

THE WORK ZONE

NAWIC NO. 1 Of Rhode Island

Chapter 52



Message From Your President

Dear members,

A woman with a **voice** is, by definition a **strong** woman – Melinda Gates.

The year continues to have amazing and inspiration events, including our local WIC (Women in Construction) week event, our guest of honor, Jeanie Herzog, the Director of Development for the Warm Shelter. She enlightened the group with the history of the Warm Shelter, located in Westerly, RI, and the impact the shelter has made in the community. Over (15) bags of non-perishable food, clothing, and household items were donated to the shelter.

Motivation continued into May, where the ladies of Chapter 52, assembled together to review and discuss who we were as a chapter: our long term goals, what our short-term goals, our outreach to the community and the vision we see for ourselves. We shared our voices with each other to support and encourage a stronger chapter.

Not only did we layout goals, set committees and establish guidelines for achieving these goals, but we continue to foster the growing process with our upcoming meeting in June, with special guest speakers: Doreen Bartoldus, Regional Director, and Catherine Schoenenberger, President-Elect. These ladies will share knowledge of NAWIC from both a Regional perspective, as well as a National perspective, adding to the local discussion held previously.

As we round out the year and look to the future, we hope to stay on track with this collaborative effort and continue to promote this year's national theme of "Support, Encourage, Grow."

Lindsey Desjarlais
Chapter President

*"Never Give up , for
that is just a place in
time the tide will
turn"*

-Harriet Beecher

Stowe

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Women in Construction: Ask for What You Want



Courtesy of ENR.com

On the last day of 2016, I gave birth to my baby girl in the hospital that I have built over the past 15 years of my life.

Every part of this hospital carries a memory. There’s the ironwood tree I spent two days searching for in the desert, so it could be transplanted in the healing garden. There’s the coffee shop nearby where I would try to wake up before my 5 a.m. shifts, walking the jobsite before daybreak to determine what we needed to accomplish that day.

I’m the youngest project executive in the Phoenix region for DPR Construction, managing the largest project that this large contractor has ever built in the area—the \$318-million renovation of Banner University Medical Center Phoenix.

Building hospitals is different than building other types of facilities, because of the systems and 24/7 operational needs. Everything needs to operate in tandem, like a finely tuned machine, to prevent injury, improve efficiency and successfully deliver a project—especially one of this size, scale and technical complexity. It’s challenging.

Sometimes I look back at my career to date and wonder how I got here. I work in an industry that is only 9.3% women, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, but I am lucky to work for a company that has empowered me to be myself, to strive for my own success and to ask for what I want.

From an early age, I excelled at math and science, and was always building forts and structures out of blocks. The summer between my junior and senior year as a construction engineering major at Iowa State University, I accepted an internship offer with DPR.

The jobsite I was assigned to had not started construction yet, so there wasn’t a lot for me to do. I spent my first week as an intern reading Lotus Notes and books—and

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Upcoming Events

June -Elections

Please join us at the Greenwood Inn as we welcome our leaders and learn what’s in store for NAWIC and how you can make a difference!

June 12, 2017 6pm-8pm

July Golf Clinic

Crystal Lake Golf Club

100 Broncos Hwy, Mapleville, RI

Learn some new golf skills to take out on the course!

Stay Tuned for details!

Featured Article con't from Page 2

taking my own initiative to go out into the field on job walks with the superintendent. I have always been willing to speak up when I'm confident in something, and I was confident that this was not the empowered, challenging internship that I signed up for. I picked up the phone and called our intern mentor—who 15 years later, is still a close colleague of mine—and I was honest and candid with him. I wanted challenges, responsibilities, problems to solve. I wanted to build great things.

I was immediately switched to another project. Never once did anyone make me question that I did the right thing by speaking up for what I believed was right. I knew I had made the right decision for myself, but I also knew there would be challenges throughout my career I would have to face that my male peers would not.

If you want to be heard, you need to continue to speak up and be confident in your own capabilities, whether you're a 25-year veteran or an intern in her first week on the job. Being at the right company that empowers and respects the individual really helps.

My first full-time project at DPR was at the same hospital project I am building today.

I was given a lot of responsibility early on in my career, because I asked for it. I continued to raise my hand for challenging projects as I progressed to becoming a project engineer, project manager and project executive. I worked hard, learned as much as I could from the people around me, and continued to prove to my teams and mentors that I could manage large-scale, technical projects and all their moving parts. I always was supported by our company's leadership, and in turn, I have guided others—male or female—to focus on their natural strengths and be true to who they are.

Over the course of my career, I've gone from having a chip on my shoulder because I was a woman, to asserting that it makes no difference, to accepting that I am different. Early on in my career, I spent a lot of time trying to prove that I was just like the guys, but I came to realize that my biggest differentiator could also be one of my biggest strengths.

I am a woman, I am a mother and I am a leader at DPR; they are not mutually exclusive. I am comfortable in my own skin, and I focus less on my gender and more on being an effective leader and technical builder. I chose an OB/GYN that delivers at this hospital because I felt there was no better place for me personally to bring my daughter into this world.

I felt like I was coming full circle, with the child I gave birth to at the site of the project I helped create (in one of the very same rooms I built back in 2004!)—two of the most unique challenges in my life.

And one day, I can't wait to bring my daughter back here, so I can show her—that's where you were born and what Mommy built!.

Meeting Schedule

June Meeting

2017-2018 Elections

June 12, 2017 6pm—8pm .

Location: Greenwood Inn, 1350 Jefferson Blvd,
Warwick, RI

Up Coming Events

July—Golf Lessons

August—Membership Business Meeting

September - TBD

Stay tuned for details!

Spring Forum Recap

From April 28—30, 2017 Lindsey Desjarlais, Carol O'Donnell, and Virginia Bragger—Hucks attended Spring Forum hosted by the Boston Chapter at the Boston Marriott. At this event Carol was awarded the Member of the year and Pam House was recognized for her 25 year membership!



Carol O'Donnell accepting her award with Catherine D. Schoenenberger, NAWIC National President Elect

Member Spotlight

Renee Pineo, PMP

Project Manager
R.H. White Companies, Inc.

What's a challenge you've overcome?

Throughout my career path there have been many different challenges to overcome. I guess the most noteworthy challenge was when I had graduated from college. I had graduated with a biology degree and had no real prospect for employment. I was accepted to a graduate program but didn't foresee the means to be able to support myself financially. I had done some research and learned about the different types of jobs/rates that the US Coast Guard offered and I decided to enlist to become a Marine Science Technician. While I was enlisted I also enrolled into a Masters of Environmental Policy and Management program. Overall the enlistment was a great experience and a great stepping stone into my new career path. It taught me many different skills and exposed me to many different types of situations and people. I even became the only lead boarding officer out of my unit, and I was the only female, yeah me! In addition, the Masters degree gave me that additional edge that not many in my position had.

What skills have helped you succeed?

I think my skill of determination, perseverance, and being organized/detail oriented has helped me greatly to succeed. It helped me to have the courage to leave my little French speaking home town in Northern Maine to go to college, and to join the military, and to try new things. It also helped me with obtaining my Project Management Professional Certification and several other certifications that has assisted me in growing in my profession. I also have the skill of being analytical. This has helped me with realizing what's ahead of me and to figure out the best steps forward. It's also a skill that I enjoy because I love to figure out how things work, that's my lead in to the next question . . .

What made you decide to go into Construction?

I've always enjoyed construction, seriously! Besides my love for bugs and crawly things (the biology side of me), I've always been the one to follow dad around to help him with his various projects. Dad's a Master Plumber and just overall talented in several trades. So I learned to build porches and cabins, and helped with the home renovations type of work like installing flooring. I also followed him around occasionally when he would go out on a call for his plumbing work, but not as often as I would have loved to. And if he ever took out the tractor or borrowed a bigger tractor from a friend to get some work done around the house, he hardly got any time behind the wheel. So as I moved from the military to the Environmental Remediation type of work, I was able to combine my love for bugs and the environment with construction. Now my career path has me entirely with construction, but I do have some trickling applications of biology in there as well occasionally.

What's an accomplishment you're especially proud of?

There are many accomplishments that I'm proud of but in particular achieving my Project Management Professional certification.

What recommendations do you have for other women in the industry?

Never give up! Learn and try new things. If there is something that you're interested in, go for it. And if you find others with the same interest, network and get involved.

What is your favorite part of the job?

I enjoy being able to carry a project from the start to the finish. I like to see how it all comes together. I also enjoy the variety to my job, no two project or client are the same.

What made you decide to join NAWIC?

NAWIC provides me with the opportunity to meet new people who also have an interest in the construction field. It also provides me with networking and learning opportunities to better myself and to grow in my profession. In addition, the NAWIC No.1 of RI Chapter 52 group has made me feel welcome from day one.

How has joining NAWIC impacted your Professional/Personal Development?

NAWIC has provided me with the opportunity to attend meetings and discussions on how to better myself and to develop my professional abilities. It's nice to see that I am not alone and that there are several other great women in various stages of their careers working to better themselves and to move forward in their careers.

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June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



- General Member Meeting

Contact Information

NAWIC NEWS

Please send all articles and content recommendations for this chapter to jpagel@gopella.com.

CONTACT INFO UPDATE

Members can update contact information through the member center which can be found after signing in at www.nawic.org.

IDEAS FOR OUR CHAPTER?

Contact the board members listed on the front page of this newsletter if you have any ideas for the future of our chapter.

WEBSITE

Visit our website at nawicri.org

FACEBOOK

Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/nawicri/

MAILING ADDRESS

NAWIC
C/O CRM MODULAR
2143 HARTFORD AVE

**National Association of Women in Construction
No. 1 of RI Chapter 52**



Speakers: Catherine D. Schoenenberger, NAWIC National President-Elect and President/Owner of Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc.

- And -

Doreen Bartoldus, P.E., CCM, NAWIC Regional Director and VP-Regional Construction Services – Gannett Fleming Inc.

Please join us as we welcome our leaders and learn what's in store for **your** organization and **your** chapter and how you make a difference!

We will hold Elections for our 2017-2018 session immediately following – Please come and vote – your voice matters!!

Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 / Time: 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Greenwood Inn, 1350 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI

Dinner Choices: Baked Stuffed Scrod w/crab, cracker topping w/pot. & veg.; Eggplant Parmesan w/pasta; Chicken Caesar Salad w/garlic bread; Hot Turkey Plate w/stuffing, pot., veg. & gravy. Soup & Dessert & Coffee included.

Members: \$35.00 Non Members: \$40.00

Please RSVP w/ dinner choice by June 8, 2017 to Katharine Kohm @ kkohm@piercetwood.com
Checks are payable to NAWIC, P.O. Box 10205, Cranston, RI 02910
Visit our website for Paypal options. No shows will be charged.
www.nawicri.org

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