

CHAPTER HISTORY

The El Paso Chapter #248 of NAWIC was formed in June, 1978, and is one of almost 300 chapters throughout the United States. We also have chapters in Canada and affiliates in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Here in El Paso we have been giving scholarships to students from UTEP, NMSU, and Western Technical Institute, since 1981. While we started out on a small scale, we have given a total of over \$40,000 in scholarships as of 2009.

Some of our community services projects have included:

1979 - our first of many annual auctions worked with the Associated Builders & Contractors. We continued this joint project through 1987, when the local ABC chapter was dissolved.

1982 - Repairs & renovations at the Rape Crisis Center.

1984 - El Paso Child Care Center - repainted entire interior of this 6,000 sq. Ft. facility.

1984 - Our first year working with the Special Olympics Spring Track & Field events.....the first of twenty-four consecutive years working with these special athletes!

1984 - Painted the day care center facility at the Northeast YMCA.

1986 - We built an entire playground for children living at the Salvation Army Center.

1986 - We work to help a former member secure the remains of her burned out home....her insurance company was dragging their feet until they could determine the cause of the fire, and the city was ready to condemn the home and issue citations.

1991 - We built our first of several playhouses, all of which were donated to the "Casas for CASA" program. Our members worked nights and weekends for several months, building these playhouses, which set the standard for other "builders" who were donating to the program.

1992 - The Child Crisis Center support shop in northeast El Paso gets much needed partitions and shelving built and painted by NAWIC members.

1993 - We built a true-to-scale log cabin for the "Casas for CASA" program.....that playhouse is still in constant use by the winning family!

1996 - Child Crisis Center gets a 2,500 sf addition to their facility, and NAWIC members paint the entire interior of the new wing, again working nights and weekends to get the job done!

1997 - Habitat for Humanity calls upon NAWIC to help with their "women built home" in northeast El Paso. Members install the exterior insulation board and the roof joist system. A member firm secures students from El Paso Community College to install the electrical rough-in with all materials being donated by Tri-State Electric, from the permit to the panel to the finish trim work.

1998 - Constructed a permanent exhibit for the Health Connections at Insights Museum to teach children about the challenges faced by children with physical handicaps. This was a two room apartment, complete with ramps, cabinets, bath facilities and fully finished and accessorized, which allows participants to use a wheelchair and understand challenges.

1999 - Constructed a theater within the Insights Museum for the Health Connections to use for presentation to students. Our members built & finished sound-insulated partitions, installed carpet, and constructed steel & wood benches for seating.

2001 - Worked with the local Building Branch of the AGC to sponsor the first Construction Career Days in El Paso. This event involved over 3,000 high school students being transported to our County Coliseum to experience hands-on demonstrations and encourage them to consider a career in the construction industry.

2002 - Coordinated and produced the second Construction Career Days, again at the County Coliseum.

2002 - Signed an agreement with TXDOT to join their Adopt-a-Highway Program, with a commitment for a two-mile stretch of US 54 to be kept clean with quarterly trash pick-ups scheduled.

2002 - Members built a mobile puppet theater for the Health Connections to use

within the Insights Museum to education children on dental and medical care.

Seminars presented over the years have included:

Blueprint Reading

Construction Financing

Construction Law

Solar Energy

CPR

Critical Path Scheduling

Effective Communications

Passive Solar Adobe

Quantity Take-off for Estimators

Our NAWIC Education Foundation (known as NEF) promotes education through public schools with two programs. The first is “Block Kids,” which involves having elementary school-age kids presented with an assortment of Legos, tin foil, string & a rock. The students are then challenged to design a build something in a twenty-minute time frame. Our chapter has hosted as many as seven Block Kids competitions in one year at various elementary schools. The second program is the CAD design, where high school students are assigned a specific design challenge, with established perimeters. Those designs are then judged and the first place design is submitted to our Region 8 CAD chair. Each region chooses one first place winner, who then goes onward to the national competition between the fourteen regions. Last year, our 2009 first place winner also the first place winner on the regional level. Both of these activities take a lot of time and planning, but the end result is always worth the effort!

What we have accomplished in the past has, quite frankly, been both awesome and innovative within our industry. However, with the changing atmosphere of education here in El Paso, many of the seminars we have presented are now incorporated into training institutions.

Let’s use our history of successes, build on what we need now, and plan our future.....which will be tomorrow’s history!

