



MARCH 2010 THE CONNECTIONS

Volume No. 2

NAIW DALLAS, INC.

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Dear Members and Friends:

Spring will soon be here! I cannot believe all of the snow Dallas experienced in February. It was amazing and beautiful, but I am ready for warmer weather! March is going to be a busy month. Aside from it being Women's History Month, the American Red Cross Month, and the month during which we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Save a Spider Day (mark your calendars--March 14th), it is also time for the 67th Annual Region VI Conference at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas (March 11-13, 2010).

I am so excited to be attending the conference on behalf of NAIW Dallas this year. If you have not registered, there is still time and those of us attending would enjoy your company. I hope each of you will take the time to express your thoughts prior to the conference. I look forward to presenting a report of the conference upon my return.

Prior to the conference, we will have our regularly scheduled dinner meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Farmer's Branch at Hwy 635 and Midway on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:00 pm (board meeting at 5:15 pm). Our speakers this month will be our Texas Council Director, Anita Flynn, and our National Vice President, Joi Wilson. Please be sure to join us in preparation for the convention.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about events on the horizon. Our May Banquet will be held at the Royal Oaks Country Club on May 12, 2010. Please mark your calendars and advise Sue Brewer or Christina McCracken regarding any potential sponsors. Also, please mark your calendars for the NAIW National Convention at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, June 9-12, 2010. This will be my first National Convention and I cannot wait. It would be wonderful if as many of our members as possible could attend.

Also, we will be hosting one of NAIW's I CAN! presentations at the April 13, 2010 meeting. Please let Christina McCracken know if any particular topics interest you. We will order books during the first week of April. NAIW offers some wonderful programs and we would like to reap the benefits from our outstanding resources.

Please let Susie Lowry (slowry2@lowryco.com) know you will be attending this month's meeting by Friday, March 5, 2010, so she can provide the hotel with an accurate count. I really hope all of you can make it to the meeting! Joi and Anita are both extremely informative speakers and they have a lot of insight into the organization. Please be sure to review the menu selections in this newsletter and let Susie know if you would like to substitute your entree.

My best to each of you,

Tracy Wolf
NAIW Dallas, Inc.

President 2009-2010
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
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Chairs:

Arrangement:	Susie Lowry	slowry2@lowryco.com
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Rules:	Cathy Williams	Cathy.Williams@dpsg.com
Community Action:	Linda Tate	ltate2@lowryco.com
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Event Planning		
Committee:	Sue Brewer	sbrewer@usic.com
Horizon Planning:	Tracy Wolf	twolf@gordonrees.com
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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 March Dinner Meeting will be held on March 9, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Lane, LBJ/Midway, Dallas, 75244. The cost of dinner is \$26.00 (cash or check). Reservation Deadline - noon Monday, March 8, 2010.

March Menu

Grilled Center Cut Pork Chops with
Teriyaki Ginger Sauce
Wild Rice Medley
Fresh Vegetables
Dessert

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
214-638-7000

MARCH PROGRAM

Our guest speakers for the March 9, 2010 meeting will be our Texas Council Director, Anita Flynn, and our National Vice President, Joi Wilson.

Christina McCracken
Program Chairman
cmccracken@gordonrees.com

COMMUNITY ACTION

We will continue to collect work related clothes, purses, shoes and jewelry for Bill Priest Institute. They want the clothes on hangers and ready to wear so that the students can go out on job interviews. I have receipts available for these donations. Also, the food pantry is always in need of various items such as cereal, diapers, canned meat, beans, rice, toilet paper, soap, body lotion and other non perishable items. The grocery stores, including Wal-Mart, are now giving their day old breads, desserts and other items to the food pantries throughout Dallas. In the past, these items were thrown away when they could have been frozen and used later.

Also, we are looking for a silent auction item to bid on for the upcoming May event. This is a great way to make money for the Children's Medical Hospital's cancer unit. We did this a couple of years ago with an original oil painting and received over \$200. If you have any other ideas on this, please let me know.

Once again, thanks for all you do for our community.

Linda Tate
Community Action Chairman
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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

And the Oscar goes to...

The winner for each category will be presented with the award during our Banquet on May 12, 2010 at the Royal Oaks Country Club. The categories are Student of the Year Award, Police Officer of the Year Award, and the Firefighter of the Year Award.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Michelle Ward
Scholarship Chairman
Michelle.Ward@RepublicGroup.com

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS AND BANQUETS

2010 Region VI Regional Conference

March 11 – 13, 2010

Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX

Hosted by Insurance Professionals of Bellaire

NAIW DALLAS ANNUAL BANQUET

May 12, 2010

Royal Oaks Country Club

National Convention June 9 – 13, 2010

Marriott Crystal Gateway

Washington, DC

2010 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
amber@dalworth.com
www.dalworth.com
www.servicemasterdfw.com

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
www.maryroth.com
www.TheNationalAlliance.com
www.cceucation.com
www.ceu.com
www.irmi.com
www.cceducation.com

www.fortworthclaims.com
www.InsureDallas.org
www.kfeducation.com
www.touchstonebernays.com
www.TXCE.com
www.webce.com
www.kaplanfinancial.com

Debby Gilliam
Education Chairman
dgilliam@usic.com

[GREAT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS](#)

Happy Belated Birthday to Dee McCullough on February 1 and Christina McCracken on February 9.

Don't forget to check our website at 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 March Connections Newsletter must be submitted to tmartini@aksmithlaw.com by March 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/>.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 4 - Lynn Chambers, CPIW

March 8 - Michelle A. Brindley

March 16 - Maren Friedhoff

MARCH RECIPE

Oven Roasted Salmon

Thank you Linda Tate for this great recipe.

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tbspn Olive Oil
2 Lbs. Salmon (cut into pieces)
1/2 Tspn seasoned salt
1 bag (5 oz.) baby spinach
1/4 cup heavy cream
2-3 Tbspns sweetened, flaked coconut

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

- Pour olive oil into a large, oven-proof skillet and heat over medium-high heat
- Salt salmon on both sides and cook 1-2 minutes on each side.
- Remove salmon from the skillet and set aside.
- Add spinach to juices in skillet.
- Pour cream over spinach and sprinkle with coconut on top.
- Place salmon on top of spinach.
- Place skillet in the oven.
- Bake for 7 - 8 minutes until salmon is opaque and juices are bubbling.

Serve at once.

This is scrumptious and served with a fruit salad or other salad is a meal all in itself.
So easy and so tasty.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUN FACTS

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The First Parade

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants.

Each year, nearly three million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics began pouring into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block,

known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Wearing of the Green Goes Global

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia. In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows.

The Chicago River

Chicago is famous for a somewhat peculiar annual event: dyeing the Chicago River green. The tradition started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week!

Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only 40 pounds of dye are used, making the river green for only several hours. Although Chicago historians claim their city's idea for a river of green was original, some Savannah natives believe the idea originated in their town. They point out that, in 1961, Savannah mayor Tom Woolly had plans for a green river. Due to rough waters on March 17, the experiment failed, and Savannah never attempted to dye its river again

Happy St. Patrick's Day and welcome March Madness! 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 April issue, please submit your contribution to me no later than March 25, 2010.

Tanja K. Martini
Newsletter Chairman
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