

REGION IV CONFERENCE REPORT

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My first Regional Conference was in Troy, Mich., on March 26-29. The theme was "Welcome Aboard the SS NAIW." We stopped in many ports of call during the conference.

I arrived on Thursday evening in time for my first committee meeting, CWC. It was wonderful meeting new people immediately. It was then off to an Italian dinner at the nearby mall with a few fellow conference attendees.

I was asked to carry the Kentucky flag during the opening and closing ceremonies. So after returning from dinner it was time to practice the flag ceremony. The practice session allowed me to meet all the state CDs. Being able to participate in the flag ceremony made me feel more a part of NAIW and the conference.

Friday morning started with a light breakfast. Then it was off to the first timers' meeting which was a wonderful experience. I loved how it gave you a brief overall of the conference and let you meet other first time attendees. The best was the life saver we put on our name badges. The life saver gave us the right to be first for everything from the line for the bathroom, elevator and even the line to the buffet lunches.

From the first timers' meeting, it was off to class. We were given two options. Since I already had my ethics CE credits, I elected to attend "Tapping into Your Unlimited Career Potential." Barbara Norris was the speaker and had the entire class energized and participating.

From class it was off to Venice, Italy for lunch. Seating was assigned by the conference committee encouraging you to converse with those not in your local association.

The first business meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. The collect was read, and the head table was introduced. Then it was time for the presentation of colors. It was interesting to listen to the history of the state flags and what their symbols represent. The celebration of life ceremony for the five members Region IV lost this past year was very moving. The keynote speaker, Barbara Norris, gave us tips on packing the right items for the future. We took a short break then it was time for the CWC speak off. I was given the duty of sitting with the contestants as they waited for their turn to compete. Upon returning to the meeting the first registration report was given and Kentucky had 17 participants. The regional national nominating committee announced that Susan Holbrook was their candidate for RVP elect. President Jenelle Duffy announced that NAIW was good financially and the 2007-08 audit was complete and posted on line for review. National has eliminated credit card convenience charges and now also accepts Discover and American Express. The importance of membership retention and growth was discussed by President Duffy. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

After the business meeting, it was off to dinner. Two buses took attendees to Greektown for dinner and some casino fun. Several of my fellow BGAIW members along with two new friends from Lima, Ohio elected to have dinner at the mall again. We enjoyed the dinner and the conversation and are looking forward to meeting again at the regional conference in Ohio next year.

Saturday began with breakfast at Buckingham Palace. The Queen herself joined us. During breakfast the candidates took questions from the members.

The second business meeting was called to order at 8:55 a.m. The collect was read, and the head table was introduced again. Final reports were given. The new officers were elected. Susan Holbrook is the new RVP, Betsy Adams as the Delegate to the National Nominating Committee and Debra Craig as the Alternate Delegate to the National Nominating Committee. Networking weekend for 2009 will be held in Scioto Valley Ohio, August 21-23. Regional conferences for 2010 will be in Akron, Ohio and the 2011 will be in Lexington, Ky. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

The Awards and Presidents Luncheon was in Acapulco, Mexico. Taffy Troup from Insurance Women's Assoc. of Fort Wayne was named Insurance Professional of the Year; Jennifer Burton from South Bend-Mishawaka Assoc. of Insurance Women was named Rookie of the Year; Florence Nagy from Insurance Assoc. of Metro Detroit was named Claims Professional of the Year; Julie Williams from Buckeye Insurance Women won Risk Manager of the Year; and Tam Hileman from Buckeye Insurance Women was named Professional Underwriter of the Year. The AAMGA Award was presented to Norma Namensma from Grand Rapids Insurance Professionals. Sue Shaw presented the RVP Triangle Award with the education winner being Janet Holstine from Peninsula Assoc. of Insurance Professionals; Fellowship Winner was Betty Boling-Stull from Lenawee Assoc. of Insurance Professionals; Loyalty Winner was Pat Johnson from Insurance Professionals of Columbus; and All Around Winner was Florence Nagy from Insurance Assoc. of Metro Detroit. Tish Scott from Indian won the CWC. Linda Shearer from BGAIW was runner up, the difference was 2 points.

After the wonderful lunch the ship set sail and beneficial classes and workshops were offered. The port of call for the Past RVP reception was set in Tokyo, Japan at the Japanese Tea Room. Then on to the next port of call which was at the French Flower Market in Nice, France for the cocktail party and receiving line. The main port of call for the evening was in Paris, France for the Captain's Gala Dinner. Sunday morning brought a worship service with the final port of call landing back in Troy Mich., which was followed by the Bon Voyage Breakfast.