

NAWIC NO. 1 Of Rhode Island

Chapter 52



The Big Blue Bug dressed for Holiday Cheer in Providence, RI

Message From Your President



Dear Members,

Winter is here, and we are gearing up for a warm season filled with a lot of interesting and helpful events.

On February 15th, we are celebrating Heart Health Month through education with a seminar, “Women & Heart Disease—Know Your Numbers, Reduce Your Risk”. This event will be held at the Bonefish Grill in

Cranston, with two special guest speakers, Kathy Rebeiro and Cynthia Martufi, both certified nurse practitioners in women’s primary care. You will be able to ask questions while enjoying a great dinner and company.

On March 7th-11th we will be celebrating “WIC” week, by planning a wonderful event that will allow us to raise awareness of the growing opportunities women have in the construction industry, and boast about our own companies and trades we are involved in. Hope to see every one participate. Details soon to come out.

On April 27th-28th we will host a booth at the RICCD (R.I. Construction Career Days), at the RI-DOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance Midstate Facility. We have the opportunity to talk to hundreds of high school students and show them the opportunities they have in the construction industry. This event allows students to participate in a variety of activities, including operating construction equipment (i.e. back-hoes, excavators, etc.) and building with marshmallows and spaghetti sponsored by NAWIC of RI.

With these and many more events in the works, I urge you to put on your work boots and inspire a young girl to become a strong woman in the construction industry.

Be the change- You. Your Industry. Your NAWIC.

Maria Votta



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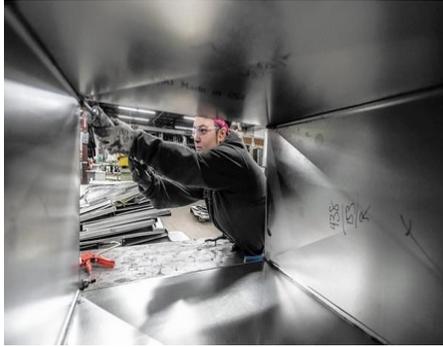
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FEATURED ARTICLE

Under Construction

We are all a work in progress



Progress Still Slow For Women Breaking Into Construction Jobs

*Article Adapted From
Mara Lee, Contact Reporter
www.hartfordcourant.com*

Above: Taylor Anglietta builds ductwork at Sheet Metal Workers. Anglietta graduated from Meriden's technical high school in June with a HVAC specialization. She immediately joined the apprenticeship program at the Sheet Metal Workers. She loves it and thinks more women should know about the opportunity to make such good money. She makes \$17.44 an hour and in two years, if she advances, will be making about \$25 an hour. Journeymen earn nearly \$35 an hour. "Even grown men are jealous," she said of her pay. (Mark Mirko / Hartford Courant)

She's Made of Steel Member Spotlight



Katharine E Kohm;
Litigation Associate
with Pierce Atwood
LLP

What's a challenge you've overcome?

After completing an engineering degree and working as civil engineer for several years, I came to the realization that I wasn't completely happy or fulfilled in that career choice. It certainly was a challenge to take a hard look at my past decisions and then do something about them. In my late 20's, I left the comfort of a steady career path to pursue law school and a whole different profession. And I'm glad I did!

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Before Linda Speight joined the Sheet Metal Workers' four-year union apprenticeship in 2013, she worked for a nonunion construction company that installed fences. "Your job must be to stand here and look pretty," a woman at the house where she was working told her.

Speight, 36 and now in a union apprentice program, has come a long way since that condescending moment. But despite federal affirmative action goals that date to 1978, progress has been much slower for women breaking into construction jobs compared to other male-dominated professions.

There are about 7.6 million male construction workers and about 200,000 women in the field, according to a report on women in construction from the National Women's Law Center published last year. Meanwhile, over the past 45 years, occupational gender segregation in many professional jobs has faded. For instance, in 1972, 2 percent of dentists were women; now it's 29 percent. But in construction, women were 0.6 percent of carpenters in 1972 and, today, 1.6 percent of carpenters are women.

The barriers to women working in construction are many, advocates say — stereotypes about women's abilities from employers and co-workers, schools and families steering girls toward more traditional women's jobs, the lack of paid days off, and sexual harassment.

Women who don't have college degrees are concentrated in jobs like cashiers, sales clerks, nursing and personal care aides, child care workers — all of which pay about half what sheet metal workers and electricians earn.

DeAnne Merrill is one of the relative few who have made the jump, thanks to an apprentice program at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 40 in Rocky Hill. Merrill worked as a baby sitter at the Cheshire YMCA after getting her associate's degree in early childhood development and earned \$10 an hour. She wasn't hired for a full-time job there, so she found a full-time job at a venetian blinds factory, which paid \$12 an hour. But even then, she had to live at home with her parents.

Continued on Page 4

She's Made of Steel con't from Page 2

What skills have helped you succeed?

Listening. The key to fully understanding and processing any problem, issue, or a client's goals requires absorbing the details and, only then, reacting to them.

What made you decide to go into Construction Law?

Civil engineering and construction law made perfect sense for me. I can draw on my civil engineering experience while trying to resolve legal disputes.

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

I completed my first trial after dedicating many years of work leading up to it. The subject was highly technical and preparing for trial required significant coordination and strategic thinking. I've never worked more intensely and diligently over a period of months and that effort alone is an accomplishment to me.

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

Women should follow their instincts and not be afraid to speak up. Networking is so valuable too. There's always someone who has faced a similar issue or challenge who have will have insight to give.

What is your favorite part of the job?

I love that the factual subject matter of my cases is never the same. One day I'll need to be a quasi-expert on concrete and the next day understand the factors that impact supermarket sales. I also enjoy working as a team and together seeing a case to its conclusion.

What made you decide to join NAWIC?

I was seeking to become a part of a group of successful women professionals who are community minded. NAWIC is all of those things. It's been a fantastic opportunity to gain insight and perspective from others within the construction industry too.

How has joining NAWIC impacted your Professional/Personal Development?

I've gotten to know the great people that make up the core NAWIC of RI group and I am always meeting someone new. There are so many opportunities to grow with NAWIC that I'm excited to become more involved.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH 2015



From Left to Right, Sophia Karvunis, Dianne Gibree Registering the Guests



From Left to Right: Jackie Pagel, Katharine Kohm, Virginia Bragger-Hucks



Left: YWCA displayed photos of young Girls in Non-Traditional Careers; Right: NAWIC PR Table



Above: Pamela House Congratulates Arden Engineering for being the big Gift Basket Raffle winners.

Featured Article con't from Page 2



Above: Wilneaka Harris, an apprentice in the Sheet Metal Workers Union, outside the Alexion Pharmaceuticals building project that she is working on in New Haven. (Peter Casolino | Special to the Courant)

Merrill, now 29, was able to move out when she began earning more than \$17 an hour as an apprentice — half of the wage journeymen sheet metal workers earn. She's now in her second year, and makes 23 percent more than she did last year.

Although Merrill clearly loves welding, and finds the challenge of learning about ductwork interesting, she acknowledges the money "was one of the biggest things that drew me to it, too."

Because construction workers aren't paid for sick days, or when there's no work, a typical union sheet metal worker earns \$55,000 to \$60,000 a year, according to Mark Mastropasqua, director of training for the Rocky Hill local.

Taylor Anglietta, 18 and a first-year apprentice, said "even grown men are jealous" when they learn what she makes. She said by her third year of apprenticeship, she'll be earning as much as father has ever earned, \$25 an hour. Each year, the apprentice wage increases, to 60 percent, 70 percent and finally 80 percent of journeymen wages.

Nontraditional Careers

Government-funded construction training programs have sent small all-women groups to the union hall to try out welding, a part of the job Mastropasqua said women often excel at. "Every single woman in that class was capable of doing the job," he said of one group of eight women. But only one ended up entering the apprenticeship.

Anglietta studied heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden, because a great-uncle owns a home heating oil company and he said if she studied HVAC, she could work for him one day.

She said there were six girls in her class of 18, but she's the only one working in the industry.

Anglietta thinks women don't need to be convinced to try construction, it's more that they don't know the opportunities exist. Even going to a tech school, she didn't know about the apprenticeship until her senior year. She said she thinks that if the project labor agreements set a higher requirement for women workers, the unions would have to recruit more women, too.

The National Women Law's Center also suggests the 6.9 percent goal for women in federal construction contracts should be raised because far more women are in the workforce now than when it was established 37 years ago.

Continued on page 5

Meeting Schedule

FEBRUARY MEETING

WOMENS HEALTH: Know Your Numbers

February 15th @ 6pm

Location: Bonefish Grill 2000 Chapel View Boulevard
Cranston, RI 02920

RSVP: Sophia Karvunis, Sophia@closets-etc.com

MARCH MEETING

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

MARCH 7TH—MARCH 11TH

Join us as we celebrate Women in Construction during our Annual National WIC Week Event. Last year's Event brought guests such as Secretary of State, Nellie Gorbea; Central Falls Mayor, James A Diosa; Director of New Enterprise & WBC, Carmen Diaz-Justino

This year's Event promises to be just as exciting. Visit www.nawicri.org for more information

Meeting Recaps

DECEMBER 4, 2015: HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The Annual Toys for Tots drive was a huge success as we hosted 108 attendees at our Brunch held at the Providence Hilton.

Guests enjoyed an opportunity to give back to Rhode Island community youth by donating gifts to Toys for Tots. They also learned about the youth programs that NAWIC, No. 1 of Rhode Island offers such as our Annual Block Kids event for the elementary age, CAD Competition, and learning about programs such as Rosie's Girls Round Table organized by the YWCA for the summer camp program. Attendees also learned the history of Lippit House Museum and the family with a presentation by Carrie Taylor, Director of Lippit House Museum.

JANUARY 11, 2016: GALLUP STRENGTHS FINDER

Presented by Scott Mackes, Coach with Margin of Excellence.

NAWIC, No. 1 of Rhode Island teamed up with Professional Women in Business at the Rhode Island Builders Associations office in East Providence, RI.

18 Attendees received some insight into their own Strengths, and how they use these strengths in their every day lives. Rhode Island has made a commitment to be the 1st Strengths Based State in the country and is hoping to achieve a participation of 10% of the population having taken the Strengths Finder Survey. Find out more at www.gallupstrengthscenter.com

HOLIDAY BRUNCH 2015



We had a full house as Maria welcomed everyone to the annual Holiday Brunch.



Smiling faces at the NAWIC No. 1 of Rhode Island table.



Pamela House of Gilbane Building Company honored us with the day's Inspiration.

Featured Article Continued from Page 4

Speight said she thinks middle school and high school girls should be encouraged to become long-haul truck drivers, or to go into manufacturing or construction, instead of always being steered to allied health. "I'm watching it happen with my kids and step kids," she said. "I really would like to see more women in nontraditional careers."

She said she getting more women into male-dominated jobs could help with the wage gap, but it won't solve it. "My mother and I were just talking about this yesterday," she said. Her mother and her brother both got supervisory jobs at a warehouse, she said, and each was asked what they expected to make. Her mother asked for \$18 an hour, and came out pleased, having gotten it. Her brother said \$25, and got that.

End Article

RHODE ISLAND NEWS



Article by Kate Bramson,
Junior Staff Writer
Providence Journal
Posted January 4th, 2016

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — CV Properties of Boston will begin construction this week of its 744-space parking garage just northwest of its renovation work to turn an old power station into the South Street Landing project.

The work requires a lane and sidewalk closure for several hundred feet along Eddy Street that will affect motorists and pedestrians for nearly the entire year, CV Properties has announced. The closure is to ensure what CV Properties called "proper separation between construction activity and traffic."

Beginning Thursday, one of two northbound lanes on Eddy Street will close — from just north of South Street to the intersection of Ship and Eddy streets. The street is expected to remain closed until construction is completed in December 2016.

February 2016

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					

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3	4	5
6	WIC WEEK 2016 MARCH 7-11 2016					12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



• General Member Meeting



• Board Meeting

April 2016

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	CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS		29	30



• General Member Meeting



• Board Meeting

Contact Information

NAWIC NEWS

Please send all articles and content recommendations for this chapter to jdubay1018@gmail.com by the 1st of each month.

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 No. 1 of Rhode Island
PO Box 1451
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Upcoming Events



Featured Businesses

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Want to advertise in the Work Zone?

We are selling business card size ads in our newsletter for just \$25 for members. Your advertisement will reach our entire distribution list via email. We will also have a link posted to the newsletter on our website.

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