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Dare

NAWIC National Association of Women in Construction
Kalamazoo / Battle Creek Chapter #302

COMMUNIQUE

APRIL 2016

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Upcoming Events

April 22-23 - North Central Region Forum, Fort Wayne, IN

May 5 - NAWIC Safety Award Night

August 5 - Michigan Joint Chapter Meeting

August 17-20 - 61st Annual Meeting & Education Conference (AMEC),

San Antonio, Texas

September 16 - Golf Outing



NAWIC North Central Region Forum

April 22-23, 2016

Grand Wayne Convention Center

Fort Wayne, Indiana



“Be the Change. Build YOUR Future”

Are you ready to change your future? Join the Past Directors of NAWIC's North Central Region for two days of information, education and enlightenment!

Kalamazoo/ Battle Creek #302 President's Letter



To Forum and Beyond...

by Myndi Bacon
2015-2016 NAWIC Chapter 302 President

Jenna Horrigan, Amanda Mason and I will be attending the North Central (NC) Region Forum in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 22 and 23, 2016. We are looking forward to networking with NAWIC members from our region (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania) and expanding our knowledge by attending our choice of the many educational breakouts that will be offered. Also, we will be voting for our new NC Region director. Each chapter in the NC Region has one vote, and our choices are either Rita Brown or Jenny Mangas.

As we get close to the end of our chapter's year October 1, 2016, we have formed a nomination committee to contact our chapter members and set up our board of directors (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Professional Development & Education, Director of Membership, and two other miscellaneous Directors to assist with other tasks). I will be the Immediate Past President and will assist the President and board with next year's tasks.

NAWIC Board 2015-2016

President

Myndi Bacon, PE
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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

Amanda Mason
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269-312-0434

Suzanne Grix is the head of the nomination committee and will need the assistance of two non-board members. If you are not on the board I encourage you to assist Suzanne as this is a great networking and professional development exercise.

Also, if you are interested in being on the board or have questions about being on the board please contact either myself (bacon@sme-usa.com) or Suzanne (suzannegrix@gleis.com). I highly recommend being a board member. Being a board member is only a one year commitment, and you will have a chance to assist with tasks that you are most passionate about. Also, you will grow both professionally and personally, and you will get the most out of your membership. In addition, you will represent your company at each meeting and event. The board will work with you as a team and will assist you when you need it the most.

On May 5th, we are celebrating Safety Week with an evening event at BraVo, and will be awarding Safety Leadership Awards and our chapter's NAWIC New Leader and Foremost Leader awards. You should have received an invite for this event. If not please contact me.



Immediate Past President

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In June we will be having a networking and membership meeting, and in July we will be have a planning event for next year's Professional Development & Educational meetings.

In addition, the NAWIC Michigan Chapter's Statewide Meeting will be on August 5, 2016 at the Mitten Brewery in Grand Rapids, and the AIA/NAWIC/CFMA Golfing outing date (which is where we raise our scholarship funds) is set for September 16, 2016 at 9 AM at Heritage Glenn.

Hope to see you all at our May Event!

Myndi Bacon, PE (269-207-1584)
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter President
SME

Habitat for Humanity



“Strengthening our Community & Sharing our Gifts”!

NAWIC KALAMAZOO/BATTLE CREEK Chapter #302 joined the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo for Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity volunteer day on Saturday, December 12, 2015. Please see our picture and stories from a couple of our members below. Afterwards we held an ornament auction and raised funds for our Chapter’s NEF donation.

“Volunteering with Habitat is a great team building exercise for any group and is a wonderful way to meet other active members in the community. We were able to share resources and ideas with the Kalamazoo Rotary members while working alongside them. Some of the ideas shared will help our NAWIC chapter to save money on future projects while simultaneously spotlighting and supporting the efforts of local community programs. We learned the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home is designing and selling custom t-shirts as a way to get the juveniles in the program active and that we could purchase custom t-shirts from them at a much lower cost than the alternative options. We save money while helping the initiatives of others. -WIN, WIN!”

-- Suzanne Grix- NAWIC Chapter #302 Member

“Habitat partner families dream of living in a simple home they can afford. The program offers a hand up, not a hand out with the possibility of a new or refurbished home at a no-interest 30-year loan. Volunteers and donations are essential to keeping the mortgage cost low. Nester (and his teenage son Lewi), Julianne and Khalia are the three Habitat partner families we met on the worksite putting in their “sweat equity hours” on another partners home. The vintage 1925 home we worked on (considered a deep rehab by any standard) required new sheathing to replace old boards on the exterior, along with new flooring on the interior. None of the partners had used a circular saw and a straight edge, but once they used the tools successfully their confidence soared! Serving along with our community neighbors is good for the soul.”

-- Nancy Peterson- NAWIC Chapter #302 Member

Habitat for Humanity



“In my mind I always pictured fixing up existing houses that were already in a livable condition but needed maintenance (similar to what our church does for mission projects) or building a new home in the place of a demolished home. So when we arrived on build day at a very old house that had been gutted to the skeleton I was surprised. The skeleton even needed significant repairs prior to placing drywall, insulation, siding etc. back into the house. I found it to be a humbling experience working with future home owners who were learning basic building skills and were ambitious to assist with another family’s house so a house could also be in their family’s future.”

-Myndi Bacon NAWIC Chapter #302 President



**North Central Region
Director**

Anne Pflieger

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Block Kids

The 2016 NAWIC “Block Kids” program was held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 9 am to 12 noon, at the Plainwell Middle School Cafeteria. The Block Kids Building Program is a national building competition supported by the NAWIC Education Foundation. The program is non-discriminatory and is open to all students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Each student was provided with 100 “Lego” type building blocks and the option to choose three other items (rock, string, aluminum foil, or poster board) to incorporate into their project. Each student was given one hour to build a structure of his or her choice. Thirty judges from the construction and engineering industry viewed each student’s project and discussed with them what they had constructed. All students received a bag of goodies donated by local companies. The program was free to the all 75 of the students, 30 girls and 45 boys participated this year. A winner was selected from each grade level and was awarded a \$10 gift card. First, Second and Third place overall winners were also selected and awarded hard hats and gift cards. Our first place winner was a kindergartener named Jonah Cole who built a camera.

Myndi Bacon, Chapter President

Block Kids

The NAWIC Objective

To unite for their mutual benefit women who are actively employed in the various phases of the construction industry;

To promote cooperation, fellowship and a better understanding among the members of the construction industry;

To promote education and contribute to the betterment of the construction industry;

To encourage women to pursue and establish their careers in the construction industry.



Volunteer Quotes

“I volunteered for NAWIC’s Block Kids Competition on a whim, but the event has a very powerful effect on me. To see children physically construct ideas and then describe them so eloquently was inspiring. There is a bright future in the design/ construction/ engineering industry if these kids are mentored and give a chance to develop their inherent skills. I left with the idea that it’s our duty as professionals to foster that development, and it should start much earlier than I had ever thought.” – Sara Tripp, Diekema Hamann

“I had a great experience helping out with Block Kids. It was refreshing to talk to kids enthusiastic about their creations. The value of this event could not be demonstrated more poignantly than by seeing the kids’ looks of excitement, joy and intensity during their opportunity to explain the intricacies of their design. Block Kids is an event they will very likely remember for the rest of their lives; it was a privilege to be a part of it.” – Nuthanael Watkins, Diekema Hamann



Did you know you that NAWIC Kalamazoo/
Battle Creek #302 is on
Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn??

Like us, follow us and join us for our next meeting!

Membership Drive



Chapter 302's First Membership Mixer

On Monday, February 22nd, NAWIC Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter #302 hosted their first ever Mixer/Membership drive. Women from the industry in local communities were invited to accompany the group for networking over cocktails and appetizers at Central City Taphouse located on the Kalamazoo Mall in the heart of downtown. The event was a great opportunity to grow relationships with both members and guests in a relaxed environment.

In many monthly meeting situations, the “main event” can take over and leave little time for connecting with new and prospective members that attend. Having the time to sit and chat without an event or activity planned allowed those present to speak more in depth about themselves and their companies. There were many laughs and many business cards exchanged—a tell-tale sign of a fantastic gathering. As membership chair, I plan to take what was learned from this event and leverage it for more successful drives in the future! We had two guests from Grand Rapids join us and I firmly believe that with more time and collaboration, we can increase our turnout and success rate. Time to start plans and preparation for the next membership event!

Any comments/feedback/suggestions are welcome and encouraged. Please reach out to me by email with your ideas for future membership drives! I would love to hear from you. suzannegrix@gleis.com