

National Convention Report 2009

After flight delays and changes I still was able to check in to the Hotel in time for the delegates briefing and first business meeting on Thursday! The delegates briefing provided an opportunity to hear how the candidates feel about several topics, from What qualities an office should possess to What NAIW can do to attract new members. The welcome party was held in the exhibitors hall and offered original New Orleans fare and music,

Friday dawned quickly and we began the day with the CWC Speak off. There were contestants from every Region with the winner being Jennifer Scarberry from Region III (the one I would have chosen if I was a judge!). This is always an exciting part of both the Regional and National conference and we even with 9 speakers the time flew by. Jennifer's 3 minute prepared speech got the audience interested from the moment she walked through the doors and her impromptu was probably the best I have ever heard; you would have thought it was a prepared speech!

Another business meeting followed which included a key note speaker and elections of the new NAIW International officers –

Linda Wilson (Region 1!) – President

Margaret Wilde – President Elect

Joi Wilson – Vice President

Penny Hayworth-Rich – Secretary

Then it was off to the awards luncheon. I had hoped to bring home the National Professional Award, but the winner was Taffy Troup from Region IV. Rookie was awarded to Robin Railsback, Region V; Professional Underwriter to Tam Hileman, Region IV and the AAMGA award was presented to E. Faye Evans, Past National President! More information regarding the award winners can be found on the NAIW website.

I decided to spend the next few hours of down time outside in the gorgeous weather (very low humidity for New Orleans!). Although I did not venture far I did enjoy some time at a local shopping location and at Harrah's (where I won \$30!).

Friday night many of us enjoyed the company of others from our Region at the Region I dinner. We enjoyed true a true New Orleans dinner as well as the fun and laughter!

Saturday morning brought an early start as installation rehearsal started promptly at 7:00! The business meeting followed with another key note Speaker – Tom Crawford, Crawford & Company. I had the pleasure of hearing Tom speak at a prior National Conference and really wish all of you could have the pleasure. He is a terrific speaker and I hope National will invite him back again!

It was fun to participate in the presentation and installation of the Council Directors, RVPs, and National officers. NAIW President for 2008-2009, Janelle Duffy, gave her final speech recapping the accomplishments of NAIW this past year and “passing the torch” along to Linda Wilson, incoming NAIW President. Linda has several goals for her term but asks all members to focus on membership – new and retention. In fact, Linda is establishing a new membership drive which will be presented to the full membership in the coming months.

There were 400 attendees at the conference with 150 delegates – a good turn out for the fact of the economy.

After many hugs and goodbyes to seasoned friends and new, I departed on Saturday for the return home.

Thank you for supporting my attendance at National Conference 2009 and I hope more you will be able to attend next year when NAIW will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary! (June 9-12, 2010 at Crystal Gateway Marriott, Washington, DC)

In fellowship – respectfully submitted

Debbi Kuhne
CT Council Director