



## **JANUARY 2010 THE CONNECTIONS**

**Volume No. 1**

**NAIW DALLAS, INC.**

**8820 Stemmons Fwy., Suite 340 LB60**

**Dallas, TX 75247**

**214.638.7000**

**[www.naiwdallas.com](http://www.naiwdallas.com)**

Dear Members and Friends:

Happy New Year! 2010 is finally upon us! I hope everyone had a peaceful and happy holiday season. And I hope everyone is ready for the New Year. This year will be a wonderful year for NAIW Dallas. We are so grateful for all of our new members and the opportunities to expand our membership to add even more thoughtful professionals.

This year, NAIW Dallas will offer numerous CE opportunities and other skill building courses. I hope that everyone will take advantage of these opportunities and enjoy all of the benefits of being a member of this great organization. Additionally, we will continue with all of our philanthropic pursuits such as Children's Medical, the Bill Priest Institute, and the North Texas Food Bank. I am so proud to be a part of an organization of individuals who do all that they can to give back to the community and to those less fortunate than ourselves. Linda Tate's service as the community action chairperson has been a vital element to these efforts. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to see the handmade ornaments presented to our organization by Nancy Johnson and the patients at Children's Medical at our holiday party last month. We will have these ornaments at our next meeting for everyone to enjoy.

Speaking of our next meeting, I hope that everyone will join us on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel in Farmer's Branch at 6:00 pm (board meeting at 5:15 pm). Our Vice President, Christina McCracken, has arranged for J.J. Knauff of the Miller Law Firm in Dallas to present "A Defense Primer for Suits by Illegal Aliens." This program is approved for 1.0 hour of CE credit. The course will be presented in a narrative form to highlight relevant law. Time will be allotted for questions and application of materials to both real and hypothetical case scenarios at the end of the presentation. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about this cutting edge topic. You will not want to miss it!

Please be sure to let Susie Lowry ([slowry2@lowryco.com](mailto:slowry2@lowryco.com)) know you will be attending the meeting by Friday, January 8, 2010, so that she can make our reservations with the hotel. Also, please note the menu selection in this newsletter. Please let Susie know by Friday if you would like to substitute your meal.

It has been a lot time since the holiday party! I cannot wait to see everyone and hear about everyone's holiday season. Until Tuesday, try to stay warm and enjoy the New Year!

My best to all of you,

Tracy Wolf  
NAIW Dallas, Inc.  
President 2009-2010  
[twolf@gordonrees.com](mailto:twolf@gordonrees.com)

## 2009-2010 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

### Officers:

President:	Tracy G. Wolf	twolf@gordonrees.com
VP:	Christina McCracken	cmccracken@gordonrees.com
Secretary:	Mildred Rainey	mbaby@dixonvision.com
Treasurer:	Anita Flynn	anitaflynn@aegislited.com
Director:	Dee McCullough	culla@sbcglobal.net
Director:	Sue Brewer	sbrewer@usic.com

### Chairs:

Arrangement:	Susie Lowry	slowry2@lowryco.com
Audit:	Pamela Scofield	pamela_scofield@ajg.com
Bylaws/Standing		
Rules:	Cathy Williams	Cathy.Williams@dpsg.com
Community Action:	Linda Tate	ltate2@lowryco.com
Education:	Debby Gilliam	dgilliam@usic.com
Event Planning		
Committee:	Sue Brewer	sbrewer@usic.com
Horizon Planning:	Tracy Wolf	twolf@gordonrees.com
Legislative:		
Membership:	Sidney Bartlett	se2bartlett@yahoo.com
Newsletter:	Tanja Martini	tmartini@aksmithlaw.com
Parliamentarian:	Joi Wilson	joi.wilson@starrisk.com
Resource/Raffle:	Susie Lowry	slowry2@lowryco.com
Scholarship:	Michelle Ward	Michelle.ward@RepublicGroup.com
Sunshine:	Sidney Bartlett	se2bartlett@yahoo.com

## ARRANGEMENTS

The January Dinner Meeting will be held on January 12, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Lane, LBJ/Midway, Dallas, 75244. The cost of dinner is \$26.00 (cash or check).

Board meeting will start at 5:15 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Cocktails are available at the bar at your own expense.

Susie Lowry  
Arrangements Chairman  
[slowry2@lowryco.com](mailto:slowry2@lowryco.com)  
214-638-7000

## JANUARY PROGRAM

Our guest speaker for the January 12, 2010 meeting will be J.J. Knauff of the Miller Law Firm in Dallas to present "A Defense Primer for Suits by Illegal Aliens." This program is approved for 1.0 hour of CE credit. The course will be presented in a narrative form to highlight relevant law. Time will be allotted for questions and application of materials to both real and hypothetical case scenarios at the end of the presentation. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about this cutting edge topic. You will not want to miss it!

Christina McCracken  
Program Chairman  
[cmccracken@gordonrees.com](mailto:cmccracken@gordonrees.com)

## COMMUNITY ACTION

Thanks to everyone, we were able to give a check of \$500 to Nancy Johnson, volunteer at Children's Medical, to purchase much needed craft items for the cancer patients on the 10th floor. She was able to purchase some Christmas items for their last craft gathering before Christmas. Also, we were able to give the Desoto Food Pantry \$50 for their angel tree project and about 50 lbs of canned goods and non-perishable items.

Again, thank you all for the support that you have given to our community throughout the year.

Linda Tate  
Community Action Chairman  
[ltate2@lowryco.com](mailto:ltate2@lowryco.com)

## RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Door Prize Donations are always welcome for our dinner meetings. Please bring wine, gift cards, movie tickets, or any items that would be fun to have to the meeting so we can continue our raffle program. Raffle tickets are sold during the dinner meetings for \$5.00 for 3 tickets or \$2.00 for 1 ticket. Let me know if you have some fund raising ideas to help our charities.

Please let me know if you have some fund raising ideas for NAIW Dallas. Scholarships, as well as donations to our charities will be given out at our May Luncheon. NAIW Dallas supports the following charities:

1. Children's Medical Center (Donations given to Nancy Johnson's Craft Program for the children;
2. Bill Priest Institute (Clothes donated help women dress for job interviews); and
3. North Texas Food Pantry (Food and cash donations help families in need).

Susie Lowry  
Resource Chairman  
[slowry2@lowryco.com](mailto:slowry2@lowryco.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Scholarship Chairman, I am now accepting applications for the Student of the Year Award. If you would like to recommend a student, please have him/her to submit his/her resume to me. Past resumes that I have reviewed included information about the student's job history, education, awards, seminars, and affiliations.

I am also seeking recommendations of candidates for the Police Officer of the Year Award and the Firefighter of the Year Award. If you would like to recommend a policeman or firefighter, please email a recommendation that identifies his/her accomplishments, awards, or something he/she has done to make him/her worthy of the recognition to me.

Please submit all suggestions and resumes to me by February 26, 2010.

The winner for each category will be presented with the award during our Banquet on May 12, 2010 at the Royal Oaks Country Club.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michelle Ward  
Scholarship Chairman  
[Michelle.Ward@RepublicGroup.com](mailto:Michelle.Ward@RepublicGroup.com)

## UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

### **National Convention June 9 – 13, 2010**

Marriott Crystal Gateway  
Washington, DC

### **2010 Region VI Regional Conference**

March 11 – 13, 2010  
Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX  
Hosted by Insurance Professionals of Bellaire

## 2009 CE INFORMATION FOR THE DFW AREA

For information on CE courses please go to <http://www.naiwdallas.com/education.htm>.

For information on free monthly 3, 4, or 6 hour CE courses, please go to:

[www.blackmonmooring.com](http://www.blackmonmooring.com)  
[amber@dalworth.com](mailto:amber@dalworth.com)  
[www.dalworth.com](http://www.dalworth.com)  
[www.servicemasterdfw.com](http://www.servicemasterdfw.com)  
[ldevlin@servproofgrapevine.com](mailto:ldevlin@servproofgrapevine.com)

For additional information on seminars that offer 1 hour of CE monthly in the DFW Metroplex, please go to:

[www.dallasclaims.com](http://www.dallasclaims.com)  
[www.maryroth.com](http://www.maryroth.com)  
[www.TheNationalAlliance.com](http://www.TheNationalAlliance.com)  
[www.cceucation.com](http://www.cceucation.com)  
[www.ceu.com](http://www.ceu.com)  
[www.irmi.com](http://www.irmi.com)  
[www.cceducation.com](http://www.cceducation.com)

[www.fortworthclaims.com](http://www.fortworthclaims.com)  
[www.InsureDallas.org](http://www.InsureDallas.org)  
[www.kfeducation.com](http://www.kfeducation.com)  
[www.touchstonebernays.com](http://www.touchstonebernays.com)  
[www.TXCE.com](http://www.TXCE.com)  
[www.webce.com](http://www.webce.com)  
[www.kaplanfinancial.com](http://www.kaplanfinancial.com)

Debby Gilliam  
Education Chairman  
[dgilliam@usic.com](mailto:dgilliam@usic.com)

## GREAT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Don't forget to check our website at [www.NAIWDALLAS.COM](http://www.NAIWDALLAS.COM).

To ensure timely circulation and posting of the NAIW Dallas Connections Newsletter, all articles, Committee Chair reports, and any other contributions for the Connections Newsletter must be submitted no later than the 25th day of the preceding month. Any contributions for the February Connections Newsletter must be submitted to [tmartini@aksmithlaw.com](mailto:tmartini@aksmithlaw.com) by January 25, 2010.

## GIVING TIP

To promote a charity close to your heart or to find great events that need your help in your community or nationwide, please go to <http://dallas.events.org/>.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

There are no January birthdays to celebrate this year.

## JANUARY RECIPE

Thank you Sue Brewer for submitting this delicious recipe for earthquake cake.



Earthquake Cake:

Line one long pan with "PAM"

Sprinkle pecan pieces over bottom of pan (about 1 cup)

Sprinkle 1 can of coconut over the pecans

Fix German Chocolate cake mix just like the box says.  
Spread over the above mixture

Combine 1 stick of butter(melted)  
1 8oz Cream Cheese  
1 box of Powdered Sugar  
(you won't be able to spread it-just take a big spoon & plop  
it over the cake mix

Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees

## JANUARY: A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS – WHERE DO THEY COME FROM AND HAVE YOU MADE YOURS?

The concept of the New Year's resolution is not new. The tradition of the New Year's resolution is recorded by the Babylonians 4,000 years ago. The first day of the year for this ancient civilization was March 23 and one of its popular resolutions was to return something borrowed from a friend during the previous year.

About 153 B.C., the Romans started their own New Year's resolution traditions. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, had two faces that he used to look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions. A common resolution in ancient Rome was to ask forgiveness from enemies of the past year.

January 1 became the beginning of the New Year in 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than previous calendars had. The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus, the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances. At midnight on December 31, the Romans imagined Janus looking back at the old year and forward to the new.

In the Middle Ages, Christians changed New Year's Day to December 25, the birth of Jesus. Then they changed it to March 25, a holiday called the Annunciation. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII revised the Julian calendar, and the celebration of the New Year was returned to January 1.

The Julian and Gregorian calendars are solar calendars. Other cultures, such as the Chinese, have lunar calendars based on the phases of the moon. A year in a lunar calendar is less than 365 days. The Chinese new year begins at the time of the first full moon (over the Far East) after the sun enters Aquarius- sometime between January 19 and February 21.

The Chinese New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years as well. One Chinese resolution custom is housecleaning, which tops many modern-day New Year's resolution lists. Whether or not these civilizations took their resolutions seriously and always achieved what they resolved to do is unknown.

Today many resolutions are made with the best intentions, but the majority of resolutions are not actually met. Have you made your New Year's resolution? If so, how are you planning to achieve your goal?

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Happy New Year and Happy New Decade! I hope you enjoyed reading this edition of the Connections Newsletter and found it useful. Please feel free to send suggestions, corrections, or future contributions to me. If you would like your contribution to appear in the February issue, please submit your contribution to me no later than January 25, 2010.

Tanja K. Martini  
Newsletter Chairman  
[tmartini@aksmithlaw.com](mailto:tmartini@aksmithlaw.com)