



# NAWIC

*Puget Sound - Chapter #60*  
*Established ~ 1962*

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## President's Message By Nicole Martin, MacDonald-Miller

### Mark Your Calendar

*August 10th*  
Financial Planning for Board Members ONLY - Mercer Isle Condos Cabana (2500 81st Ave SE - park on E. end of Mercer Island Park & Ride, cross street, and then follow walkway to S. end of building)

*September 14th*  
Membership Drive Potluck - Hillary Madsen's home in downtown Seattle

*October 12th*  
Oktoberfest (beer tasting & Silent Auction) - Pyramid Ale-house

Despite the ever downward spiraling economy, I hope you are all able to enjoy this wonderful summer we are having! It definitely has not stopped our chapter from brainstorming for another great year. Incoming President, Julie Stalzer, has an action-packed year in the works.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, many of us met in Oso, Washington for our Lazy River Retreat and chapter Strategic Planning session (see recap on page 2). The enthusiasm and ideas that flowed from the members were amazing, which you will be able to enjoy first hand at our upcoming chapter activities!

We made a significant change to our September event since membership renewal deadline is quickly approaching. Therefore, September will be an ideal month to introduce prospective members to the

benefits of NAWIC. Our previously scheduled potluck has been converted to a membership drive in downtown Seattle. Be on the look out for upcoming details!

The exciting news continues, as one of our upcoming events is with the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau. The Women's Bureau performance goal of increasing women's employment opportunities is in alignment with the project, "Increasing Green Jobs for Women". It further supports an important collaboration with women organizations and employers to educate and share information about green jobs in construction and the building trades. I look forward to successful activities and outcomes in our Seattle Region. This event will also take place in September and will be free

to those interested!

Remember, it is never too late to volunteer for a chapter committee! Our members are what make our chapter so successful, including steering it into the direction that benefits us locally. Thanks for all you do for NAWIC and for women in construction!

**"Cheerfulness, it would appear, is a matter which depends fully as much on the state of things within, as on the state of things without and around us."** Charlotte Bronte



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\*\*\*\* Article submission deadline is the 25th, monthly \*\*\*\*

# Strategic Planning by Julie Stalzer, Seattle Housing Authority

On a sunny Saturday in July, beside a lazy river in Oso, Washington, a dozen of our NAWIC chapter members met for our annual Strategic Planning session.



To start the discussions, we reviewed all of our activities of this past year. Ladies, it is amazing how busy and active we all have been this past year. I am so proud to belong to an organization whose members are so committed to its success and to the construction industry.

In discussing the concerns regarding the economy, membership renewals and retention, as well as the value of membership, we have selected **“Growing into**

**the New Economy”** as our theme for the upcoming year. During the next few months the Chapter leadership will be taking the information received to obtain our speakers for

our regular monthly meetings. Our first regular membership meeting will begin in November.

September 14<sup>th</sup> is our annual membership drive. We will be having a potluck at chapter member, Hillary Madsen’s home, near the Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle. I challenge each of you to bring a potential new member. There will be prizes! Watch our website for further details.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Oktoberfest is slated for October

12<sup>th</sup> at Pyramid Ale House. Last year’s fundraiser was a huge success with many requests for us to do it again. We need all of you to help make this event happen. Please start now by seeking out auction items for the event. Every item, large or small, helps. More details will be forthcoming.

In November our regular monthly membership meetings will begin at our new location, Al Joya on Mercer Island. Being a new facility, state of the art technology, and with 5 star chefs, it sets the stage for our great programs slated for the upcoming year. Look forward to amazing speakers who will help us to grow in both our professional and personal lives.

Those in attendance in Oso shared many wonderful and exciting ideas to make our Chapter successful in the coming year. We look forward to working together with all of you to bring it to fruition.

## New Faces by Janifer Hays, Mwat Construction Co.

We've added some new faces to our Chapter since the first of the year.

Busy schedules have kept some of us from attending recent meetings and have kept us from becoming acquainted with the new members. Here's a sneak peek of who you can expect to see at future NAWIC events:

**Betsy Williams** is our new corporate member. Ms. Williams is the Engineering Administrative Coordinator at PSF Mechanical, Inc. Outside of work, Ms. Williams enjoys photography, landscaping, fishing, baking, Eucharistic Ministry, friends, and many more.

**Linda Huber** has been working as a Project Administrator, and is looking for new employment while continuing her education to complete a Construction Management Associates degree at Edmonds Community College. Her hobbies include gardening, home

remodeling projects, hiking, wine-making (and tasting), along with community service projects. Linda is also our newly elected Membership Chairperson for 2009-2010.

**Katy Lukas** is an Admissions Counselor at Job Corps. Job Corps is a They are a national program funded by the Department of Labor, providing free residential vocational training program for young adults (16-24) and sending roughly 4,000 students each year to train at their Northwest facilities. Job Corps is looking to create connections in the construction industry to better understand the training needs and employment opportunities of their female students and graduates.

**Judy Lurvey** is President of Med-Tox Northwest, an environmental consulting and include services involving asbestos/lead, industrial hygiene, construction

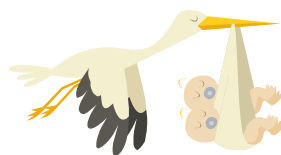
safety, environmental, mold, indoor air quality, and training.

**Donna Seko**, our Chapter's newest member, is the Inspection Manager at SimplexGrinnell. SimplexGrinnell is in the life-safety business, providing installation, maintenance and inspection and testing of fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, fire suppression, access control, nurse call, and special hazards.

Hope we see more of everyone as Fall rolls around, and regular meetings return. Be sure to give these ladies a special "Hello" when you meet them and let them know how excited we are to have them become part of our Chapter. If you have a friend or business acquaintance who you think would be interested in joining NAWIC, bring them along to the September meeting and let them find out firsthand what we're all about. The More the Merrier! See You Soon!

## New Arrival by Carrie Dossick, UW Construction Management

Carrie and Stephen are very happy to announce the birth of their fraternal twins: Sara and Charles.



# Prescriptive v. Performance By Lily Iftner, CSI Seattle

Prescriptive versus Performance is in reference to compliance methods, particularly at how it affects design and construction.

For most of us, we are used to the Prescriptive method where the designer specifies exactly what they want used or installed in or on a structure. Minimum thresholds often accompany such prescriptive instructions. For the building codes, such method provides assurance that the minimum standards will be met "to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards..." (2009 *International Building Code*).

The Prescriptive method helps to verify quality and provides consistency or uniformity within a jurisdiction and from structure to structure. In essence, it is convenient, familiar, and repetitive. Manufacturers can use the same mould over and over; designers can use the same computer modeling, and contractors often

find the field detailing second nature to them.

The Prescriptive method is indirectly related to performance. By following the minimum standards offered in the Prescriptive method, the performance of the structure is predictable. For example, windows installed correctly will not leak.

On the other hand, the Performance method sets limits for the end result. How is my structure supposed to behave once it's built? The means and method of obtaining the end result can vary from structure to structure. In the same respect, there may be room for creativity, value engineering, and introduction of new technology or methods such as green building and the use of sustainable materials.

Both Prescriptive and Performance methods offers advantages and disadvantages. Also, in an ironic way, the advantages themselves can become disadvantages, particularly when abused. An example is when the same contractor finds the Prescriptive method to be second nature to him but fails to keep up-to-date with the frequent revisions of building codes

and industry standards. *This is how I've always done it.* Another example is when the construction professional forgets the underlying purpose for the prescriptive detail, such that they use the right prescriptive materials but for example do not extend the visqueen all the way to the edge or leave small air gaps within a fire wall.

Although, the Prescriptive method appears to be a barrier to innovation, some jurisdictions are creating Boards or Committees to provide more flexibility and ultimate approval of the conditions *technically* outside the building code. The City of Seattle is considering an Innovation Board to address such potential issues with the incorporation of green building and sustainable building materials.

In the end, *Never say Never.* In our day in age, with technology quickly changing from year to year and concerns about future resources, including energy, water, and building materials are more frequently discussed, we may not have to take things for its face value.