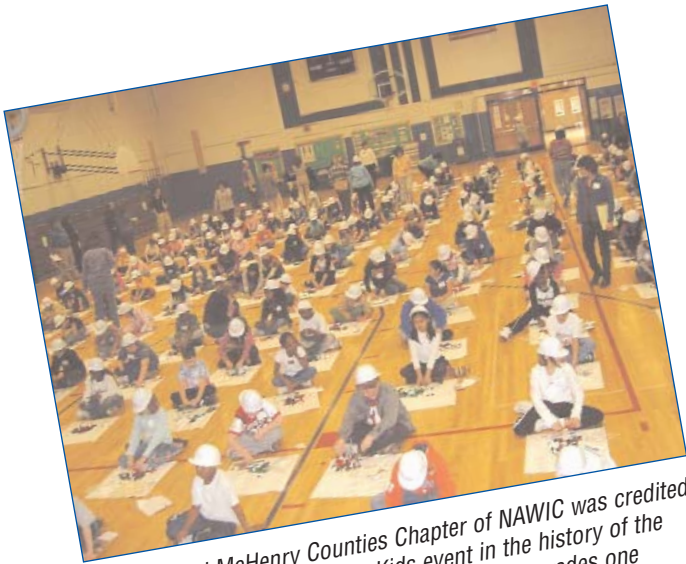




Block-Kids Goes Gang-Busters

Block-Kids events have always been a popular and fun way to promote construction education to grade school children. This year, various chapters in and around the country have had extra measures of success with their programs. Let's take a look ...



The Lake and McHenry Counties Chapter of NAWIC was credited with holding the largest Block-Kids event in the history of the Block-Kids program. About 413 children, from grades one through four, participated in the chapter's Block-Kids Contest held at Kenneth Murphy Elementary School in Beach Park, Ill. in March.



Andrew Combs claimed first place among first- and second-grade students during the Lake and McHenry Counties Chapter's Block-Kids Contest. Combs built a home, garage and surrounded them with landscaping in his winning entry. For his creativity and ingenuity, he took home a \$100 savings bond.



Jamie Shirling, left, project manager for Joseph J. Henderson & Sons Inc., Gurnee, Ill., and president of the Lake and McHenry Counties Chapter of NAWIC and Joyce Grana, senior accountant for Boller Construction Co., Waukegan, Ill., and immediate past chapter president, helped organize the largest Block-Kids event ever to be held.



In an effort to get back to normal after the events of Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Chapter hosted a Block-Kids contest for elementary school children in the Crescent City. Lynn Giavotella, Block-Kids chairman, said that there are only a few elementary schools open in New Orleans. The chapter hosted a Block-Kids event at Children's Hospital. The following students, pictured above from left to right, won first-, second- and third-place. Jason Andrepont of LaPlace, La., Christopher Welt of Metairie, La., and Jenna Alfonso of New Orleans.

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Kueker Leaves Legacy of Volunteer Commitment

Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS, past NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) president and long-time NEF trustee, passed away Feb. 26, 2006 after a brief illness.

Kueker was the office manager at Springfield Glass in Springfield, Ill. Employed by the company since 1982, she joined the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) a year later and quickly began her involvement in education issues. She played a pivotal role in helping steer the NAWIC Education Committee into the formation of the NAWIC Education Foundation.



Kueker strongly adhered to NEF's goals of educating women in construction with advanced skills as well as preparing future generations of students for careers in construction. Friends and colleagues of Kueker remember a leader who carried out her commitments to NEF with great service and devotion.

Dr. Roger Liska, EdD, FAIC, FCIQB, CPC, professor of construction science at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., knew Kueker for more than 15 years and served with her in various capacities on NEF's Board of Trustees. Liska believes Kueker left a lasting legacy of self-improvement through construction education.

"Carol taught us to remember that one's education never ends and to use the new skills and knowledge gained to help

improve the construction industry," he says.

Liska had enormous admiration for Kueker, especially in her work to get NEF's Certified Construction Association (CCA) program accredited. Accreditation of education programs can be a long and arduous process. But Kueker – working closely with Liska – was determined to achieve this lofty goal and eventually claimed success last summer when the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) recognized NEF as a provider of quality continuing education programs for its CCA program.

Linda Litle, NEF president-elect, served as NAWIC president when Kueker was NEF president. She said that Kueker's work in forging a strong partnership with Clemson University [that facilitates, reviews and updates NEF's certification exams] has been key to the foundation's success. Litle hopes that NEF can continue to build on the strong legacy that Kueker left.

One of Kueker's main goals for NEF (besides achieving quality education provider status for its CCA program), was having the Construction Industry Technician (CIT) and Construction Document Specialist (CDS) programs recognized by ACCE as well. Kueker had hoped that by getting all of NEF's programs recognized, the foundation would be the only organization to have all of its home study programs be recognized by ACCE.

Kueker saw the major potential that this goal would have on marketing NEF's programs to the industry. In addition,

Kueker felt that recognition would bring more credibility and value to NEF's programs, which have long been regarded as top notch.

Susan Carson, CIT, NEF president, worked with Kueker on NEF's Board of Trustees as well and admired the time and energy that she devoted to keeping NEF's adult education programs updated. Carson also says that Kueker's goal of getting ACCE to recognize NEF as a "quality education provider" revealed her willingness to work hard and see to completion anything that was her responsibility.

"She was the definition of, and set the standard for, what it means to be a 'volunteer,'" Carson says.

Memorial contributions and donations may be made to the "Carol Kueker Memorial Fund" and sent to: NEF/Attn: Carol Kueker Memorial Fund/PO Box 37069/Raleigh, N.C. 27627. For details on what the monies for this fund will be used for, please see the *Executive Director's Message* on page 3.

To read a complete obituary of Kueker, please visit www.nawiceducation.org.



www.nawiceducation.org

< Executive Director's Message >

NEF Programs in Full Bloom This Spring

Greetings from the national office of the NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF)! Spring is here, and events are in full bloom at NEF. Let me bring you up to date on 2006 so far:

◆ On Feb. 18-19, we held our Mid-Year Board of Trustees Meeting in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area. This two-day event was an opportunity for us to catch up on administrative work and plan a course for the coming year.

◆ I'm sad to report that The NAWIC Education Foundation lost a dear friend, trustee and great champion of construction education when Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS, passed away in February after a brief illness. Please see the remembrance of Carol on page 2. Carol played a pivotal role in the success and history of NEF for the past 20 years. She leaves behind a legacy of work for us to continue.

To continue this work, an account has been set up as the "Carol Kueker Memorial Fund." Contributions to this fund will be used to update the Construction Document Specialist (CDS) program, which was the project that Carol was working on at the time of her death. The recommendation is to use the Intermediate Construction Book, separate it into two sections, update it and prepare exams for Section 1 and Section 2. This means students of the CDS program must

pass both exams before receiving their certification.

◆ With spring in the air, we know it's time for Block-Kids events. Our chapters have been going gang busters promoting Block-Kids contests this year. It's been an exceptional year for Block-Kids with increased participation levels. See page 1

for more details.

◆ Please be sure to mark your calendar for NAWIC's 51st Annual Meeting and Convention to be held Sept. 6-9, 2006, in Kansas

City, Mo. Our raffle theme, "Follow the Yellow Brick Road," pays tribute to our stay in the Land of Oz. Our raffle was enormously successful last year, raising more than \$30,000 for our foundation. We are raffling some great prizes once again. You can purchase your raffle ticket(s) for \$25 at Annual Forum, online through the NEF Store and also at the NEF booth at convention in September. If you include your donation in a Ladder Club Envelope, it will be credited to your Ladder Club history.

There are a lot of exciting things we're doing to advance our core purpose and goals. You can't take advantage of it all if you don't know about it. So, read up and dive in!

— **Darline H. Johnson, CGS***

NEF Executive Director

* *Certified Grant Specialist*

< Trustee Spotlight >

Denise Redmond Crossland Shares Her Love of NEF

Denise Redmond Crossland, CCA, has a heart for the NAWIC Education

Foundation (NEF) and its programs. As a trustee of NEF, and secretary of its executive committee, Redmond Crossland's leadership has given her



ample opportunities to demonstrate her commitment to the foundation.

In October, she will be celebrating 23 years of membership in the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and for 18 of those years, she has been an active member of NEF. Redmond Crossland, a member of the Fresno, Calif., Chapter of NAWIC owns Check Book balances, a construction bookkeeping business. In addition, she works as a paralegal, assisting her husband who is an estate planning attorney.

This former national director of Region 10, got her feet wet with NEF when she took the Certified Construction Associate (CCA) course. She later served as the chair of the national Block-Kids program. Getting involved with Block-Kids helped

continued on page 4

Trustee Spotlight from page 3

Redmond Crossland appreciate the importance of construction education in the lives of young people today. She believes more needs to be done to educate children better about basic skills.

“Children graduating from school today do not even have basic math skills,” she says. “The local construction industry has been complaining about this. When they hire these kids, they are finding that they lack the basics.” As a book-keeper, Redmond Crossland realizes the need for strong math skills in the construction industry.

Besides the opportunities for service and involvement in NEF, Redmond Crossland appreciates the exposure to various construction fields through her participation in NEF and NAWIC.

One of the challenges she says that NEF faces today is getting its programs accredited. She applauds the efforts of Carol Kueker and others who worked so hard to get the CCA program recognized by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). She said that she would like to see NEF’s other programs, such as the Construction Industry Technician (CIT) and Construction Document Specialist (CDS) also be recognized by ACCE.

Redmond Crossland’s involvement in NEF is strong because she clearly believes in its purpose.

“We have a responsibility to educate our current and future workforce,” she says.

Interested in making a donation? All contributions to NEF are tax-deductible.

Keeping NEF Programs Up to Date

The construction industry is always changing. So is the information that is contained in NEF’s self-study programs. Here is an update on the revision of some of those programs.

◆ An Advisory Council made up of 30 industry experts and educators from various colleges around the country will be reviewing and updating the contents of the Construction Industry Technician (CIT) program.

◆ The new Certified Construction Associate (CCA) program was released March 1. Dr. Chris Piper of Clemson University completely reviewed and updated all six parts of the program. The CCA textbook is more user-friendly and features a new cover design.

◆ As the *Executive Director’s Message* mentioned, donations made to the “Carol Kueker Memorial Fund” will be used to update the Construction Document Specialist (CDS) course.

Support NEF Through Sponsorships

NEF offers five sponsorship levels for those companies wanting to become a “Partner in Education,” supporting the purpose and goals of the organization.

Sponsorships range from \$10,000 to \$500 per year to suit every interest level. As an NEF sponsor, companies support the quality work of NEF’s programs and are entitled to various promotional and marketing opportunities. To learn more about the benefits of a sponsorship, please visit www.nawiceducation.org and click on “Sponsorship Opportunities.”

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