember. Each have their own ideas of how things should work and their outcomes and they all work together to make things happen.

Installation Luncheon was held. All the newly elected officers and regional directors were sworn in. The gavel was passed on to the new NAWIC President Connie Leopard.

Afternoon session, I attended "Navigating the New NAWIC Website" presented by Time Elmore. Tim enlightened all about the new and latest features of the latest redesign of the NAWIC website. He also gave a brief talk on how to set up your own chapter website to get it up and running to pass on chapter news and other announcements. If at any time, you have a question to ask, you are to feel free to get in touch with him and he will walk you through the process.

Saturday - 20 August 2016

Attended the NFSF: Building the Future of the Construction Industry workshop presented by Judy DeWeese, Cindy Johnson, Yasmine Branden and Debra Gregoire. They went over the number of scholarships they awarded last year to trade schools and undergraduates totaling more than \$50,000.00 from chapter/other segregated funds and interest leaving the principal untouched. They will help distribute your funds to students that your chapter designates or to another deserving student with your permission. They are more than willing to work with the local chapters in fulfilling their requests as to how their funds should be put to use.

The last meeting I attended was the South Central Regional Meeting. This meeting was a gathering of the minds and ideas of the various chapter members from the various chapters in the region as to how we could make the region running more smoothly and sharing ideas that were successful in their local chapters. It was a time for sharing and getting to know each other a little better. The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. and that was the close of the 2016 AMEC held in San Antonio, Texas.

Esther L. Wong
San Antonio Chapter 11
South Central Region

AMEC 2016

Grand Hyatt, August 17 -20, 2016

I attended the annual conference beginning Wednesday August 17. I came with Esther and Martha and we went straight to the NAWIC Chapter sales and sponsors room. After purchasing our raffle tickets and NAWIC items, we went to registration. I was unable to get my credentials at first, as my credentials card was missing. I ran into Ginny from the Dallas chapter at the sales room and was able to visit with her for a while. I attended the first timer's meeting where we learned how everything runs. We were introduced to the upcoming board and meet several current board members. We learned first timers made up 25% of those in attendance. I then went back to credentials registration and they had my information and card ready. That evening I attended the welcome party. It was a lot of people and a lot of fun. They had Mariachis and a DJ. We were able to dance later in the evening. It was quite a site to see all the women from around the states gathered in one large ballroom. There were so many people to meet and see and so much going on at times it was overwhelming to remember everyone and everything going on.

Thursday morning started bright and early with regional pictures. After pictures, a few of us from the San Antonio chapter went to Denny's for breakfast. It was a great chance to talk about which seminars we planned to attend and whom we had time to visit with at the welcome party. Then the business meeting started. There were 390 total in attendance. The voting strength was posted in the Friday bulletin. The bulletins were available to be picked up daily at registration. Thursday morning we turned our banquet tickets in to Lauri Jimenez from Houston so we could get our table assignments. Our speaker Jen was amazing and very inspiring. She pumped up the crowd and kept us on our toes. We made some corrections to the program and did not have any new business. Judy DeWeese gave the resolutions. Lunch was salad and chicken. We had several speakers that were sponsors and Esther and I sat with ladies from several different states. Lauri gave our assigned tickets to Michelle who handed them out Thursday night. It was a little different this year as they mostly mixed our banquet tables so we could mingle with others in our region. This made it a little difficult as we had guest in attendance and trying to situate everyone with whom they invited became cumbersome. I would not recommend this in the future just because it is hard to accommodate everyone and make everyone happy. Thursday evening, Judy DeWeese hosted a past presidents retirement party in the suite. It was great to meet and see everyone. Patty, Esther and I went to have dinner at Mexican Manhattan Thursday night. We all enjoyed a drink and dinner. We got lucky as it rained ten minutes before we left but was clear by the time we were driving. The rain brought cooler temperatures and it ended up being a nice evening. Thursday night Patty and I visited with ladies from the Austin chapter and the Waco chapter. We are all so excited about the upcoming AFC and Forum this next year.

Friday morning started with seminars. I attended the Contracting costing seminar. My feeling was that he tried to cover way too much information in such a short time. I felt he was talking over most of our heads and that seminar could have been improved had he focused in two construction cost topics. The next seminar I attended was zap the gap. It was very energetic and informational presentation. It really brought to light differences in generation and how to stop and think of how each generation interprets

the work place. It does make a big difference in the happiness of coworkers to understand and overcome the generational differences. Friday lunch was cold soup and a salad. Then the installation of the new officers. The luncheon was a very nice time. Friday afternoon, I attended the website presentation. It was very helpful and insightful for our own local websites. Carol Hagen has offered to share with us the contact that made the Phoenix website set up and she did say that after the setup it was easily maintained by a minimum of three people. She advised that one person can just not reasonably keep up. Tim told us that we can get free word press and that was the way to go. It was a great seminar and the room had a lot of attendees. After that seminar we had several people up in the suite to talk about what we were learning about. Carol came up and told us about a tool tracking system their company has. Friday night was the banquet. Everyone was amazingly dressed. They presented many awards. After the banquet we had most attendees from the San Antonio chapter come to the suite to visit and have fun.

Saturday morning I attended the NFSF workshop. They opened my eyes to how risky having your own scholarship can be. I suggest that we have an NFSF representative come speak to our chapter. I believe that we could possibly be in trouble should we not set up a separate 509 trust to fund scholarships if we were to revert to handling local scholarships. After the NFSF meeting, I attended the South Central Region meeting. Dena discussed the upcoming AFC in Houston and the Forum in Dallas.

It was a wonderful time and I recommend to anyone to attend AMEC. I think it truly opens your eyes to how many people NAWIC impacts and how NAWIC can impact you.

Thank you,

Kari Wirth

NAWIC AMEC August 17-20, 2016
Michelle Urbanczyk
NAWIC San Antonio Chapter President 2014-2016

Approximately 400 attendees this year at NAWIC Annual Meeting and Education Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on East Market. Ladies from all over the United States traveled to our local town before conference started to enjoy the San Antonio History, Food, and entertainment (The Alamo, Riverwalk, Sunken and Botanical Gardens, The Missions, Fiesta Texas, etc). Rain or Shine these ladies did not stay indoors but out on the town enjoying the large variety of sites before business started on Thursday morning.

Wednesday Morning the NAWIC Office was hard at work getting everyone checked in and directed to the workshops and meetings and Trade Show on the first day. There were over 100+ first timers at AMEC this year. It was nice to see so many enthusiastic faces at the start of conference. The Welcome Party was held Wednesday night in the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt. A large attendance for everyone to enjoy some good ole Tex Mex and party music to get everyone relaxed before general session on Thursday Morning. Ladies brought out there Fiesta attire in celebration of the Mexican Tradition in San Antonio.

On Thursday morning, The Joint Base San Antonio Honor Guard presented colors and 323D Army Band “ Ft Sam’s Own” vocalist SSG Nakita Fox sang the National Anthem to kick off General Session, August 18, 2016. Thank you to all those who serve and protect our country. It was a great pleasure to have our Military City represented during AMEC and the members continued to show their support throughout conference to the many veterans attending.

NFSF(NAWIC Founders and Scholarship Foundation) announced 51 scholarships were awarded this year , over \$65,000.00, to students attending trades and colleges. NFSF asked for each chapter to reach out to the university, colleges, and trade schools to let them know NAWIC offers scholarships. Criteria submitted by chapters is to be broadened to give more applicants are better opportunity to be awarded a scholarship. The goal for next year’s submissions, to increase the number of recipients.

Along with our General Session we had Motivational speaker Jennifer Lee who spoke, “Make Great Things Happen!” Jen asked the members to think out about our goals and what we value and what we want to accomplish. Are you a half glass full or half glass empty type of person? Are you a “Yes, and” or “Yes, but”? Do not make excuses for not doing something. Do not stop pushing for your goals and do not wait for it. Waiting for others will never get you where you want to be. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone and stay on the positive track to keep growing and excelling and being the Yes person.

Executive Vice President Dede Hughes announced after her 20 years as appointed EVP, she will be stepping down on December 31st. She is well loved and will be forever missed but never forgotten. Dede is retiring and will be looking into another adventure in her life and the members of NAWIC wish her all the best. Dede’s replacement will be announced at next years AMEC.

Industry Luncheon Nicole LeVine from Exelon spoke on the importance of letting women know they have possibilities. The percentage of women working in trades is extremely low and most young ladies do not realize the opportunities out there to make a better wage in construction. It is time for NAWIC to start

working on letting the younger generation know what there is out there and assisting to achieve goal(s) for a better future.

So many workshops were held Thursday- Saturday. From impacting your work environment to Understanding Blue Beam better. Representative Howard Mavity spoke on the importance of OSHA and why we need them in the workplace. Carol Hagen had a quick overview of Revu and gave out some quick tips and shortcuts to make Blue Beam even friendlier to use. Irina Plumlee held a workshop on what is going on with immigration, what should our companies watch for and how to avoid fines and employee loss with strategies to stay compliant. Courtney Clark made us understand that detours are part of the plan. Do not always expect your plan to stay on track but regroup and continue on your path of success. Detours do not stop you, they just take you along another path to get you where you are going.

San Antonio was honored to see Incoming Chapter Vice President Elizabeth Connally have a workshop held on Legalities of proper paperwork on a project in case of lawsuit. Documentation is key, verbal information is not. From the smallest delay to the largest item to be changed on a project if something goes wrong are you covered with proper documentation?

There was also a NAWIC Officers workshop held by Past and Incoming National Presidents, Directors and Officers. The chapter members were able to attend and understand their role in the chapter and region. Multiple Groups were put together to work on scenarios on "what ifs" to give a better understanding of what happens in a board or general meeting. It was a great way for many chapters to put their heads together to come up with a proper game plan/solution when things do not always go according to plan.

NAWIC Gala and Passing of the Gavel was a huge attendance. It was wonderful to see so many small chapters shine this year and see how much members have pulled together to make their chapter grow. To see the support from the entire region as each award was given was a huge success. Women coming together to support one another and we are not able to do it alone. It takes a team to accomplish NAWIC and the team continually is growing and becoming stronger. Next Year AMEC will be held in Garden Grove California August 16-19, 2017. With the millennials and seasoned members coming together as one to support Women in Construction, next year is looking to be another huge success.

NAWIC's 61st Annual Meeting & Educational Conference Report by Jennifer McElroy, CIT

Held at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio, I did something different this year and did not stay at the hotel but went home every evening. Of course that had never been an option for me in the past and it did cut down on the chance meetings of random NAWIC members when meals were on your own. But with the weather wetter and cooler than normal, it also meant I wasn't a disappointed (or die-hard) tourist unable to see the local sights during the few hours of free time.

After a crazy morning at work, on Wednesday afternoon, I found the NAWIC Registration Desk to pick up my name badge and registration materials. The registration packet included a copy of the Annual Reports by members of the Executive Committee as well as the National Committee Chairs. Also included was an attendance roster. I always look thru the "by region" section of the Roster to see who is attending from my former chapters so I know who to be on the lookout for so that we can catch up. I also mark it up at the end of each day with notes on who I met and what interesting thing their chapter does that I want more details about.

After registering and looking through those materials, I wandered thru the NAWIC Mini Trade show. The NAWIC Mini Trade show is where chapters, sponsors and partners set up their tables for fundraising and information. NEF had a lot going on this year, with mystery boxes and a silent auction. In talking to people at the table, I learned I'm not the only one who wanted the numbered mystery boxes to be put in number order rather than be randomly spread out. OK, either that or they could have built a great Jenga tower so that you wouldn't care which number you got, only that you didn't have to rebuild it for the next person. While the silent auction items were enticing, many of the minimum bids kept them out of my price range. I attend with a pre-set budget for raffles and that just wasn't enough to bid on any of the items that caught my eye. I realize outsourcing the NEF silent auction made it easier for NEF (not having to find as many volunteers to skip meetings/workshops), I'm curious to find out if they made as much this year as compared to past years because the minimums were higher than some people were willing to spend.

Wednesday night was the Welcome Party with a Fiesta theme. There are always multiple food lines at this Party, and I of course hit the dessert line first then never bothered to stand in line for the regular food. I managed to find my 'cousin' current Southeast Region Director Angie McElroy (seriously, no relation) and members of my very first chapter, Florida Space Coast. I find it funny that Angie and I both started in the same chapter and have moved around before both eventually becoming Directors on the National Board. Our NAWIC 'mom', who recruited both of us, is clearly proud of our accomplishments.

Thursday morning started with Regional Photos at 7:00am followed by the Annual Meeting at 8:30am which included:

Credentials: With the First Credentials report, for registrations thru 8pm Wednesday, we had a voting strength of 264.2 (members-at-large get 0.1 of a vote, as does each voting member attending from a chapter with less than 6 members – an interesting tidbit you can find in the By Laws). With the Final Credentials report, thru 8:30am that morning, had total attendance at 390 and a voting strength of 273.2.

Keynote Speaker: Coach Jen Lee presented *Make Great Things Happen!*. She was not only informative and entertaining, but she managed to incorporate some NAWIC idiosyncrasies from our morning business into her presentation.

Memorials: Past National President Yasmine Branden presented the memorials. There was a video presentation of members who passed away this year, including one past national president from the Houston Chapter. I don't know when they made this change as I've missed the last 3 AMEC's, but in the past only past national presidents were individually recognized at AMEC.

New Business: There were no motions from the floor, to which National President Riki Lovejoy gave a big sigh of relief (it's hard to prep your script for that potential unknown).

NAWIC's 61st Annual Meeting & Educational Conference Report by Jennifer McElroy, CIT

After Resolutions given by our own Judy Deweese, and Announcements, it was on to the Industry Luncheon, where industry sponsors Excelon and UPS gave presentations. At the Luncheons, I always try to see with people I don't know, which is sometimes frustrating when you ask a table if they have room for 1 and they are 'reserving' spaces for others in their chapter. While I'm certainly not avoiding my chapter members, I want to sit next to people I don't know to not only force myself to get out of my comfort zone but to also get new ideas to bring back to our chapter. This time I sat with members of the Dallas, TX and Greater Kansas City, MO chapters. I watched someone who admits that she and her company don't normally make business connections do so at this table and that clearly made her day. So don't just ask "where are you from", but also "what do you do" when getting to know your tablemates.

After lunch, the afternoon was filled with back to back Workshops, with 4 to choose from in each time slot, fortunately many of them repeated so that I didn't feel like I was missing out on something really good. My first session was *Bluebeam Revu Tips, Tricks and Shortcuts*. Even though I haven't used this PDF program yet, I love learning about shortcuts. The handout for this is available online. My second session was *The Great Misconception: Construction Contracting Cost Structure*. I've been getting this presenter's newsletter for years so wanted to see him present in person. For the life of me I can't remember how I originally heard about him, but I'm fairly sure it was through NAWIC.

Thursday evening was technically free time, but I had been invited to a reception for President-Elect Connie Leopard, likely because we had been Directors on the 2010-2011 Board, so I went to that for a bit before heading home.

Friday brought a day of workshops and two sit down meals. The workshops I attended were:
Navigating the Barriers: Detours Not a Deterrent I belong to DBIA and have enjoyed her presentations to that organization, so wanted to see what she would present here.
Building Bridges: Forging Productive Professional Relationships I first saw this presenter at a Regional event hosted by the Austin Chapter a few years ago. I liked her then and still like her now.
Do You Know What Your Contract File Can Say About Your Project? Will it be a Friend or Foe? This was presented by our very own Elizabeth Haws Connally, and up until lunch we both thought it was the 2nd afternoon slot rather than right after lunch. There was only one set of workshops on Friday afternoon, so it was right after lunch. But Elizabeth didn't put us to sleep and in fact of all the workshops I went to, hers had the most questions and interaction with the audience. As I've been fixing 'problem projects' for a number of years, sadly I think I can provide Elizabeth with even more "don't" examples.

The program for Friday's lunch was the retirement of the 2015-2016 Board, where we saw our very own Jennifer Swinney become a retired (or decommissioned as I like to call it) Officer, and installation of the 2016-2017 Board. Since my very first convention, I have always been impressed with the ladies who take the stage during this program as they clearly have a passion for NAWIC and are willing to give their time to keep our Association going and growing. Although installed at lunch, the incoming Board did not take office until after the Banquet that evening.

New this year, after feedback from past events, the Awards Gala was held on Friday Night rather than Saturday, so that depending on where you live in the country and what flight connections were available, you could in theory get home Saturday rather than Sunday. As with past years, all of the awards were presented at the Gala. Given the background noise, fortunately all of the awards were also printed in Saturday's Daily Bulletin. Of special interest this year, Membership Longevity was recognized this year with President Lovejoy asking all members with over 20 years of membership to stand. I'm a few months shy of that goal, so got to give my feet a break for a change. Then those standing members were asked to remain standing as the membership years went up in 5-year increments. By 40-years only a few attendees remained standing. By 45-years, the count went up year-by-year. By the 50-year mark, while I can't be sure because the attendees list was based on pre-registrations, I only know of three

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Report by Jennifer McElroy, CIT

ladies who were still standing. By 51-years, only one was left, our very own Alice Dolle who was there with her NAWIC supporting husband. At 55-years she got a standing ovation and was finally allowed to sit down. Way to go Alice!

The Saturday morning workshops I attended were:

Presentation Skills for Success While NAWIC has helped me overcome my terror of public speaking, I know I still have room for improvement and this presentation gave me a lot of tips on how to keep the audience engaged and go with the flow when something inevitably goes away. This speaker will also be at our Regional AFC in November.

WIC Week This wasn't the typical "here are the deadlines for the forms" session that I've seen in the past. It was much more about continuing newly-installed President Leipards theme of *Support, Encourage, Grow* to put NAWIC out into the public realm. I'm friends with Mary Hobart-Barnhart who is the National co-chair for this committee and she stayed with me for a few days after coming to San Antonio early, so we already had a couple of nights discussing ways to do this. I'd like to see our chapter support and encourage our members by publicizing or re-publicizing success stories (even if we have to help each other figure out what those successes are).

Regional meetings were held after the two sessions of morning workshops. Director Dena Rowland only had a few announcements, with dates for our upcoming regional events (Annual Fall Conference [AFC] in Houston November 11th-12th and Forum next spring on April 7th-9th in Dallas). Sadly, while we've enjoyed some cooler than normal weather (OK, not hot weather) and some much needed rain, others in our Region have been impacted by the recent rains in Louisiana. Director Rowland will be our point of contact to learn what our impacted members needed and how we can help get it to them.

Handouts from many of the workshops are available on the website (<http://www.nawic.org/nawic/Handouts.asp>). You can also see the Daily Bulletins online as well (http://www.nawic.org/nawic/Daily_Bulletin.asp).

For the first time ever, AMEC registration included unlimited photo downloads from conference photographer Jacky Price.

If you've never experienced being in the same room with hundreds of other women in the construction industry, you will be amazed at the energy in the room when you do. Compared to other Chapters, we have a large turnout at our monthly meetings and if you take a step back, you can feel the energy in our meeting rooms. Imagine magnifying that energy with women from around the country who do what we do. Once you experience that, you want to keep returning. Unsurprisingly, I recommend that you mark your calendar now for AMEC 2017, the start of the "Disney Tour" which will be from August 16th-19th in what they say is Anaheim, CA although the hotel is in Garden Grove, CA. The Disneyland website indicates this hotel is located one mile away it has a "Disney Desk – A full-service ticket outlet staffed by Disneyland Cast Members". The next and last stop on the "Disney Tour" is August 15th-18th 2018 in Orlando, FL. From there, AMEC moves to Atlanta, GA on August 21st-24th, 2019. If you're not up to all of that travelling, you should plan to attend AMEC 2020 which will be close by in Houston on August 12th-15th.