NAWIC 67th Annual Conference 2022 Envision Equity

Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 17th – 20th

By: Angie Ramos

This was my second annual conference, and it was EPIC, full of awesome Keynote speakers, and several break-out sessions to choose from. There were lots of great vendors in the construction zone, great items in the NAWIC store, and tons of opportunities to network.

We arrived around lunchtime on the 17th we checked in to our rooms and then went downstairs to register. The store was open, so we picked up a few items and then headed over to the construction zone. A paper was given at registration to do a scavenger hunt in the construction zone. I thought it was a great idea since it helps break the ice to speak with the vendors as you had to get your paper stamped. After some networking, we walked around Minneapolis, and had an early dinner, then came back to rest up for the next day.

Day 2, started with breakfast at 7:15 and then Winning Big & Living Fearlessly with the Keynote Speaker: Siri Lindley, she was so energetic and very motivating. She talked about her experience of becoming a World Champion Triathlete and then moving on to becoming a High-Performance coach. She is also a cancer survivor, and it was all because she never would give up. The key takeaway for me was that your fears can either be motivating or can cripple you, but it is your choice, and changing your mindset to live fearlessly authentic is what will make you a Champion.

Morning break-out session
US Construction Industry Outlook – Jay Bowman
Jay discussed the New economy vs the old economy, the next five-year cycle, and industry headwinds. The new economy is more technology-driven, with mass transit and infrastructure where the old economy is more lodging, shopping centers, office, etc. The next 5-year cycle will continue with supply chain issues and labor challenges. He also discussed how reducing employee turnover saves significant dollars and you should do everything you can to retain your key personal or it will cost you in the long run.

Luncheon Project Excellence Awards, Safety Excellence Awards –

Together Beyond. Keynote Speaker: Steve Demetriou- Jacobs Engineering

Steve was very inspiring as a CEO of a large company he really speaks and acts on their core value of Living inclusion every day. He truly believes in the culture and makes certain that the leadership team does too. His executive leadership team has changed from all Male to 50% females what an awesome accomplishment.

Afternoon general session Leadership and Your Path Forward. Executive
Panel. Moderator: Lauline Mitchell, Panelists: Patricia Zugibe - Holt CEO, Kim Norton - Rochester Mayor, Seaen Kosmides -Olympia Tech CEO, Julie Chang Jacob Engineering,

Christina Madry United Rentals VP. It was great to hear from some powerful women and how you too can be on a path to becoming a great leader.

We had a celebration with our sister chapter Guam, they were celebrating their 10 year anniversary, and they had a program to share with our chapter and some of the regional ladies joined. They put together a special NAWIC song that is on YouTube, and it was so awesome. They also gave us a flag for helping them charter the Guam Chapter 10 years ago, this was a great networking night.

Day 3, early breakfast again

Morning break-out session Taskmaster to Trust-builder: How Leaders Use Cultural Intelligence to Build Genuine, Productive Relationships. Speaker: Dr. Amy Narishkin, Ph.D Amy explained Cultural intelligence is what enables us to be in conversation with a person who has a different perspective or background. As we develop the skills to show compassion for others who have a different context or experience, they are able to speak and act in ways that show genuine respect. The takeaway for me is to be understanding and have true empathy for others.

2ND Morning break-out session Managing Conflict & Communications – Speaker Michael Riegel, working with others is hard and this helped me understand no matter what there will always be conflict in communications when working with others. He spoke about giving and receiving effective feedback. We discussed the importance of soft skills, and different styles that we all have. He also mentioned that keep in perspective that you might just be the difficult person and you are thinking others are. That hit home for me I need to realize my way is not always the right way.

Installation and Recognition Luncheon – Annual conference installation is motivating and exciting for the incoming board. It was nice to be a part of it this year as Lauline is from our region and is our incoming President. I know she will continue to move NAWIC in the right direction along with her new board members, and the support of all her NAWIC Sisters.

Afternoon breakout session
Emotional Intelligence. Speaker: Dr. Stevie Dawn Carter, Stevie, really hit home for me and made me think about when I say something did I get my point across, did the other person understand what I am requesting? She gave a few tips to start your mornings on a good note, by being aware: like taking a pulse check, identifying triggers, and being present. Have clarity ask questions, seek to understand interpretation, and remove emotional expectations. Timing Stop Stamp Collecting (Let your stamps go or you might go postal), Allow for recovery time, and consider outcomes over desires.

Committee Chair Photos and Region Photos – exciting we got to take a photo with the new incoming National President.

Awards Gala Dinner was awesome so many Ladies and a handful of men supporting their spouses were awesome to see.

Awards Gala After Party - August Madness Women's Sports Theme – this was a great idea for all to represent their sports teams and or women's sports teams. It was set up as a sports environment with music and dancing. Was a fun networking event.

Last day Avery Bang Bridges to Prosperity CEO Keynote Speaker shares her personal story

I was amazed at this keynote speaker she was so young when she set out to rule the world, just my thoughts. She collaborated with large companies to help build teams and make other people's lives easier and more fulfilling. Her motivation helped her start a company that offered footbridges in order to connect people to essential health care, education, and economic opportunities in rural countries. Which has been a global problem. Imagine not being able to get to work or get to a Dr. or even food in a timely matter or even at all.

The conference was over, and we said goodbye to new NAWIC Sisters and old ones that we hope to see again next year or at a regional conference. The Silicon Valley Chapter 99 Sisters finished the day with some fun and exploring. We took a tour of Prince's Home and Studio Paisley Park, and then enjoyed watching the 49ers beat the Vikings in Minneapolis.