

**Region 9 Annual Forum Report
by President Robin Langkamp
McMenamins Edgefield (Portland)
May 16-17, 2014**

Janet, Ellie and I attended Forum at McMenamin's Edgefield, hosted by the Portland Chapter. What a unique and wonderful hotel/brewery/pub/winery/event location/distillery/restaurants/spa/ /retreat! You can't pin just one name on it and it was truly a destination location!

Day 1 was an Industry Built Forum with guests in attendance. The keynote speaker was John Wied, CFO, Walsh Construction, on Business Models in an Evolving Market. The Panel topics started with Women in A/E/C: Valuable? Yes! Challenging? Yes! Lois D Cohen moderated the speakers discussing the value of women and minorities bring to our industry and the associated challenges. Speakers: Cheryl Myers, Chief of Staff, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission; Corey Lohman, President, Emerick Const.; Dana Fulkerson, Facilities Project Coordinator, REACH CDC; and Walt Bartel, David Evans & Associates. After lunch the discussion switched to "Hiring & Working with New Grads | Insider's Interview, with Larry Fox, PE, President OBEC & Emily Miletich, Engineer, Multnomah County.

Next we had our choice of workshops: Leadership Therapy, Creating a Website, Effective Job Hazard Analysis or Financial Reports in A/E/C.

That evening was a Professional Development Expo and scholarship/education fundraiser, with Construction Jeopardy.

Saturday started with a keynote from Lois D. Cohen on Have We Really Come A Long Way? – The Progress of Women. Then we had a discussion/interview on "Why Mentoring? An Insider's View" with Jenny Browne, Convergent Technologies as the mentee and Karen Say-Valadez, CEO/President, Saybr Contractors Inc, the mentor. Technologies as the mentee and Karen Say-Valadez, CEO/President, Saybr Contractors Inc, the mentor.

At lunch we broke into teams and went on a Scavenger Adventure! We had a list of 10 things to find around the property and take a team picture with each. It was really fun to meet new people and we had a really good time investigating the venue more! Then we had "Making High Quality Connections" with Connie Liepard, Quality Drywall Const., and NAWIC Treasurer.

Next we had our Regional business meeting and learned of some of the changes to come in NAWIC. There were 52 in attendance.

- There will be an association wide re-districting. Region 9 & 10 (Northern California & Nevada, 8 chapters) will be merging within the next 3 years. We will have a total of 8 regions. There will be a committee of both regions' Director's Assistance Committees to come up with new regional policies and guidelines for the combined region. This will save a considerable amount of money on the national level, which is needed with the lower membership at this time.
- There will only be a small dues increase. Active +\$16/year, Corporate +\$32, Associate +\$32, Retired +\$5 and Student +\$0.
- 2018 AMEC will be in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

That evening was our banquet with awards and a few more reports. Our Lifetime Achievement winner was Traci Johnson from the Alaska Chapter. Our Member of the Year Award went to Lynn Barrett, Alaska Chapter and our Future Leader of the Year is Jutta Hood of the South Sound Chapter. Block-Kids was won by the Puget Sound Chapter, Cad draft winner was from the Tri-Cities Chapter and the Safety Awards went to Sodo Builders, Centennial Contractors and Veca Electric. Membership Awards went to Spokane for Retention & Alaska for recruitment!

It was a wonderfully fun evening and conference. Thank you very much for letting me represent our chapter!