Fall Conference – Tacoma Washington October 15 & 16, 2021

Report to Chapter 99, Silicon Valley

By: Laura Grabar, 2021-2022 President

Attendees for Silicon Valley Chapter 99 – Shawna Alvarado, Laura Grabar and Marlene O'Donnell.

The conference began Friday morning with a welcome to the conference then a welcome to Tacoma. This was followed by Region business consisting of Adoption of Conference Rules and Agenda, review of summary of actions from the national board from April to September, minor changes to the Bylaws, and last year's budget. The region budget for 2021-2022 NAWIC year was presented, voted and passed.

There were two virtual jobsite tours. The first, WSDOT Panel led by Jeanine Viscount who is the Deputy Program Administrator for the Washington State Department of Transportation and Debbie Bingham who is a Project Manager for the City of Tacoma. The Puget Sound Gateway Program is designed to provide essential connections to the ports of Tacoma and Seattle and help ensure people and goods move more reliably through the Puget Sound region. The second virtual jobsite tour was the Washington State Convention Center narrated by Jodine Hatfield of Clark Construction and Sandy Maus of VECA Electronics & Technologies. Jodine is a Superintendent of this project and Sandy is a Senior Project Manager for VECA Electronics. This project began in 2018 and is expected to be complete and open in Mid-2022.

The first speaker presentation was Mandi Kane on "Rising to Positions of Leadership" where she walked us thorough the five steps necessary to become a leader. Her five steps are goal setting, introspection, initiative, opportunities and mentorship. Goal setting allows you to set a plan and by having a plan when things don't go the way you planned you can change or pivot allowing you to be more adept. In step two Mandi recommends taking a couple of different assessments which will help you to understand and define you and your personality. In the third step she recommends doing more than is expected while asking for feedback especially from someone that thinks differently. This will give insight from their life experiences. The fourth step is be ready to take advantage of opportunities when they come along. The final step is mentorship. This step goes both ways, not only should you have a mentor but you should be mentoring as well. You should give back what you are learning.

The day ended with a "Living Room Meet and Greet" where we were able to socialize with other attendees and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday began with introductions of the chairs and presentations by DE&I, PD&E NEF, NFSF and Health & Safety committees. We met the new committee chairs and heard what they have planned for the coming year. Watch your email for webinars and events from the different committees.

This was followed by two speaker presentations. The first was Meg Winch on "Inspiring Women by Finding You Voice. The second presentation Stephanie Caldwell on Empowering Change by Implementing Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives. Again we are reminded that if we want change we need to instigate the change. We have to learn to be comfortable in leading positions and to not let negative comments derail us from our objectives. We need to step out of our comfort zone and engage with people that are different from ourselves. We grow when there are differing ideas which come from people of different backgrounds.

The conference concluded with an invitation to Boise Idaho for Forum April 7-9, 2022. Fall Conference will be in Bend Oregon October 14-16, 2022. Forum for 2023 will be in Alaska. It was then open for bids for Fall Conference in 2023. San Francisco #19, Eugene #77 and Montana #387 each put in a bid with Montana winning.

South Sound Chapter 187 did a phenomenal job putting together this conference with dynamic speakers and interesting virtual jobsite tours. They definitely delivered on their theme: To Inspire, To Rise, To Empower.