

FORUM 2013 REPORT
BY NANCY WEBBER

Thursday morn the Big Red Bus picked me up at the Fife Bar & Grill and we were on our way to a fun and informative weekend. The weather was good with the exception of some snow and rain mix on Tiger Mountain. We made a stop in Ellensburg to have breakfast with Cathy's Dad. There were numerous stops along the way for..... use your imagination for what.

Among much laughter and visiting we arrived in Spokane at about 3:30 pm. Checked in to the historical Davenport Hotel. One of us crashed until the Hospitality room opened. Others had to attend the President's and First Timer's meetings. Kelly arranged for a place to eat dinner at the Wild Sage Bistro that evening. Wonderful food and great company.

Friday – Business Session

8-9:00 Chapter Sales and a Continental Breakfast was served.

The usual agenda of Introductions of the Head Table, flag salute by Boy Scouts, anthem sang by Miss Spokane and Miss Island Empire and the Devotion of "Women on our Journey". Lynette Caudill, General Manager of the Davenport, welcomed us and gave a rendition of the history of the hotel. This was followed by the appointments for Time Keeper and Audit Committee. Past National Presidents and Region 9 Directors were recognized. The Parliamentarian reviewed the Forum Rules and was adopted as well as the Agenda. The Attendance Report was given (voting strength 8, attendance 37). National Representative was NAWIC Secretary Dove Sifers-Putman.

The first speaker was John S. Sporleder on "Behavior and Emotional Awareness"

Reviewed what makes one successful or not successful. Those with sense of integrity, positive attitudes, good skills to deal w/people, behavior awareness and able to define conflict and understanding differences make for a successful leader where unsuccessful types have negative attitudes, lack of maturity, self importance, lack of skills to deal with people and conflicts and self-indulgence. The publication "Emotional Intelligence 2.01" was recommended for reading material.

Promotional materials from all NAWIC candidates were placed on tables for attendees to review. Candidate for NAWIC Vice-President, Dove Sifers-Putman, gave her speech. Candidates was asked to leave the room. NAWIC President-Elect Yasmine Brandon, Past NAWIC President Christie Wigginton and Director Dalene gave their thoughts and opinions on all the candidates for National office. It is recommended to visit the NAWIC website and read the credentials and ask any questions you may have for the candidates. Ballots will be out in May.

The morning session was recessed for lunch. The speaker was Mike Ankeny with the AGC Apprenticeship Program. He covered the different areas and requirements that are needed to go through the program.

Reconvened after lunch. The afternoon speaker was Samantha Jordon, PR/Marketing Director with Emerick Construction. She covered "What is Marketing" (Marketing is a bridge which links the consumer side to the producer/supplier side-essence communication), "The Importance of Retention", (High retention means happy and satisfied members. When satisfied more likely to share information of their membership), "The Importance of Marketing & PR" (to form credibility with the community on a local level and nationally), "How Do You Do This and What does it Look like in Action" (Using press releases,

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websites, fliers, newsletters to name a few). Using a colorful brochure, she got her point across. A section of the brochure was publicizing Portland Chapter's Forum 2014.

After the afternoon session, a jobsite tour was scheduled to the Washington State University Biomedical Research Facility. I did not attend this.

The evening's activity was the Welcome Party. It took place in the Riverfront Park at the Looff Carrousel. The carrousel is a beautifully restored and hand painted wooden structure and they celebrated 100 years in 2009. It features 52 horses, 1 giraffe, 1 tiger, and 2 Chinese dragon chairs. It also has a brass ring to catch and is on the National Register.

The Welcome Party was also a fund raiser for NEF and NFSF. Tickets were bought to play the games. Games consisted of a paper toilet roll toss, ping pong balls tossed into cups, hitting a plastic golf ball into cups with a child's size club and shooting balls off large cones with darts. Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, chips and ice cream sundries, were served. \$900.00 was raised to be divided between NEF and NFSF.

Saturday Session

8-9:00 am Chapter Sales and a Continental Breakfast was served.

Reconvened and various reports followed. Tamie Taylor reported on NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation. There were \$68,000.00 scholarships awarded to 52 students this year. Chapters gave \$52,000.00 of this total. Lori Barrick, for NAWIC Education Foundation, reported that she had the green tickets for the National NEF fund raiser that will take place at AMEC in Bellevue. Prizes are \$2,000.00 first place, \$1,000.00 seconded place and \$500.00 third place. There will also be a 40th Birthday celebration. Envelopes, were on the tables, for donations to the Ladder Club. Lori listed programs available for adults under NEF.

Other reports were Dove Sifer-Putman: NAWIC President's report, Director Dalene: Director's report and Nancy Webber: Region 9 Tellers' Mid-Year report.

The next speaker was Erika Grubb, Shareholder with Winston & Cashatt, Lawyers on Sexual Harassment Training (Whatever happened to a good cry in the ladies room). States may have different laws but basically covers Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and is as follows: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: 1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a condition of an individual's employment; 2. Submission to or rejection of such conducts used as a basis for an employment decision affecting the employee; or 3. The harassment has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance or creating an environment which is intimidating, hostile or offensive to the employee. If reported and employer does not take timely and preventive action, the employer and managers may be held personable liable for damages due to harassment. Acts and words are reviewed on a case by case basis.

NAWIC Strategic Plan Handouts of the plan were passed out and Director Dalene reviewed the plans with the members.

Carol Eisenlohr, Portland Chapter #54, led a committee to review and recommend revisions to the Region 9 WIC of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Future Leader guidelines. The recommendations

will be incorporated in these awards Guidelines and passed out to chapters to review and vote on at APC 2013 in Eugene, Oregon.

Reconvened after Lunch

Sarah Webb was placed into nomination for the office of Region 9 NAWIC Director. Hearing no other nominations, the secretary was instructed to cast an elective ballot for Sarah Webb. Congratulations oh great leader!

Invitations came from Eugene #77 2013 for APC 2013, October 11-12, 2013 and Portland #54 for Forum 2014 May 15-18, 2014.

Tamie Taylor put on a skit, dressed as a dance hall queen, to bid for Forum 2014 in Anchorage and South Sound Chapter placed a bid for Forum 2016. Both Forum sites were accepted by the Forum body.

The afternoon speaker was Chris Wheatley (Gonzaga University) on Managing Conflict Effectively. Tension and conflict are natural and necessary at times to succeed. Reviewed how to work together through conflict in order to reach agreement while honoring and maintaining relationships.

A video was shown on the history from the beginning to the restoration of the Danvenport Hotel. They are in the planning stages of renovating and updating it again. Personally I thought it was grand as it is.

6:00 pm was the Awards Dinner - Wonderful dinner and dessert.

Awards were presented to the WIC of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Future Leader and Safety recipients. Also the award was presented to the Blocks Kids Region winner. CAD entries was still in the judging stage and will be awarded at a later date. A thank you gift was given to Director Dalene for serving as our Director for two years.

Once again another great Forum was over. Many thanks to the Spokane Chapter for their hard work to make it a memorable conference. Many thanks to Director Dalene Bloom for keeping us all on tract. And last, but certainly not least, many thanks to the South Sound Chapter #187 for electing me their Delegate and, by all means, many thanks to my traveling friends for the fun adventure in the big red bus.

