

Hello, NAWIC Nation! Welcome to your first virtual/hybrid Region Fall Conference. Your Region Director and conference planning committee have been working hard to provide an educational and engaging conference.

It's hard to believe that we are more than 6 months into this pandemic, and we are still trying to navigate it. There are still so many uncertainties, especially surrounding what our new normal will be. Through all this, one thing remains evident: NAWIC members continue to step up, volunteer, and offer support wherever there is a need!

You should be very proud of those you elected to serve on the National Board this year. The 2020-2021 NAWIC National Board members are committed and dedicated to our association! Their knowledge, perspective, strategic thinking, and diverse experiences together will "Connect-Collaborate-Construct" NAWIC and its members for the betterment of our industry's future. We are working diligently on the national level to connect and engage NAWIC members and others in the industry.

- **Communication:** With the success of our first town hall meeting, several more will be scheduled throughout the 2020-2021 NAWIC year. These town halls are held to give you, the members, an opportunity to have a conversation with the national president and/or other members from the national board. Watch for upcoming NAWIC announcements on the topics and timing. In addition to the town hall opportunity to connect, you can connect with me either by e-mail (president@nawic.org) or mobile (419-424-9733). The national board has committed to hold monthly meetings to continue to conduct the business for our association. You have the opportunity to submit written proposals for the national board to consider. There is a template posted on the national website (https://www.nawic.org/nawic/National_Board_of_Directors.asp) for you to submit your proposal.
- **Partnerships/Collaboration:** There have been several associations and organizations reaching out to NAWIC to see how the groups can partner, collaborate, and/or support one another. We need to start somewhere, so let's, start with something that has been an issue for a while: discrimination and harassment. To help address this, NAWIC has entered into a partnership with People First.
    - **People First:** NAWIC was founded to support women in the construction industry. To that end, NAWIC's partnership with People First will work towards ending harassment and discrimination in the construction industry, which is still one of the major barriers for women. This partnership will provide not only the availability for owners to create a safe, inclusive workplace, but also support for workers who have been harassed and/or discriminated against. The NAWIC/People First partnership provides an opportunity to find a solution that's beneficial for everyone. For more information about this pilot program contact Kamael Sugrim (kamael.sugrim@peoplefirstrh.com), Co-Founder and CEO of People First; Immediate Past Northeast Region Director, Jenn Sproul (jsproul@mccei.org); or NAWIC President, Anne Pfleger (president@nawic.org).

The NAWIC/People First partnership is just the start of good things ahead for us. Stay tuned - we will be announcing an action plan for how NAWIC will start partnership/collaboration with other associations/organizations soon.

- **National Level Involvement:** There are many opportunities for you to serve on the national level.
  - Serving on:
    - Partner committees
    - Taskforce - as a member, chair, or resource/advisor
    - Industry Councils
  - Creating and implementing a partnership/collaboration action plan
  - Acting as a resource for misc. projects
  - Serving as a speaker on the chapter, region, and/or national level

  If you are interested, please contact me (president@nawic.org).
- **Virtual Chapter Leadership Program:** Scheduled to start Oct. 1st, Past National Presidents will be facilitating chapter specific training and mentoring throughout the year. If your chapter is interested in signing up for this program, contact your Region Director or Deb Lesar (dlesar@brewer-garrett.com), program's coordinator to complete the request form and get the process started.
- **Chapter Visits:** If you are interested in having me attend one of your chapter meetings, please send me your chapter's meeting schedule at president@nawic.org.

In November, Debbie Draper, NAWIC Conference Director with Conference Direct; NAWIC staff; and myself will begin planning NAWIC's 66thAnnual Conference, to be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Concord Golf Resort and Spa August 11-14, 2021 in Charlotte, NC. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you for taking the time to strengthen and amplify your personal, professional, and NAWIC development by attending Region Fall Conference!

Stay safe and healthy!

Anne K. Pfleger, CIT
NAWIC President 2020-2021