

NAWIC QUAD CITY CHAPTER #50 HISTORY

We are a self-governing, non-profit group organized to promote and support women involved in construction related fields. NAWIC provides many benefits to its members including community awareness, professional leadership and educational programs, and a national and local scholarship program. Each year we meet for an annual meeting for the purpose of conducting national business. Each region meets twice yearly, spring and fall. Our chapter meets monthly for a dinner program, and a business meeting. Each summer we award scholarships to local students enrolled in construction related degree programs. Following is the history of Quad Cities Chapter #50.

At the LeClaire Hotel, Moline, Illinois on May 16, 1961, a dessert luncheon was held for the purpose of organizing a chapter for Women in Construction. Ms. Lorraine Wright being the organizer and hostess to the fourteen interested professional women in attendance.

A charter was presented on August 5, 1961, and the organization was known as the Quad City Chapter of Women in Construction, chapter No. 50 with 26 women as the original charter members. The chapter was presented their charter by NAWIC National president, Lois Acker, at the Plantation in Moline, Illinois.

During the remainder of the year, meetings were held to acquaint the members with more of the women in the construction industry, and in particular, the chapter participated in the National Women in Construction Week which was designated as the third week in September, 1961, by the President of the United States.

During the early part of the 1962 concerted membership drive was made with the induction of 24 new members to the chapter roster. The Quad City WICS took an active part in the Women in Construction for 1962 by appearing on a local television program with Lorraine Wright and Lola Guss commenting to the audience regarding our organization.

In 1963 the regional forum in St. Louis, Missouri, and our own Lorraine Wright was honored in being selected as National Director of Region No. 4, which was our region at that time. Also in 1963, the Quad City Chapter chartered the Des Moines, Iowa Chapter No. 80.

In 1964 a scholarship fund was established, and the chapter hosted a hat fashion show and tea to increase the bank balance. During those early years the regions awarded first, second and third place prizes for the best chapter scrapbooks. In 1963 we tied for first place with Cincinnati at the forum held in Chicago. We also received a third place ribbon for bulletin and third place for speech library.

In 1965 we took a tour of the Coralville Dam in Coralville, Iowa as one of our monthly programs. During those early years, all our programs were based

on construction education, such as lien waiver information, tax information, tours of member company facilities, and tours of construction sites. We had panel discussions of many topics, pertaining to mechanical work, electrical work, and general construction, in addition to a blue print reading course.

In 1968 we visited the WOC TV station in Davenport and were guests on the "Especially for You" program with Pat Sundine as our hostess.

In the late sixties, the chapter introduced the Lorraine D. Wright Construction Awards. A banquet is held in odd numbered years to honor the owners, architects, and contractors for their construction projects as a means of promoting pride and recognition with the industry.

Our national organization has grown in leaps and bounds. In 1968 we became an international association with the first Canadian chapter being chartered in 1975. By 1978 there were chapters in all 50 states. Our own chapter began in Region 4; later we were reassigned to Region 6, and in 1975 during the adding of regions, were assigned to our present Region 13. In 1991, region one was restructured to add Region 14.

In 1988, Quad City Chapter No. 50 hosted the Region 13 Forum at Jumer's Castle Lodge in Bettendorf. Quad City Chapter 50 was honored in 1991-92 and 1992-93 to have our own Meda Keeney represent Region 13 on the National Board of Directors. In 1994, we again hosted our regional forum at Jumer's Castle Lodge. Also, Region 13 will host the 1994 annual meeting, or National Convention, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago.

In 1990, the NAWIC Block Kids building contest was established for children in grades 1 – 6. Quad City Chapter 50 has participated in this contest on the local level since its inception. In 1994 our local winner went on to place second in the region. KWQC-TV has committed to sponsoring our local Block Kids contest in 1995.

Our members have also participated in various career day programs in the schools in addition to community service programs such as Hearts and Hammers. In 1993 and 1994 our members have appeared on the "Paula Sands Live" television program to promote our organization and its fund-raising events – the scholarship auction in November and our Spring fashion show luncheon. We also hold an annual scholarship bowlathon and host an annual golf outing with the Illowa Chapter of C.S.I. In even numbered years, we assist the CSI chapter with their construction expo.

In 1994 NAWIC established two separate drafting competitions for the junior high and high school levels which are conducted within the schools. Our chapter intends to participate in this program in 1995. We are committed to increasing our visibility as a professional organization and also to improve the image of the construction industry as a career choice.

In 1998 our chapter participated in Horizons Young Women's Leadership Conference. We had 5 contestants in the CAD Design/Drafting competition and

20 kids participated in Block Kids. Chapter 50 took 3rd place in the Construction Industry category for our Construction Awards Program and 3rd place in Community Benefit category for participating in Adopt A Highway. We also received a Chapter Excellence award at national convention. Our chapter suffered a difficult loss in 1998 when Pat Puestow lost her battle with cancer in August.

Block kids jumped up to 56 participants in 1999. We also participated in the Festival of Trees in the small tree category. Morris Preston of Preston Engineering sponsored our tree and costs and we won 1st place!! Jean McAdam was elected director for Region 13. The CAD design program was cancelled due to lack of participation. Our auction was quite a success in 1999 and this was the first year we designated funds to be given in honor of past president Pat Puestow. Quite a stir was caused when national started talking about changing the logo. A majority of chapters along with Chapter 50 was opposed to this change. The change was not made.

The new millennium started off with a bang. The new IMAX theatre and Rock Island County Jail provided interesting tours, 62 kids participated in block kids, and the first CIT study group was formed. Our winning Christmas tree entry from 1999 was submitted to national as our construction industry project and we won 1st place! National office introduced their on-line membership directory.

In 2001 Chapter 50 celebrated it's 40th anniversary. Members of the chapter took their first CIT exam and we now had 4 members with CIT designation. They were Deb Benson, Mary Buczek, Jean McAdam and Judi McDowell. Our chapter became a member of the Quad City Engineering and Science Council with Mary Oetzmann as our representative.

Chapter 50 was selected Society of the Year by the Quad City Engineering and Science Council in 2002. We participated in the Hardhats & Pigtales program and the Bettendorf Children & Family Museum and held a joint meeting with ASPE.

In 2003 Chapter 50 won 2 awards from national. 1st place was for National Professional Education and 2nd place was in Community Involvement for our partnership with the Bettendorf Children & Family Museum. We got 3 new CITs; Julie Jeffries, Joyce Marinaccio & Patty Cusack.

2004 was another year for Chapter 50 to move forward in professional education. Two members received their CIT designation; Beth Russell and Kim Pyles; and three members advanced their education to receive CCA designations; Jean McAdam, Mary Buczek, and Judi McDowell. Our WIC week project was a renovation of the Floreciente Center. This center serves as place for an after school program run by the Mississippi Valley Girl Scouts and a neighborhood station for the Rock Island Police. Other organizations that helped in the renovation was the Plumber & Pipe Fitters Local 25 and Carpenter Local 166.

In 2005 Chapter 50 lost another long time supporter. Carolyn Anderson of the Bettendorf Family & Children Museum passed away. Carolyn was the driving force behind our partnership with the museum, very active in our Block Kids activities and always willing to help the chapter with anything we needed. Judi McDowell moved on to achieve her CDS certification. Carol Curry was the first woman to be elected the Chairman of the AGC board. We received another 1st place Professional Education award from national for our Florecente Center renovation project.

2006 proved to be a year of "1sts" for our chapter. Judi McDowell, McDowell Excavating, became the only NAWIC member to earn her CDS in Region 13. Denise Spindel, QuintCo, was presented with the 1st Annual Athena award for women who excel in their profession. Our chapter completed the 501(c)3 status. Carol Curry, Ken Curry Construction, was elected the first ever female president of AGC of the Quad Cities. Joyce Marinaccio, KJWW Engineering (previously with the City of Bettendorf), became the first women to achieve the Certified Residential Building Inspector rank in the state of Iowa. Other events of the year included employer appreciation, celebrated with a cruise on the Celebration Belle river boat and the chapter partnered with the Mississippi Valley Girl Scout Council in the Mom & Me program.

2007 our members participated in the building of a Habitat for Humanity house. We also hosted the Region 13 Fall Planning Conference at Stony Creek Inn. Deb Swift, KJWW Construction, earned her CCCA (Certified Construction Contract Administrator) from the Construction Specifications Institute in Alexandria, VA. Our Christmas donation this year was filling Christmas stockings for children sponsored by Lutheran Family Services.

2008 started with a bang!! We have grown to 38 members. Our programs included a wonderful evening of spa treatment, a cad design demonstration, tours of Floors for Less, Ken Curry Construction, the new Casino Rock Island & the new Bettendorf Civic Center. We participated in helping build a Habitat for Humanity house again, and had another successful Block Kids competition. Our rootin' tootin' Western themed auction was a "wild" success. Marilyn Burke-Knutsen, Seiffert Lumber, appeared on the Paul Sands Show to advertise the auction. We finally have the chapter web site up and running thanks to Jennifer Walker. In December 2008 Chapter 50 suffered a great loss. Mary Oetzmann (known to us as Mary O) lost her battle with cancer. Mary became a member of Chapter 50 in February of 1992. She was a great NAWIC cheerleader, always promoting our chapter, NAWIC, and education. Her "baby" was our annual Block Kids event. Mary worked on Block Kids year round to insure everything was just right and everyone had the best time possible. Mary was also very active in the community and never tired of promoting NAWIC or our programs. She will be greatly missed by everyone.