Dear NAWIC South Atlantic Region,

The Durham Chapter has had a great first half of the year. We continue to grow and strengthen, and I have had the privilege of being supported by the leadership of our wonderful Officers and Directors. Our chapter celebrated 55 years in February, which was very exciting! We are especially proud of Durham Chapter and South Atlantic Region Director Kristey Stewart – her dedication to and passion for NAWIC is truly an inspiration.

We have been exploring different topics for presentations as well as incorporating lunch and learns, site tours and service activities to offer more opportunities for members and guests to engage with NAWIC. Thanks to Tonya Nease and Heather Sparks for leading PD&E and setting up great programs. Thanks to Mary Plankenhorn for stepping up as the Community Engagement Chair as a new member. Thanks to Ravonda Cole for leading Marketing and setting up our NAWIC Durham LinkedIn page.

October – 40th Annual Golf Tournament
Melissa Wilder and Emily Herndon led another successful golf tournament that raised over $11,000 for our scholarship fund.

October – Committee Chair Orientation
Membership Chair and Director Dyana Paredes announced the winner of the membership drive raffle. Gift cards were presented to two members (chosen randomly) who had renewed their membership by September 17th.

November – Women in Engineering Panel Discussion
We celebrated Sarah Black for reaching 27 years in NAWIC.

December – Annual Holiday Social and Toy Drive

January – Block Kids. We partnered with the Girl Scouts again and had all female judges from the industry.

January – Two female project managers from GoTriangle presented on the Durham-Orange Light Rail project. Announced scholarship recipients – Abbey Russell and Alicia Ervin.

February – 55th Anniversary Celebration and Panel
Kristey Stewart led a panel discussion with our members who have been with NAWIC 10+ years. Heather Spark’s company Delta Gypsum sponsored a champagne toast to celebrate 55 years. Membership Chair and Director Dyana Paredes announced the winner of a membership contest she developed to challenge members to bring guests to our events. Check out this UNC-TV episode on “Recruiting and Training Women for High-Demand Jobs in Construction.” You’ll see appearances by Kristey Stewart, Stephany Connelly and me! https://www.pbs.org/video/women-construction-promo-ws65zj/
March – WIC Week sponsored by member Taylor Ramor’s company Thalle Construction
  Lunch discussion about the Hard Hatted Woman film
  Jobsite Tour of the Durham County Main Library Renovation
  Lunch and Learn Presentation about the Durham Public Schools new Skilled Trades Academy
  Joint Networking Social with Raleigh Chapter at member Debbie Ash’s office
  Company Appreciation Breakfast
  Rebuilding Together Service Project

April – Member Ravonda Cole’s company CMIT Solutions presented on Phishing and Cyber Security

We are just one month away from the inaugural Advancing Women in Trades event co-hosted by the Raleigh Chapter at a local high school. Thanks to Kristey Stewart and Raleigh Chapter President Stephany Connelly for their leadership on the planning committee. The committee has brought together a number of partners and sponsors to support the event and currently have over 100 attendees registered. NAWIC Regional and National leadership will be attended the event, which will include a video from Hard Hatted Woman director Lorien Barlow and a panel discussion moderated by previously Annual Conference keynote speaker Kayleen McCabe.

I am excited for all of the great programs and events that our Chapter will have throughout the rest of the year. I hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Forum in Charlotte!

Sincerely,

Rachel Fleming
President | Durham Chapter #83

2018-2019 Officers and Directors
President – Rachel Fleming (MBP)
Past President – Holly Southerland (Bryant-Durham)
Vice President – Kristey Stewart (ACC)
Secretary – Heather Sparks (Delta Gypsum)
Treasurer – Melissa Wilder (Staff Zone)
Parliamentarian – Sarah Black (Retired)
Director – Amy King (Comfort Mechanical Contractors)
Director – Tonya Nease (Frontier Communications)
Director – Dyana Paredes (Pure-Line Plumbing)
Stephany Connelly, President Raleigh #92

As the Raleigh Chapter President, I have to say we’ve had a tremendous start to the year!

We have nearly doubled in size! This is in large part due to the tremendous board that is leading this Chapter. Every single lady has jumped in and has one final mission in mind – to grow the Raleigh chapter and to spread the word of NAWIC.

We have held several “1st year” socials, which have led to a great following in the community. The first event was a wine event that was held in Raleigh. We had nearly 60 attendees, from students to GM’s of large companies that wanted to see what NAWIC was all about.

We just held a “Wine Pull” event and it was very successful. We had nearly 30 people attend but most importantly, the guests that came had never heard of NAWIC before. So, we know we are doing great things in the Raleigh community!

One of our goals this year is to increase exposure of NAWIC in our area. We are continuing to think outside the box with gaining members. We are planning a Corn Hole tournament in the fall and joining up with the Durham Chapter to host the “Advancing Women in the Trades” event in May. We already have 100 attendees signed up.

Kristey Stewart and I had the amazing opportunity to be on a segment on a popular news station in Raleigh geared towards women in trades. It was a great opportunity to get some real “face time” with a broader audience.

Another goal is to increase our educational aspects through leadership development, involvement in other local organizations and construction focused speakers. Our PD&E Chair, Deb Connolly has some great ideas for this year. We are focusing on speakers that will attract large audiences. We are constantly asking members what they want to hear.

We are also joining forces with Carolinas Association of General Contractors and North Carolina United Minority Contractors to gain exposure to potential members.

We also held a Block Kids event at the Raleigh Boys and Girls Club. We had a great turnout and participation from the kids was tremendous.

We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year and much success to each and every chapter.

Stephany Connelly
NAWIC Raleigh Chapter #92
President, 2018-2019
This year is all about “The Power of You.” I loved this year’s WIC Week 2019 slogan, “Be the Power in your own Success.” We have all had times were things were just not going well and we had to stop, reevaluate, and regroup. Sometimes these situations are the result of unrealistic expectations you had of yourself. But when you are yourself and you are honest about your limitations this gives you the ability to determine how to re-charge and take charge of your own success.

I will be honest and let you know we had a rough start this year, but our chapter has been able to “stop, re-evaluate, and regroup.” By reviewing our Strategic Plan we are on the right track again.

We lost some members during renewal, but have been able to get up to 16 members and growing.

One way we are gaining new members is by increasing exposure of NAWIC in our area. We were able to sponsor again this year our local Greensboro MED Week 2018, and participate in those events during the week. This gave us the ability to allow people to know we are here. We have also been able to get involved in other great events in the area: Guilford Jr. Achievement Academy (Hands on Activities for Kids), Guilford Middle School “Discover the Wow”, attending ASHREA’s North Piedmont Chapter meeting and being introduced to their Woman President, and also being able to start a connection with the local AIA Organization in our area. Getting to know and being involved in different aspects of our community has helped us not only gain exposure, but allow us to obtain contacts that may help us gain participation in our chapter including members, sponsors, partnerships, and speakers. We hope to continue this exposure throughout the year as opportunities arise.

Another goal is to increase our educational aspects through leadership development and construction focused speakers. Our PD&E Chair has some great ideas for this year. We have already had a Principal from a local Middle School, ASHREA representative, AIA Architect, and looking forward to many more to grow our understanding of the vast construction industry.

We have also participated in some of our members companies events, including a walk in October to End Alzheimer’s as well as a Symposium Education Seminar for Human Resource topics. We are also looking forward to collaborating with DRI (Defense Research Institute) and being featured in one of their upcoming magazines. We want to know our members are supported in all aspects of their lives, not just NAWIC.

For our civil programs, we had our Block Kids Program, and our planning to do another Touch-a-Truck event in June 2019. We are also planning to provide lunch for the Greensboro Habitat Women Build in July.

We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year and much success to each and every chapter.

“Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you, even when you don’t see it yourself.”

Greta Gardner
NAWIC Piedmont Chapter #109
President, 2018-2019
NAWIC Columbia SC Chapter #113 is leading the way in our region!

It is hard to believe that one year ago our chapter’s representatives met with you and several other national officers at the SAR Spring forum in Durham to discuss the possibility of chartering a NAWIC chapter in Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester. It was a great process for our chapter to engage in. We are the beneficiaries in so many ways: Our members grew in knowledge regarding the chartering process; our members pulled together as a team to raise funds and help facilitate the pre-organizational/organizational/chartering meetings utilizing their own time and resources; we sought out and discovered some amazing women in that area of our state that stood up and took a chance on our organization; and we now have the blessing of 70+ new NAWIC sisters that we can network with on a professional and personal level. This is truly a dream come true!

One of our major goals for the 2018-2019 term was to solicit corporate sponsorships. We formulated the committee in October 2018 and these ladies slayed it! We had a deadline of January 11, 2019, and when that date arrived, we were at the $24,000 mark. Because of these funds, we are able to perpetuate the mission of NAWIC and enhance the success of women in the industry. We are also bringing great learning opportunities to our members and the community through other initiatives. Here are a few:

Our chapter’s Career Awareness committee absolutely blew it away with our inaugural Construction Kids Discovery and Awareness Day. This event, held on March 30, 2019 at Lexington Technology Center, was an educational community event that provided children with a hands-on opportunity to see and touch heavy machinery and meet the people who play a role in building our community. The mission of the event was to introduced children and parents to the construction industry in an effort to create an awareness of and to promote an interest in future careers in one of the many facets of the industry. Over 800 adults and kids of all ages were able to explore heavy construction equipment like a mini-excavator, roll off container truck, skid steer and so much more. "Construction Kids" had a kid's zone with plenty of hands on construction related activities for children of all ages. These hands-on activities included using building blocks to construct a bridge to be able to travel over water, pvc playhouse construction, interior design boards, jumbo building blocks, mining for gems, strongest shape activities, tools and fasteners and much more.

NAWIC Night was a huge success! We had a record number of members and employers for such a wonderful turn out! We sold a total of 109 tickets and had 138 people in attendance this year! The Wine Pull was again a HUGE success with 39 bottles of wine sold! Through the wonderful donations of our members and guests NAWIC was able to donate over 150 unwrapped toys to Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital which helped ensure that children all over the state could have a wonderful holiday. Many turned out to this year’s NAWIC night donning their best ugly holiday sweater! And the winner of this year’s Ugly Sweater Competition and $100 gift card to Top Golf was our very own Miss Virginia Davis, past regional director.
Our chapter was pleased to award $8,000 in scholarships at our January 2019 member meeting to the following: Hobey Baughman, a mechanical engineering student at USC; Chloe Bagley, interior design student at Anderson University; Katherine “Paige” Ashworth, architectural student at Clemson University; Kylie Walker, architectural student at Clemson University; and Hailey Krabbe, another architectural student at Clemson University. We are slated to award more scholarships later this term.

Other activities include: Block Kids competition, held in January 2019, with a great turnout of children (Kindergarten – 6th Grade), volunteers and members; our annual Membership Drive in February that brought in several new members and gave our committees a chance to showcase their initiatives; our WIC Week was chalk full of activities including an event with our newest chapter, Palmetto #385, an insurance training luncheon, a tour of the City of Columbia’s Art Center and much more. We also incorporated a new advertising tool with the deployment of several billboards around the greater Columbia area with our WIC Week tagline “Be the Power in Your Success.”

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of Chapter #113. I’ve had the opportunity to mentor and be mentored. I work alongside some hard-hitters who get it done. I’m looking forward to our 55th year celebration in 2020 and to see what else this chapter can do.

Thank you.

Susan C. Clary, CIT, President Columbia SC Chapter #113 2018-2019
I feel honored to have served as President for the Charlotte chapter for my second year. Thanks to all my NAWIC sisters who have supported me and who truly are the driving force behind our chapter. No one can do this job alone.

For the second year in a row, we started off our NAWIC year with a board retreat. The new board rented a house for the entire weekend. This is a great way to get to know your board, plan and set goals for the upcoming year and enjoy great food and company. We’ve already exceeded our membership goal of 70 members for our chapter. Great work ladies.

We added a Social Committee to our chapter this year. I think it’s important to plan events that let’s you just be together and to get to know one another. Ladies can not always make the meeting nights, due to work or family commitments, so it’s important to have other events on different days and times so more can be involved.

Our chapter does have some Rockstars! Just to name a few are Dove Sifers-Putman, currently serving as our National President. Carol Chapman, currently serving as National Parliamentarian and is also a Past-National President. Phyllis Beachum, who was awarded her lifetime achievement award at the National Conference last August and is a charter member of our chapter. I feel honored to have these ladies to turn to and their support.

Leslie Westervelt did a great job with revamping our newsletter format and presentation. I hope you all enjoy it every month! This is a time-consuming task and we are greatly appreciative.

You only get out of NAWIC what you put in! I encourage all members to:

- Attend general meetings regularly
- Attend Regional and National events
- Get involved in committees
- Attend social events organized by the chapter
- Get on the board!!! Help make the decisions.
- Promote the success of women in the construction industry
Report of the Chapter President of the Greater Tidewater Chapter #137
NAWIC South Atlantic Spring Forum
April 12-13, 2019
Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Ayrsley – Charlotte, NC
Marian Seaton

Hello NAWIC Sisters,

It has been a great year for our Chapter. I have had the great privilege of working with the board, which has been outstanding this year. We have been working on our website and internet presence. We feel this is the best way to educate our construction community of our Chapter activities. Our members have been amazing at reporting our various activities and posting pictures of our events. We have already had some women contact us after seeing our posts inquiring about our chapter.

We worked on membership during WIC Week; I had the pleasure of speaking at an event hosted by the Hampton VA Economic Development for International Women’s Day. I was on a panel of six professionals and was able to talk about our chapter. I had quite a few women interested in learning more about our organization.

Our community service focus has been on the Roe Solid Foundation. We have assisted this organization in the past with a local build for a child who was battling a very serious illness. We are now working with them to fill their backpacks. These backpacks will be provided to family members who are faced with devastating news that their child must go to a hospital due to a serious illness. We have been working on obtaining shampoo to contribute to these backpacks.

Our goal is to promote education at our meetings. We have had speakers promote and educate health issues we all face. We have previously had the Red Cross as a speaker and will be having the Alzheimer’s Organization come in to speak with us. We are also planning in the upcoming months to have speakers for the various trade businesses in our area.

The Block Kids event was a big hit with one of our local elementary schools in Chesapeake. We enjoyed working together to make this event a success and our ladies did an outstanding job putting it together. The school was so thrilled with the event they asked us back for next year!

We are planning a golf fundraiser at Top Golf of Virginia Beach this summer in either June or July. Last year was our first year at Top Golf and it was a big success for our chapter. We will be advertising for this event very soon and this is always a fantastic fundraiser for our chapter.

Marian Seaton
NAWIC Greater Tidewater Chapter #137 President 2018-2019
Hello NAWIC Sisters,

Here we are again at Spring Forum and I have no doubt that it will be another great experience for us all. This is a bitter-sweet time for me as I wrap up the last few months of my second year as the President of our Chapter. I have enjoyed every moment of it. If you are in a position to move up, I encourage you to grow with your chapter and NAWIC. The more you are involved the more you get out of it. I have had the best support from my chapter and could not have done it without them standing beside me.

This year we continued with our theme of CONNECT-GROW-SHARE and added GET EMPOWERED. I think our theme fit well with the National theme to “Be the Power”. We have grown and each time we plan something we will say how this will fit with our themes. Some things that we did this year that were successful are:

- Block-Kids was expanded to more than one school and was a huge success
- Build Design Program added schools and a record number of participants, this is a great program that we hope to have back at a Region and/or National level one day
- Co-Hosting Fall Conference at Great Wolf Lodge
- Started “Faces of the 141” to spotlight members and their company in our newsletter and on social media
- Chapter Triple-Play Challenge to get company names/info to gain a database of potential members
- Hosted and attended several joint events and have more on the schedule
- Committee overview as a meeting program, this was a great way for our new members to learn more about what we are doing and to get them involved
- Community Outreach events

Our chapter is also excited to have another member complete the CBT course. Congrats to Missy Seal on this great accomplishment.

This is a busy time of year for us as we finish up school competitions and judging it will be time for our annual golf Tournament and Industry Appreciation Night. These two events really showcase our chapter and what we do and how we apply our experience in the construction industry. I have never met a more dedicated and empowered group of women. I am so happy that I am a part of this great organization.

Lastly, I am campaigning for the position of SAR Region Director. I hope that you will join me and keep the momentum going to put NAWIC on the map!!

Have a great time this weekend and feel the power!
The Fayetteville chapter of NAWIC has a total of nine beautiful, wonderful, and talented members. I love them all. This makes 50 years our Chapter has been chartered. I am the only chartered member left.

Our monthly meetings are held regularly. Last year we adopted a family at Christmas and will continue this year. We have a speaker at most of them.

It is very important that we grow as a Chapter and we are trying very hard to accomplish this! Thank you to: Barbara Moore, Mary Etowski, Beth Beard, Ramona Jackson, Sharon Davis, Trudy Matthews, Angela Young, Cathy Moore! You make my life complete by believing in NAWIC, NEF and me!

My great love is being able to represent NEF!
I wish to thank each member and Chapter for participating with our fundraisers for NEF. It is amazing to see how much we collect. Our goal is $10,000.00 each year. We always reach our goal – “Thank you very much”.

As you are reading my report, I am very sad that I cannot be there with you today. You know, in addition to my regular job at McDonald Lumber Co., Inc, as the controller, I am a tax preparer for H&R Block. This is my very busy time!

I was hoping I could take the days off, I am booked solid for Saturday and Sunday and will be working from 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM both days. My heart is there with each of you. This is how I support NEF and travel to conventions with my extra money from preparing taxes.

I will see you in Atlanta for Convention. Have a successful Forum in Charlotte.
With many great strides last year, we are making some headway this year on our 2018-2019 goals and plans. With every last stride to the finish line, we are hitting key elements in our chapter strategy.

We started the year with a twist on the Installation of Officers. As the newly elected President impressed by my fellow NAWIC sisters, I chose the Jewel installation and gave each a Pandora bracelet as a token of friendship and appreciation. Most of these ladies have been the reason that the Roanoke Valley chapter is still in the books. A focus was quality - not so much on the quantity. And I believe that is truly where the strength and heart of this chapter has and will continue to reside.

We are maintaining a steady membership number over the last few years that ranges from 12-15. A few members had some major setbacks this year and either did not renew or renewed but not able to fully participate in monthly meetings or perform on any committees. We have three ladies that are very interested and have attended or will attend an event this term. I believe we will have at least one of the three signed up before summer. We have the struggles of a small city with limited workforce opportunities and most employers are not reimbursing for this membership.

WIC Week for our chapter was a celebration of our industry by joining forces with the AIA and YAF. We had a great hard hat tour during WIC Week of an amazing bio-research project and future economic engine for this area. The flyers were distributed to NAWIC, AIA and YAF members giving NAWIC additional ‘street cred’ to those who did not know it existed. This also gave NAWIC the ability to span across the region directly wherever those flyers were shared or posted with the potential to pique some curiosity beyond the tour. We had over 28 attendees – which was a great number for hard hat tours of this type. NAWIC established a lasting positive connection with the AIA and YAF and we have been asked to join on other events as opportunities arise.

Moreover, we had great coverage via PSA ads that ran “The Power to Succeed” on 4 different locations of rotating message electronic billboards for approximately 2.5 weeks!

Clear concise visibility will be the most beneficial for our membership goals. And getting our name out there in the material and digital world was another major goal via a re-vamped website, new twitter feed, and Facebook page. We are currently tweaking the new website but will go live May 15th. We are very excited about this 43 year milestone and will have to pop some champagne in honor at our May 14th meeting.

Rounding up one of our foremost goals is to improve the existing Scholarship application and ensure it has some new vehicles to students. We did accomplish the revamp but still work to do on the actual outreach and making contacts both in person and via email campaign with target universities, colleges, and votech schools. This will be an item that will need work right up until the last minute of my presidency.
And did somebody say scholarship? Let’s talk about raising some hell-o to education funds with our 16th annual Golf Tournament at Hanging Rock on June 14th via our Ways and Means committee. This event grows a bit each year and this is expected to be our best yet with 10-15 teams. We have plans to invite some high school students to be caddies so they can network with prospective employers.

And last but not least, we had another fantastic outreach event with the Block Kids Program and CAD drafting. At Block Kids, we had a power pack panel of judges and more of them as compared to previous years. This allowed more quality time with each project and a much broader range of perspectives. And our chapter always seems to deliver the CAD drafting winner out of 4 entries – congrats to our winner for the region in 2019! Per the CAD/Hand drafting committee, the students will present their projects during our May meeting (typically this would fall on the 21st but student schedules may require a date of May 14th) which would be a great way to celebrate the Chapter’s anniversary.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone at Spring Forum and/or the Summer in HotLanta!
What an amazing 8 months it has been since our Chartering! It is an incredibly honor to be serving as the Palmetto Chapters President. I have learned so much from our members, and have grown as a leader, a professional, and an individual in ways I never envisioned. It is clear to me, from our rapid growth and community involvement, that the Charleston area needed NAWIC.

Our objective this year was to create a solid foundation from which to build. As most of us had never been involved in NAWIC before it was important to me that the basics of chapter life were put in place. We wrote Standard Operating Procedures for committees and roles and held a board retreat to get to know one another and set annual goals. Our first goal was strong membership engagement which we broke down into specific goals for PD&E, Membership growth, and Membership retainage. We have enjoyed spotlighting members at our meetings as they provide “Member Moments”, stories of how NAWIC has impacted them. We have also worked hard to open the world of NAWIC up to our members by sharing Regional and National benefits and activities at each meeting. I can’t wait to tell everyone about our experience at Spring Forum!

Another annual goal is to host a successful 2019 South Atlantic Region Fall Conference at Wild Dunes. We would like to see over 100 NAWIC members descend on Charleston in October. Trust me, you don’t want to miss what our ladies have in store for you! Come experience the energy and passion the Palmetto Chapter radiates. You won’t regret it.

Our biggest accomplishment by far has been WIC Week. I am so proud of our President Elect Dannielle Minetti for her work as our Inaugural WIC Week Chair. With her herculean efforts we hosted 9 very successful events throughout the week. The media noticed and we were featured in the Post & Courier, Fox24, and have interviews in Skirt Magazine and Mount Pleasant Magazine coming out this month. The energy surrounding our chapter is strong, and I can’t wait to see all we will accomplish as we finish out our inaugural year. Thank you to Kristey Stewart for her leadership and guidance this year!

2018-2019 Board of Directors

Janet Bates – President
Dannielle Minetti – President-Elect
Sharon Benzenberg – Vice President
Amanda Redick – Recording Secretary
Savannah Hathaway – Corresponding Secretary
Sandy Marlowe – Treasurer
Mendi Arnold – Director
Mary Beth Cline – Director
Candice Bergman – Director