

**NAWIC  
OBJECTIVE**

To unite for their mutual benefit women who are actively employed in the various phases of the construction industry;

To promote cooperation, fellowship and a better understanding among the members of the association;

To promote education and contribute to the betterment of the construction industry;

To encourage women to pursue and establish their careers in the construction industry

**CORE  
PURPOSE**

To enhance the success of women in the construction industry

**NAWIC  
PLEDGE**

As material for the construction of our building, I pledge the agility of my hands, the ability of my mind, and the integrity of my heart.

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# NAWIC

National Association of Women in Construction

# Plans & Specs

Lansing Chapter #177

[www.lansingnawic.com](http://www.lansingnawic.com)



VOLUME 40 ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2011

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Wednesday February 9, 2011**

**Gallagher PCA's - Tax Updates, Tips & Answers**

**Location: La Seniorita's**

2706 Lake Lansing Road (Across from Eastwood Town Center)

517.485.0166

**Time: 5:30 pm Networking**

**6:00 pm Dinner and Meeting**

**Hostess: Jane Smith**

**RSVP by February 7, 2011**

[jane@hagerfox.com](mailto:jane@hagerfox.com)

**Celebrating 40 Years in Lansing!**

## Save the Dates

**February 16, 2011 -**

Chapter Board Meeting

Located at Clark Construction Company's Office at 5:30 pm

**February 20, 2011 -**

Chapter Anniversary 40 Years in Lansing, MI

**February 28, 2011 -**

Scholarship Applications Due

**Next Membership Meeting:**

**Wednesday March 9, 2011**

Location: Nuthouse

Hostess: Megan Jacobs, PE

## President's Message



**Traci Brower, LEED AP**  
Clark Construction Co.  
President of Lansing  
Chapter #177.

Members of the NAWIC Lansing Chapter #177 were able to try their talents at creative painting during the January Membership meeting at Home Depot in Okemos. I'd like to thank Vice President Heidi Hitz for filling in for me and planning and taking charge of the meeting in my absence. It sounds like everyone there had a wonderful time!! I was disappointed I had to miss out. The Chapter will also hold its 5th Annual Block Kids Program in conjunction with MC3 and EISD at the LCC West Campus on January 29, 2011 (Please see the next issue for complete results.).

The Lansing Chapter expects to welcome 80 plus NAWIC Members from 5 states to the

Lansing area May 13-15, 2011 for Forum 2011. The Committee for Forum 2011 has been working very hard on plans to make this a very successful NAWIC Region 4 event. Please see Heidi Hitz if you have any questions about how you can help with this.

Plans are underway for WIC week in March. We will get information regarding the events planned that week as it becomes available.

I want to be sure that everyone in our chapter understands that I am here to answer any questions, lend a hand and listen if any of you have anything to share. Your feedback is very important to me and the chapter. Each and every one of our

members has a valuable place in this organization and is appreciated for what they contribute. The chapter is a wheel and we, as members, are the spokes of the wheel. Without each spoke the wheel would not rotate correctly and do its job to take the chapter to the places it has already been and reach new destinations. Please feel free to come to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns. My door is always open!!!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the February meeting.

Thank you, *Traci Brower*  
Traci Brower, NAWIC Chapter #177 President

"It's not who you are that holds you back, it's who you think you're not."

- Unknown

## Being Good Enough

We all strive to be the best at our jobs – the best manager, the best coworker and the best employee. But problems can arise when the motivation to excel comes from feeling that we have something to prove or that we'll never be good enough.

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2342026/do\\_you\\_feel\\_like\\_you\\_are\\_not\\_good\\_enough.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2342026/do_you_feel_like_you_are_not_good_enough.html)

Dr. June Cooley, a clinical psychologist, says perfection is an unreasonable goal that leaves many unsatisfied, even after they've achieved success at work. "If a woman is motivated because she feels she lacks

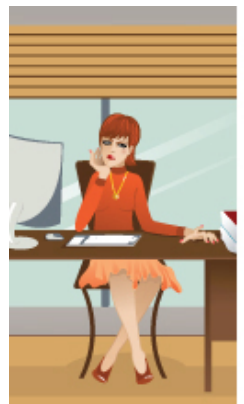
something, the feeling probably won't subside once she reaches her professional goals."

The bottom line? You're not perfect – get used to it. Experts say, by having an image of perfection ([http://www.pathwaytohappiness.com/writings\\_perfection.htm](http://www.pathwaytohappiness.com/writings_perfection.htm)) in your mind at all times, you may be setting yourself up for failure. They suggest letting go of oversized expectations and working to silence your inner judge.

Don't be afraid to tout your accomplishments – you deserve to be where you are; don't be afraid to ask for advice – it won't

make you look weak, says YPNation. Plus, surround yourself with women who want the same things and embrace your flaws. Putting away your inventory of shortcomings, highlighting achievements and concentrating on your potential will reduce stress and build confidence, says Buzzle. By Muriel Vega

Courtesy of  
Pink Magazine



## Member Profile - Becky Przedowski



1. What is your full name

Rebecca Lynn Przedwojewski (Pred-wo-jeski)

2. What is your birthday

September 25, 1974

3. Are you married; Yes do you have any kids, if so what are their names; I Step-daughter, Tabby do you have any pets? 2 dogs, Sadie and Taurus

4. What is your education background?

I graduated from MSU w/ a Bachelor degree in Merchandising Management (also studied Interior Design) Do you have any awards or certifications? No, I'm boring!

5. What company do you work for?

Haworth, Inc.

6. What is your occupation, and title, please describe a typical day on the job. I am project manager for Haworth's Architectural Interiors products (moveable walls, raised flooring and modular power). My title is AI Project

Manager. One of the things I like most about my job is that every day is different... Generally speaking, a typical work day begins somewhere between 7:30-8:00 am. I work out of my home, so I don't have much of a commute most of the time. I usually start by answering my emails from the night before (my main support team works in Calgary, so I often get emails later in the evening/ night because of the time difference) and from there it spirals into a day of emailing, meetings, computer work, etc. I typically follow projects from the quoting phase thru the punch list completion, so on any given day I could be creating quotes, reviewing drawings, attending client/ construction meetings, assisting the dealer sales people/ designers, working with the manufacturing team to maintain our project schedule, etc. I work very closely with the installers, so depending on the project load/ location (I cover all of Michigan and Northern Ohio), I try to attend construction meetings and job sites as much as I can to be of assistance.

7. How did you get into construction?

struction?

I would say it was a gradual transition. I started my career at DBI (a Haworth dealership in Lansing) 13 years ago doing furniture sales/ moved into doing design and layouts/ moved into furniture project management and when Haworth became involved in the Constructive Solutions products, I was part of those projects on behalf of DBI... which ultimately led me to the opportunity to join Haworth 5 years ago and be a part of the Construction world.

8. How did you hear about NAWIC, and when did you join? I heard about NAWIC last Spring from Heidi Hitz. I joined in November.

9. How many years have you been a member of NAWIC? 2 ½ months

What is one thing people in NAWIC don't know about you? Hmm... Probably a lot, but one thing is that I probably do literally bleed green! ;- ) I grew up in Philadelphia, PA and came to MSU because it was my life-long dream... and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Spartan!!!

### Anniversaries!

Barbara Strachan,  
CIT  
21 Years!

Megan Jacobs, PE  
2 Years!

## Green Tip: Valentine's Day Gifts

### Valentines day gifts with the planet in mind

If Valentines Day is an important day for you or the one you love; then you can show a bit of extra love for the environment by carefully considering what you buy. Here's some ideas:

- Cards made from recycled or tree-free paper (this will be indicated on the card)
- Consider sending an e-card instead using one of the many quality services around.

- Fair trade and/or organic chocolate
- Choose organic and/or locally grown flowers
- Buy the person a gift certificate for holistic therapies e.g. massage, naturopath, health spa.
- Arrange dinner at a local restaurant specializing in organic or locally grown food. Eating locally cuts down on food miles.
- Perhaps make dinner yourself using locally grown ingredients, accompanied by a nice organic

wine. Set the mood with earth-friendly candles. The effort you put in will be sure to impress!

- Give natural perfumes and fragrances. Popular mainstream fragrances are chemical cocktails. By buying natural fragrances, you'll be showing you not only care for the environment, but the person's health. These are just a few ideas to get you thinking!

Courtesy of [www.greenlivingtips.com](http://www.greenlivingtips.com)



# Lansing Chapter #177 Calendar of Events

## 2010-2011 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

TRACI BROWER, LEED AP  
CLARK CONSTRUCTION  
TBROWER@CLARKCC.COM

### VICE PRESIDENT

HEIDI HITZ, LEED AP  
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HHITZ@CLARKCC.COM

### TREASURER

MEGAN JACOBS, PE  
SOILS & MATERIALS  
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JACOBS@SME-USA.COM

### SECRETARY

KAREN SCHULERT  
AGC OF MICHIGAN  
KSCHULERT@AGCMICHIGAN.ORG

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

MELANIE MYERS  
OAKLAND COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
MAMYERS@OAKLANDCC.EDU

### DIRECTORS

BARBARA STRACHAN,  
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AGC OF MICHIGAN  
BSTRACHAN@AGCMICHIGAN.ORG

JANE SMITH  
HAGER FOX HEATING &  
COOLING  
JANE@HAGERFOX.COM

TIFFANY HERROLD  
CLARK CONSTRUCTION  
THERROLD@CLARKCC.COM

## Membership Meetings - Second Wednesday of the Month:

**March 9, 2011** - Hostess: Megan Jacobs

**April 13, 2011** - Recognition Night & 40th Anniversary Celebration

Hostesses: Tiffany Herrold, Jane Smith, Barb Strachan

**May 11, 2011** - Hostess: Traci Brower – Forum Meeting

**June 8, 2011** - Election Night

Hostess: Sara Cunningham

**July 2011** - Fun Night

**August 10, 2011** - State Meeting

Hostesses: Barb Strachan, Karen Schulert

**September 14, 2010** - Hostess: Shawn Hunter - Installation Night, Women's Center  
Cindie Alwood

## Board Meetings - Third Wednesday of the Month: Meetings held at Clark Construction Company

March 16, 2011

April 20, 2011

May 18, 2011

June 15, 2011

July 20, 2011

August 17, 2011

## Special Events:

**March 6th - 12th, 2011** - WIC Week (Women In Construction Week)

**May 13-15th, 2011** - Region 4 Forum, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI

**June 20-24th, 2011** - Magic Camp in Lansing, MI

**August 31-September 3, 2011** - 56th Annual Convention - St. Louis, MO

**August 29 - September 1, 2012** - 57th Annual Convention - Denver, CO

## Newsletter Deadline:

20th of each month

# Lansing Chapter Learns How to Paint

Lansing Chapter #177 learned how to paint at their recent Home Depot Workshop held at the



Home Depot in Okemos. Members learned how to prep surfaces, what brushes, rollers, painter's tape and other accessories to use to make the process smooth.

Home Depot Associate Alex then showed the ladies painting techniques that they could use at home. Whether on walls, furniture or other applications. This was a great hands on class to start the new year with a new pro-

ject for each lady to do at their own home. Additional photos can be found online.



# 2010-2011 Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON(S)	EMAIL ADDRESS
Publicity/WIC Week	Jane Smith	jane@hagerfox.com
Recruitment/Mentorship	Jane Smith	jane@hagerfox.com
Officer Nominations		
New & Foremost Nominations		
Roster/Cheers & Condolences/Hostess Schedule	Karen Schulert	kschulert@agcmichigan.org
Newsletter	Heidi Hitz	hhitz@clarkcc.com
Legislative Awareness Occupation Awareness & Promotion		
Professional Education	Ruth Essenburg	ressenberg@douglassteel.com
Audit/Budget	Jane Smith	jane@hagerfox.com
Scholarship/TAG	Heidi Hitz	hhitz@clarkcc.com
Ways & Means	Traci Brower, Karen Schulert	tbrower@clarkcc.com kschulert@agcmichigan.org
Block Kids	Traci Brower	tbrower@clarkcc.com
CAD/Design/Drafting:	Megan Jacobs	jacobs@sme-usa.com
Michigan Construction Career Days	Melanie Myers	mamyers@oaklandcc.edu
Committee Service Projects	Heidi Hitz, Tiffany Herrold	therrold@clarkcc.com
Bylaws & Standing Rules	Karen Schulert	kschulert@agcmichigan.org
Industry Icon Award	Barb Strachan	bstrachan@agcmichigan.org
Historian/Scrapbook	Ruth Essenburg	ressenberg@douglassteel.com
Website	Heidi Hitz	hhitz@clarkcc.com



*A message from VisionCare, your Vision Choices provider!*

*Drs. Lee Rigel, Cheryl Vincent-Riemer and Sarah Knapp of VisionCare Associates*

## Flashes and Floaters of Vision

Although annoying, the common flashes and floaters in the eye may be no reason for concern. In fact, the majority of people, 7 out of 10, will experience these flashes and floaters at some point in their lifetime. However, with a rapid onset of many, these small specks or dots interfering with your vision may be signaling a bigger problem.

The area between the lens and retina is filled with a jelly-like substance called a vitreous gel which is supposed to help keep the eyes shape while allowing light to pass through to the retina. As the aging process occurs, the parts of the gel will become more liquefied while others may shrink or remain more of a solid substance. The parts of the gel that are denser do not allow light through causing

shadows to be cast on the retina. Resulting from this are spots, squiggles and specks that are seen while trying to look at objects especially a computer screen or a bright, clear sky.

Floaters and flashes can also mean that you have an eye emergency. Seeing many floaters or spots accompanied sometimes by light flashes may mean that the retina is tearing away from the back of the eye which can lead to retinal detachment. If the retina is torn or detached, possible vision loss can occur. The only treatment is surgery and it is the best option to keep your sight. Most common though is Posterior Vitreous Detachment (PVD). Although it is not always a medical emergency, in some cases the vitreous tugs on the

retina causing it to tear. With tearing and detachment, the retina can receive non-visual stimulation which triggers the flashes seen.

Floaters and some flashes can be common but by the age of 80, more than half of all people will have experienced Posterior Vitreous Detachment. However, if you are among the 40 percent that also have flashes with your floaters you have a 15 percent chance of having a retinal detachment.

Knowing the signs and symptoms can help save your vision!

[For information on Vision Choices through your membership, contact Daphne Reznik 517-337-8182.](#)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION  
LANSING, MICHIGAN – CHAPTER NO. 177**

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**CHAPTER HISTORY**

FEBRUARY 20, 1971 – FEBRUARY 21, 2011

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) originally began as Women in Construction of Fort Worth. Sixteen women working in the construction industry founded the organization in 1953. Knowing that women represented only a small fraction of the construction industry, the founders organized to create a support network. Women in Construction of Fort Worth was so successful that it gained its national charter in 1955 and became the National Association of Women in Construction.

In 1970, the national organization developed regions, and set a goal to add 21 new chapters in the year ahead, using the slogan “21 in 71”. The Director of Region 4 at the time, Helen K. Cauffman of South Bend, IN responded to an inquiry by Rev Hopkins, executive secretary of Builders Exchange of Greater Lansing. Rev had heard of NAWIC, and wanted to start a Lansing, Michigan chapter. He found two progressive thinking men in Alton Granger, Granger Construction and Hal Bell, AGC Michigan. They notified the women they knew in construction and held a meeting on October 21, 1970, to get the ball rolling toward chartering the Lansing, Michigan Chapter of NAWIC.

NAWIC, Lansing Chapter No. 177 was the first chapter to charter in 1971, the first chapter to charter in the state of Michigan, and the first chapter to be chartered by Region 4 under the Regional Chartering Plan. The “Chartering Ceremonies” were held at the Olds Plaza Hotel, in the Michigan Room, on Saturday, February 20, 1971; the dinner cost was only \$7.00 and the entree was beef – not chicken! There were 126 people in attendance, including NAWIC members from several states in Region 4. Mayor Gerald Graves, of Lansing, was the guest speaker; a tradition that we currently maintain (Mayor Hollister spoke at our at our Recognition Night meeting in April of 2001, and Mayor Virg Bernero spoke at our 2006 Recognition Night). The Lansing Chapter chartering was featured in the NAWIC Image, The Lansing State Journal, and the Ingham County News. One of the articles was entitled, “Construction Gals Charter Chapter,” and the women were identified in the article as “Mrs. Michael J. Friedrich of Payne Rosso Company, president; Mrs. Leahman J. Jacobs of Granger Construction, vice president...”

We prefer to identify the original Board as:

**Officers**

President, Kathleen Friedrich, Payne Rosso Company  
Vice President, Phyllis S. Jacobs, Granger Construction Co.  
Secretary, Carleen E. Hallman, Builders Exchange of Greater Lansing  
Treasurer, Barbara J. Ernst, Ernst Electric Company

**Board of Directors**

Lauralee W. Adams, Foster-Schermerhorn-Barnes  
Josephine Ebright, Dard, Inc.  
Sandra J. Fisher, Charles Featherly Construction Company  
Jean F. Franke, Spartan Asphalt Paving Company  
Madalyn Gerstler, Sterling Doorware Company  
Sharon Kay Smith, Payne-Rosso Comp

In reviewing many scrapbook articles, one name and smiling face kept recurring during the first two years (1971 and 1972). That is the name of Carleen Hallman. Carleen served as the original chapter secretary, she was chairman of the Extension Committee, Scrapbook & Roster Editor, Historian and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. She was also the original chairperson of the "Friends of the Zoo" committee. NAWIC participated in a program to get construction companies to donate materials for various construction projects at the Potter Park Zoo. Michigan Contractor & Builder ran an article in the March 18, 1972, issue to feature the NAWIC Lansing Chapter "Bosses Night." Carleen was the recipient of the first WIC of the Year award in February 1972. Rev Hopkins was the original "Boss of the Year," he was issued a crown and a gift for enthusiastically supporting the chapter.

On May 14, 1972, Carleen Hallman, at age 20, was on a private plane with three friends when it crashed about 15 minutes after takeoff. One of the twin engines had failed, and the fuel tanks exploded when the plane hit the ground. NAWIC lost a true friend and a hard worker on that day. Her family requested memorials to be made to a scholarship fund in the National Association of Women in Construction. Our chapter has given approximately \$40,500.00 to students in construction related curriculum since the establishment of the Carleen Hallman Scholarship Fund.

On September 10, 1975, The Lansing State Journal featured a Charter Member, Marie Wilkinson, in an article about Women in Construction Week. At least the 1975 paper did reveal her full name, along with a wonderful article expressing her strong attributes when it comes to knowing construction. The article featured a lovely picture of Marie wearing a nice suit with a double strand of pearls, but at the same time, she has a look on her face that says, "I know what I'm doing, and don't even try to mess with me!" Marie explained to the reporter that the purpose of NAWIC is "to bring together women who work in various phases of what had always been considered a 'man's field' . . . to encourage cooperation and a better understanding and to promote fellowship and goodwill among members." These words hold true today.

Lansing certainly inspired Michigan chapters to form--the Detroit Chapter soon followed (#183), then Grand Rapids (#194). In 1974 the Lansing Chapter sponsored Flint Chapter 202 with the help of Chapter President Jean Banister and Extension Committee Chairman, Sandy Fisher. The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek (#302) was sponsored by Grand Rapids Chapter. On January 21, 1993, the Lansing Chapter sponsored the Chartering of The Michigan State Women Students in Construction. Dr. Norma Anderson, NAWIC Member and MSU Faculty, was a moving force in chartering this chapter. Kelly Kraft was the first president of the student chapter.

May 2, 1983, the Lansing, MI Chapter #177 – National Association of Women in Construction filed articles of incorporation with the Michigan Department of Commerce.

On November 19, 1986, NAWIC participated in the dedication ceremony for a bronze replica of the State seal in front of the Capitol Building. NAWIC was the driving force in getting over 40 construction related firms to contribute approximately \$10,000 to the project.

On October 15, 1988, Lansing Chapter hosted the Regional Fall Planning Conference at the (then) Sheraton Inn. Our own Geri Johnson presented a workshop/film on doors & hardware. We again hosted the Region 4 Annual Planning Conference in the fall of 2005, at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center.

In April 1992, Claudette Caloumbe received the first NAWIC of the Year award. Since this initial award, the "NAWIC of the Year Award" has become an annual award, which is presented to one of our Chapter's outstanding members at our annual Recognition Night meetings.

The Lansing Chapter continues to be active in the CAD/Design/Drafting Competition. The first year that National held the contest (1992-93), the Lansing area winner, Henry Schultz, Jr. won at both the Regional and National level of the competition. Lansing continues to participate in the contest every year. We have seen the work of many talented high school students who have participated in this contest over the years.

The December 1994 issue of the NAWIC Image featured one of our members--Cheryl Hughes, on the cover, and a thorough article about Cheryl's business that includes her husband and three sons. They have been through some low points, but their

but their strong family ties and faith kept them going to form a very successful road construction business. The U.S. Dept of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration presented Cheryl with WBE of the Year Award in 1994. She got to meet then President, Bill Clinton.

In April 1995, Lansing successfully hosted the Region Four Forum 1995. Our Chapter really pulled together to host a very educational and entertaining conference for our five-state region. Cheryl Hughes gave a very inspirational talk at the Saturday luncheon at the Forum. We are again making preparations to host the 2011 Region 4 Annual Forum in East Lansing, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at MSU, on May 13 – 15, 2011.

We never hesitate to get involved with projects that require a lot of work. One of our major endeavors was the Habitat for Humanity "First Ladies Build" blitz build house in June of 2000. Many of us worked at getting material and cash donations from contractors, then as laborers at the house, and some on hospitality duty feeding the workers. We also had a special Chapter project, with the help of Martin Block donating materials, we built a paver block patio at the back of the house. According to our crew, and the guys at Martin Block, it is really beautiful! Several of our members worked on another Habitat for Humanity project in Williamston in November of 2008.

In 1998, we held our first Holiday Luncheon and Auction fundraiser at a Mason, Michigan golf course, and we then moved them to the Brookshire Inn and Golf Club in 1999, where they have been held every year since then. We had the same auctioneer for eleven years, and have had two different auctioneers for the past two years. We recently held our 13<sup>th</sup> annual auction event on November 14, 2010. Prior to the run of our Holiday Auction fundraisers, we held Las Vegas Night fundraisers, and also held fashion shows in 1991 and 1993 to raise funds for our chapter. In April 2007, we held our first bowl-a-thon fundraiser at the Mason Bowling Center, and the second was held in March of 2009. In March of 2010, we were guest grillers at Bd's Mongolian Grill in Okemos, which raised funds for our Chapter.

In 2000, we worked for the Greater Lansing Home Builders Association at their annual "Parade of Homes" open-houses, as a fundraiser project. Our various members processed tickets and greeted guests who came to view the new homes. We have continued this project for several years since 2000. We have committed to work at a new house in this year's Parade of Homes.

In 2003, our Chapter hosted our first "Block Kids Competition" at the Delta Elementary School, with 15 student participants, and our second competition was held in 2004 at the same location. In 2008, we moved the event to the LCC West Campus, and joined forces with the Michigan Construction Career Council to draw more students, and we have successfully hosted over 60 students per year for the past three years. Our 2011 competition is taking place on January 29, 2011.

At the 2004 National Convention in NYC, our member Barbara Strachan was presented with a "Shining Star Award" from the National Education Foundation (NEF) for her outstanding commitment to the Block Kids participation at the NOVA Awards celebration, which is hosted by the Construction Innovation Forum. In 2006 at the National convention in Kansas City, Barbara received the 2006 "Tradeswoman Advocate of the Year". Barbara is our own "Shining Star"!

Since 2006, the Lansing Chapter has actively been participating in the National "Annual Women in Construction Week", which is designated every year around the first full week of March. We have received several proclamations from the various Mayors of Lansing, which recognized this week for women in construction. We have also received recognition on WILX Chanel 10 with a NAWIC mug, thanks to the efforts of Jane Smith.

Since 2007, our Chapter has participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk", which is held in the fall of each year. Our Chapter's own Barbara Strachan, a breast cancer survivor, has been inspirational in getting our members to participate in this annual walk event.

In April of 2008, we participated in the first Michigan Construction Career Days held at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason. This event hosted approximately 2000 middle-high school students, and introduced them to construction careers. Some of our members have participated in the subsequent Career Days events held in 2009 and 2010.

In July of 2008, the first MAGIC Summer Camp was hosted by Oakland Community College, and supported by NAWIC. This camp has become an annual event since 2008. Several of our members have participated in this worthwhile event each year—(Mentoring a Girl in Construction—MAGIC).

In August of 2008, the Lansing Chapter was instrumental in the organization of the Saginaw Valley Chapter. Several of our members attended the chartering ceremony. Regretfully, this new chapter has since relinquished their Chapter's charter, and is no longer active.

Every year, our Chapter hosts our "Annual Recognition Night to which we invite employers, the CAD/Design Drafting competition winners, our Block Kids Competition winners and the Scholarship recipients, along with all the parents of these students. At this special annual meeting, we showcase our Chapter's activities, and recognize the talents and efforts of our members. We present one outstanding member with her NAWIC of the Year Award, and we also recognize our Chapter's New Leader and Foremost Leader members, who will go on to compete at the Regional level, and are recognized at the Region 4 Spring Forum.

Many of our members have attended various Region 4 Forums, which are held in the spring of each year, and are hosted by a city within Region 4. The National Conventions, which are held in late summer of each year in various cities throughout the United States and Canada, have been well attended by our various members. Our Chapter has received many committee awards at these events throughout the years. Our members have benefited from the many Chapter monthly meetings over the years, at which there have been a wide range of industry and educational speakers.

Our Chapter and members have been involved in many community service projects throughout the years. In addition to our participation in the Habitat for Humanity projects in April of 2003 and November 2008, our members assembled Easter baskets for the children at the EVE shelter home in Lansing, and also the Angel House in Mason. In 2004, we received a community benefit award at Forum for our locker removal project at the YMCA to the VOA shelter. In 1992, our Chapter presented a check for \$2500.00 to the Council Against Domestic Assault. We recently participated in collecting Christmas Angel gifts for the children at St. Vincent's Children's home, which were delivered in December 2010. Our Chapter and its members have worked on, and participated in many other community projects over the last 40 years. We are always willing to help the needy and less fortunate in our area.

In 2003, the Lansing Chapter hosted the first Michigan Statewide NAWIC Chapters' meeting, and we have continued this tradition for about every year since 2003, as Lansing is a good central location for all chapters to travel to.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum for Region 4 in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Lansing Chapter member, Melanie Myers was elected to the position of Region 4 Director for the two year term starting on October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2012. We are all proud of Melanie for her efforts and dedication to our Chapter and NAWIC.

The Lansing Chapter of NAWIC has remained active throughout the entire 40-year period. Our membership numbers have been as high as 40, but have remained closer to the original 29 members that we began the chapter with. Many women new to the construction industry join NAWIC to familiarize themselves with various areas of construction, including the strange lingo and all the acronyms. It is a great atmosphere to develop self-confidence and to learn and practice leadership skills. As members gain the confidence to succeed in non-traditional jobs, they often move on to organizations that are formed for specific trades. As most women are juggling career, family, professional and community obligations, we understand that some of our turnover in membership can be attributed to the success of our members in other areas of their lives. We always have a strong core membership that welcomes "new blood" each year and gives encouragement to those who move on to other things.

Co-researched and written by: Jane M. Smith and Ruth A. Essenberg - (2-20-2011)

# Home Depot Workshops



More saving.

## Upcoming Home Depot Workshops for February 2011

Interior Paint: Update your Rooms with Color and Style - Every Saturday 10 am-11 am

Tile: The Right Looks and Tools for the Job - Every Saturday 11 am - 12 pm

Bath Makeover: Redo and Renew for Less - Every Saturday 1 pm - 2 pm

New and Innovative Kitchen Appliances, Appliance Event - Every Sunday 1 pm - 2 pm

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# NAWIC

National Association of Women in Construction

## NAWIC National Office

327 S. Adams Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76104

**Supporting Women in the  
Construction Industry**

The Lansing Chapter #177 is a small chapter in Lansing MI, that hosts several events during the year to promote construction education to students and parents. As well as community involvement. Some of the events the chapter is involved in are, Block Kids, CAD/Design/Drafting and Scholarships. Community Events include Walk at the Capital for Breast Cancer, Grand River Clean up, and Habitat for Humanity.

For more information on becoming a member please visit the national office, or our local chapter website: [www.nawic.org](http://www.nawic.org) or [www.lansingnawic.com](http://www.lansingnawic.com).

