

47th Annual Region 9 Forum Report May 13 - 15, 2010

This was my first Forum and I really didn't know what to expect, but from the moment I stepped foot in the hospitality room on Thursday afternoon, I had a wonderful time making new friends and learning new things.

During our "first timers" meeting we were given a challenge of finding something interesting about a new person we'd met and report back at the close of Forum. Some people need a reason or a purpose to be "outgoing". That challenge was the small push I needed to be a bit more friendly. I did find out some very interesting things about our NAWIC ladies, but that's a whole nother report and video.

On Friday morning we had Opening Ceremonies, Introductions, and Welcome to Forum. After that we jumped right to our keynote speaker, Leigh Anne Jasheway, talking about "your sanity under construction": using your sense of humor to build a strong foundation. She was (and probably still is) hilarious! She said laughter is a great stress reducer and that we should all practice laughing. She also said stress is Ego related.

Next was NAWIC Business. We were reminded to use the NAWIC website as there's a lot of information there to take advantage of. One being our "partner" services like car rentals, travelocity etc. Another is our NAWIC Operations Manual.

Carrie Fortier gave a presentation on "Women and Communication". Some of the highlights: Know your style of communication, know your audience/ employees Where there's cultural differences, learn how to bridge the differences.

One issue employers are having is the Generation Y that's coming into the work force. They have been scheduled all their life by their parents and they don't yet know how to function on their own.

She covered the top 10 obstacles of communication and the differences between boys and girls communication styles.

Next Christine Taylor Thompson gave us the Architectural Evolution of the University of Oregon with slides and narrative.

In the afternoon we went on a 3.5 mile walking tour of the University and Matthew Knight Arena. Great tour, very informative, and almost life threatening as it was the hottest day of the year.

Friday evening we had a great Welcome Party and a really fun NEF Fundraiser. Sandee Gerber did a great job putting together some competition relays. Total money raised at Eugene Forum for NEF \$2,047.00!

Saturday, some of the highlights were; a presentation on change orders, we had a Regional Caucus where we got to hear from various candidates in attendance. We discussed NAWIC's Strategic Plan which was started in 1993. The plan can be found very easily on the National website and should be implemented by the entire chapter.

We participated in an interesting Team Building Exercise. It revealed how the wrong people in the wrong position can initiate a communication breakdown. The exercise showed you really need to be an articulate communicator.

We reviewed Parliamentary Procedures. (Not one of my strong points)

In the evening we had a great dinner, raffle, announcements and awards. Resolutions were read and Forum was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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