

Region 9 Forum Report
Anchorage, Alaska May 1-2, 2015
Submitted By: President Janet Spriggs

Robin Langkamp and I attended the last ever "Divine Region 9 Forum", hosted by the Alaska chapter and held in Anchorage, AK. What a beautiful part of our country - words can't describe the majestic, snow-covered mountains. Our 2-days started off with a full day of speakers, followed by 2 very unique tours. The tours included a stop at Anchorage Sand & Gravel, where we were treated to a walking tour of their facility, including their batch plant and the block plant where they mix, form, steam and stack concrete blocks of all shapes and uses. The second tour was at the Alaska Zoo where we were guided through three separate areas of the zoo to learn about the initiatives the zoo is working on relative to native and endangered species. We were fortunate to see bald eagles, some active brown bears (the black bears were hiding), two sleeping polar bears (who they hope will mate in the coming month), reindeer, and owls. Our tour guides were great, we appreciated the thorough "storytelling" for each species we encountered.

The welcome party and NEF/NSFS fundraiser raised close to \$1000! There were many laughs and enjoyment, as 4 "Alaska life-themed" games were played. The first was an "Alaskan Morning" where pairs of ladies raced in putting on real-life cold weather clothing (including boots, bibs, head cover, and coat), running to "feed the dog", then running to the restroom (and dealing with all those clothes), and then racing back to the finish line only to remove all the clothes....lots of laughs! A second game was putting a golf ball into a paper cup located in a hockey net - the adversity here was having to wear hockey gloves while putting! There was a ring toss utilizing elk horns as your target (our own Robin won this) and lastly there was a Wii gaming system set up so we could "snowboard" down a

mountain - hoping to have the fastest time.....many ladies, including myself, sadly ran into a few trees on the way down. :o)

Our second day was focused on NAWIC business and information sharing. We were lucky to have, as our National representative, the current National President, Sandy Fields, who sat at the head table with Robin (our event Parliamentarian). Region 9 has 2 ladies running for Director of the new, merged Pacific Northwest Region (the combination of us and Region 10). Region 10 does not have any candidates running, so we heard from both Ruth Fritts (Boise chapter) and Evie Clark (Alaska chapter). Each shared their motivation in running and their goals should they be elected. We also discussed as a group the candidates running for National office, with an in-depth discussion on the candidates running for Vice President as that is the only position being contested. We held a very heated caucus relative to our Director moving forward - lots of opinions and thoughts shared, allowing the elected delegates to make an informed decision for their chapters when it comes time to complete the electronic vote in the coming weeks. A second, long and heated discussion was had on the Summary of Actions, stemming from the Mid-Year Board meeting, held in late February, 2015. We will discuss these at our meeting on May 13.

Forum culminated in a lively Awards Dinner and Celebration! We were provided a fantastic show of native Alaskan dancers who performed many songs and dances, which included inviting President Fields and Director Webb up to join them. Awards were passed out and I was honored to present the award for "Member of the Year" - I'll share all the good news at our May 13 meeting! All-in-all, a really wonderful Forum provided by the Alaska Chapter - we appreciate all their effort and time spent putting that together.

