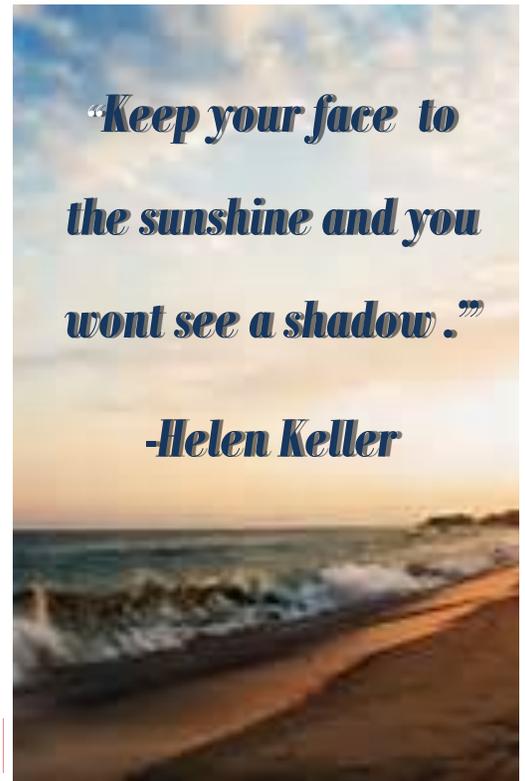


NAWIC NO. 1 Of Rhode Island

Chapter 52



Message From Your President

Dear members,

Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women who have her back. It is unknown who wrote this, but certainly sounds like a NAWIC member.

So far, we have had some amazing events, including a job site tour and our annual Holiday Brunch. The great events continue to come as we kick-off 2017, teaming up with the Professional Women in Building for a networking event. We will continue the growing in February with an interactive presentation on healthy eating and creating a meal plan, followed by Women in Construction Week in March. But the fun does not stop there, as we jump into spring with a tour of a local vineyard and expand our education with some professional growth speakers. Stay tuned, as the details unfold!

In addition to our monthly events, I am excited to say that the meetings are not the only growth that this chapter will have this year, as we have 2 new members! Please be sure to give a big welcome to the latest additions to our chapter: Nora Benson (Arden) and Renee Pineo (RH White).

I also wanted to give a shout out to our community outreach programs. Our Annual Block Kids Event will be in February (See Virginia Bragger if you are interested in volunteering) and our Annual Cad Competition Program is currently ongoing, with the awards banquet taking place in May. Volunteers will be needed in April for judging, so please see me if you are interested in volunteering.

Lastly, the theme this year is "Support Encourage Grow." I look forward to thriving at all three of these things, and eager to see how they unfold, with the tribe I affectionately refer to as Chapter 52: No. 1 of Rhode Island.

Lindsey Desjarlais
Chapter President

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Building Bridges for Women in the Construction Industry



By Katie Metcalf

I have never really seen the difference between men and women. At a much younger age, I was once made captain of the local touch rugby team but I recall one of the boys having a tantrum because I was a girl and therefore, he believed, not captain material. Gendering stereotyping and discrimination I hear you cry. I would agree. But to be fair, he was the only boy who objected.

I work for Gardiner & Theobald LLP, an independent construction and property consultancy. I can power dress for the office in the morning and talk power floating concrete slabs on site in the afternoon. I'm not sure if there is another profession with quite so much variety: the range of projects I work on, places I go to and people I meet keeps me constantly interested. Working in project-specific teams comprised of a number of consultants (architects, engineers, archaeologists, interior designers, town planners, cost consultants, project managers, to name just a few), we are always problem solving to overcome challenges and deliver a building, road or landscape that users will hopefully enjoy for years to come.

The challenges as a woman in a very male dominated industry have certainly included the odd derogatory comment from one or two less enlightened male contemporaries. I do feel that as a young female I have to work harder at the beginning of a project to prove myself and to gain credibility, although I don't believe that is necessarily a bad thing. I'd rather earn the trust and respect of my clients and change any preconceptions they may have about women through the service

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Upcoming Events

NAWIC & PWB Networking Night

Join us for a "Ted Talks" Presentation and discussion on How to Sell Yourself and Your Business at RIBA Headquarters—450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy #302, East Providence, RI

Thursday, January 26, 2017 6pm

Healthy Eating & Meal Planning

Interactive Presentation on Healthy Eating and creating your own meal plan with Catherine Conrad, RD, LDN. Stay tuned for details!

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Featured Article con't from Page 2

I deliver.

I have also faced rather smaller, persistent frustrations, such as never being able to find a pair of site boots less than three sizes too big and the seemingly minor yet critical issue of forgetting a site visit and wearing a skirt to work. And yes, I have faced the odd cheeky comment while on site, but not as much as you might think. I expect this behaviour is seen in many workplaces but I am pleased to say that in my experience of the construction industry this is not a predominant part of the culture.

I don't know why so few women are attracted to a career in construction but I think it's partly due to a lack of awareness about the interesting and varied career opportunities, and partly due to the perception of the industry being male dominated and muddy. That couldn't be further from the truth. Well, the muddy bit anyway. As a consultant, my role is just as likely to take me to a meeting in the city as it is to take me to a construction site. That's the beauty of it, you get to do a bit of everything which makes each day genuinely different from the last.

Along with some other female colleagues, I'm hoping to support the industry in attracting a greater diversity of people into the profession. We have launched a programme called 'Change the Skyline' which we are taking into schools and colleges to inform young people about the opportunities available to them in construction and at the same time dispelling the misconceptions about the industry.

Once we've attracted more women, we need to keep them. The gender imbalance only worsens the higher up the career ladder you look although there are some fantastic female role models within the industry. Gardiner & Theobald is looking to continually improve the retention of female professionals with the launch of a Women's Development Programme, a first for our industry as far as we know. The vision is to help women enhance their careers as well as the firms' future leadership pool.

As females I firmly believe the best thing we can do is to believe in ourselves and have the confidence to know that we can do whatever we set our minds to, be that a career in construction, the cap-
tainty of a touch rugby

Continued on Page 3

Meeting Schedule

JANUARY MEETING

Join us for a "Ted Talks" Presentation and discussion on
How to Sell Yourself and Your Business

RIBA Headquarters—450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy #302,
East Providence, RI—Free for Members—\$5 for Guests

Thursday, January, 26, 2017

FEBRUARY MEETING

Interactive Presentation on Healthy Eating and creating
your own meal plan with ,Catherine Conrad, RD, LDN.
Stay tuned for details!

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

October Meeting Recap

On October 24, 2016 Lindsey Desjarlais, our newly elected NAWIC President, along with her employer ,Gilbane hosted a jobsite tour of the South Street Landing project. The property formerly known as the old Narragansett Electric building is now being converted to class rooms for three RI Universities. It was great to see an old historic building being re-used and amazing how the project all comes together . Immediately following the tour we all dined at Rick's Road house for some excellent BBQ. We had over 30 in attendance for this wonderful educational event.



Member Spotlight

Linda Bohmbach

Home
Healthsmith, LLC



What's a challenge you've overcome?

Having to shift from a corporate mentality to owning a mobility and accessibility business with my husband, Bill. Having to learn how to run a business, hiring employee's, dealing with human resource issues, insurances, etc. We started out as a husband/wife team with a vision on where we wanted to be in 5 years; working out of our home and with several moves behind us, we are now in a 8000+ square foot facility, 9 employee's and running a highly successful entrepreneurial company.

What skills have helped you succeed?

The skills that have helped me succeed in my business have been acquiring my Executive Certification in Home Modifications through the University of Southern California; my previous career in selling OTC/ducts to major companies such as Wal-Mart, Target, CVS and Rite Aid to name a few; my time in Wisdom Link and Strategic Coach.

What made you decide to go into Construction?

I had no choice!

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

Being nominated for the SBA (Small Business Association) Microenterprise of the Year for Rhode Island and New England. It was such an honor especially to receive for New England!

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

Learn how to network and become involved in all aspects of the company you are working for. Most importantly, be a team player and jump in whenever possible. Remember...everything is rewarded by RISK!

What is your favorite part of the job?

We deal with so many clients who are experiencing stressful situations and just want to be in their home. We are able to offer many solutions that enable them to stay safe in their home as long as possible. This could be a stairlift, wheelchair ramp, vertical platform lift or grab bars. It's so rewarding to hear from the client afterwards and have them tell us that they wished they had done this earlier!

What made you decide to join NAWIC?

After attending several meetings, I realized that NAWIC No. 1 of RI Chapter 52 had a great group of members who had been involved for many years and that they were looking for a way to give back which is especially important to me personally and professionally.

How has joining NAWIC impacted your Professional/Personal Development?

It has introduced me to so many women and their companies who have been in the construction business for years and they have shown me many aspects of the industry that I wasn't aware of.

Featured Article Continued from Page 4

team or anything else we feel passionately about. If we aim high and refuse to accept a difference in our opportunities and rewards, then the top table will soon be filled with both men and women. Men and women bring different strengths, the combination of which delivers far better teams and results. I'd love to see more women at the top, balancing out the leadership of our industry, and I certainly want some female colleagues up there with me.

Katie Metcalf is a senior associate at [Gardiner & Theobald](#).

Chapter News & Announcements

Board Installation Ceremony, September 19th, 2016—

We celebrated at Via Roma along with members and friends of NAWIC. Donna Mac was our guest speaker and also did a book signing. We are pleased to announce our New Board of Directors and Officers .



(from left to right - Jacqueline Pagel , Board member, Maria Votta, Immediate past President, Linda Bohmbach, Board Member, Pam House, past President, Lindsey Desjarlais, President, Diane Gibree, Vice President, Katharine Kohm, Treasurer , Linda Corsi, Board Member, Virginia Bragger—Hucks, Board member and past President, Sophia Karvunis, past Treasurer , Carol O'Donnell, Board Member and past President)

January 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	31				



- 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

Professional Women in Building : PWB



National Association of Women in Construction:

NAWIC



Network with Members in your Industry

Come join us for a “Ted Talks” Presentation and discussion on:

HOW TO SELL YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS

Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 6 pm

Cost: Free for Members

\$5 Non Members

Beverages and appetizers will be served

RSVP by 1/24/17 to:

Lorena Voyer | lvoyer@davittdesignbuild.com

Location:

**Rhode Island Builders Association
450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, #301
East Providence, RI 02914**

Featured Businesses

YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE!

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.

THINK OF ALL THE EXPOSURE YOUR BUSINESS CAN GET FOR JUST \$25!

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