2020 Annual Conference – August 12-14

Report to Chapter 99, Santa Clara NAWIC
By: Laura Grabar, 2019-2020 Vice President

Shawna Alvarado, Laura Grabar and Kara Hermann represented Chapter 99 at the 2020 Annual Conference

This year the 65th Annual Conference was held virtually for the first time in the history of NAWIC.

The conference began Wednesday afternoon with the keynote speaker Jessica Rector "Blaze Your Brain: Turn Negative Thoughts into Positive Action". I learned some techniques to stop thinking negatively and being stuck with fear and turn it into positive action. This was followed by the afternoon education sessions. I learned how to prevent, break through and extinguish burnout. The day ended with networking opportunities.

Thursday began with the NAWIC Annual Meeting where we saw the new NAWIC logo. This was followed by the lunch break and more opportunities fir networking through committee open house sessions. The afternoon education session I learned about "Harmony Through Teamwork! Counteracting the Cacophony of miscommunication". The best way to prevent miscommunication is to state the purpose of a meeting, set the time to meet and give the goal or outcome you wish to end. If you are clear with these guideline there is less chance for miscommunication. The afternoon general session discussed "Real Solutions for the Skilled Trades Shortage". The day ended with the NAWIC Awards.

Friday morning has more networking through industry councils. This was followed by the Board Installation and Award Recognitions. This was followed by the afternoon education sessions where I learned that one of the best ways to prevent workplace conflict is to listen and make eye contact. Don't think about your response. You should always stick to the facts and keep the emotion out of the conversation.

The conference ended with the closing keynote speaker Ally Jencson on "How to stay Feminine in the Construction Industry". I learned to know my worth and to trust my instinct. Ally gave an energetic close to the conference.

This was the third annual conference I have attended. It was also the first virtual event. I enjoyed the speakers and it was nice to be able to stay home. However I really missed the camaraderie you get being there in person. I look forward to next year's conference in Charlotte NC which I hope to attend in person.