

Pacific Northwest Fall Conference Report

Wednesday, October 11 – Friday, October 13, 2023, four of our Silicon Valley NAWIC members attended the Pacific Northwest Fall Conference in Missoula, Montana, taking place at the Hilton Garden Inn. The topic being Under the Big Sky: Treasure Your Value in Construction. During this three-day conference we got to hear from many wonderful speakers such as Karen McNenny, Deb Poteet, Nancy Schlepp, Christy Jacobsen, and Vicki Evans. We also got to spend time with our NAWIC sisters and explore beautiful Missoula.

Day one was full of excitement. Arriving at beautiful Missoula was such a joy! Being a first timer, I started my evening at the First Timer's Meeting where I got to meet all the other first timers and we were assigned a fun task that helped us break out of our shell. Soon after, we reunited with the rest of our sisters at the Welcome Event Meet & Greet where we got to have an amazing time socializing, playing cornhole, having drinks, and enjoying hors d'oeuvres.

Day two was an eye opener for me. I got to experience how we come together and conduct business amongst chapters and the passion our sisters have over certain topics. The speakers were amazing. What stood out the most was when we spoke about how we should be traveling more because we live in the world, not just here. Also, how to be present in our friends' lives because there will be voids that family cannot fill. As well as to be curious, invite strangers and learn about them. This eventful day ended with a wonderful dinner and fun line dancing at The Barn on Mullan, where we also got to see the beautiful landscape views of Missoula.

Day three came fast and it was nonetheless a great day. The speaker that stood out for me this day was Karen McNenny with her topic "Wonder Woman Wants a Day Off". Karen spoke about how even though we wear many hats in our personal and work life, stillness is a superpower, and we need to learn to "swim with the fishes". She also spoke on how we need to be more like the redwood tree roots in order to thrive, survive and grow. We can't do it alone, so we have to show up for one another.

Overall, this conference was one full of great speakers and of great memories. I felt relatable to every topic and left feeling empowered. I was extremely happy that I got to connect with NAWIC sisters from other chapters and created stronger bonds with the NAWIC sisters I know now. I look forward to our next event!