



# Capital News & Views

## NAPO National Board President Visit

Monday June 7, 2010 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm

Join us for a unique opportunity to visit with the NAPO President, Laura Leist, CPO®, CRTS. She will speak about how NAPO works, NAPO's strategic plan for the future of our association and industry, and its current projects and priorities. Members and guests will have an opportunity to learn about the association as a whole and ask questions of the NAPO President.

Laura is the founder of *Eliminate Chaos*, Washington State's largest organizing services firm with ten employees. She is also the author of five books including *"Eliminating Chaos... The 10-Step Process to Organizing Your Home & Life"*, three books on Microsoft Outlook and another book to be released in 2010, *"Eliminating Paper Chaos"*.

A NAPO board member visits our chapter only once every two years so you won't

want to miss an opportunity to hear what is happening at NAPO and get your questions answered!

### Corporate Partner Expo

Come early to attend the Corporate Partner Expo from 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm. Check out their current promotions and learn about their referral programs. Get to know our Corporate Partners!

### Ask the Experts Focus Group

Come early (6:15 pm) to register and network. If you are new to organizing, attend our informal "Ask the Expert" focus group from 6:30 to 6:55 pm, hosted by a member of NAPO's Golden Circle.

### In This Issue

<i>Chapter Meeting Information</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>IKEA Open House</i>	3
<i>NAPO Conference</i>	4
<i>Lending Library</i>	5
<i>Website Report</i>	6
<i>Book Club Info</i>	7
<i>Golden Circle</i>	8
<i>Premium Partner Spotlight</i>	9
<i>Member News</i>	10
<i>Awards Dinner</i>	10

**Chapter Mission:**  
To develop, lead and promote professional organizers and the organizing industry.

### Location

Kena Shriners  
9001 Arlington Blvd.  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
703-573-4203  
[www.kena.org](http://www.kena.org)

From I-495 take Exit 50 West, Arlington Blvd./Route 50, towards Fairfax. Travel two miles, then turn left at the light onto Barkley Drive. Take immediate right onto the service road. Turn left at the second entrance into parking lot. Ample free parking.

### Agenda

6:15—7:00 pm Registration, networking and "Ask the Expert" focus group. Corporate Partner Expo.

7:00—9:00 pm Program and business meeting.

Guests are welcome to attend for a \$25 fee per meeting.

*Professional Attire Please*

This Issue  
NAPO Conference

**NAPO-WDC 2009-2010  
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## Goal Setting and My Conference Experience



Janet Schiesl  
*Basic Organization*  
NAPO-WDC President  
[www.BasicOrganization.com](http://www.BasicOrganization.com)

Goal setting is an important exercise in running a successful business. But how do you choose the right goals to propel your business forward? It has to be something realistic, yet challenges you to move forward. Sometimes I am stymied to come up with my next step.

Now I have a confession to make. Last April I attended my first NAPO conference. In my years in business I had never set “attend NAPO conference” very high on my list of business goals. I’m not sure why. I had always thought about it but had never made it a priority.

I started to change my thinking on the way to Columbus, when Susan Kousek (one of my mentors and a member of the national conference program committee that will select speakers and programs for the 2011 conference in San Diego) asked me why I had never attended conference. “Did I not perceive the value?” she asked. I didn’t really have a good answer for her. I went through the regular excuses of “the economy, other priorities and not in my budget”. But were these really the reasons? I couldn’t give Susan a clear answer.

I kept her question in mind as I moved through my first conference experience. As I attended conference sessions and met my fellow organizers, I began to realize how motivating and idea creating this experience was for me. I walked away from each conversation and each workshop with ideas and lessons I wanted to incorporate into my business life. Why did I wait so long to experience this rush of positive energy?

Since attending the NAPO conference in April, I have set new goals for myself and my business.

- I have refined the definition of my ideal client and business model, and set guides to work toward them.
- I have identified several areas of my business that I need to delegate to support people.
- I have jumped into social networking and gotten my feet wet. There is still a lot to learn!

I have to say that I always thought that conference was for the established business owners, the “people who had made it”, until at one conference gathering all the new organizers were asked to stand. To my surprise, a great many people stood. Now I believe these new organizers were the smartest people in the room. They were taking the best opportunity we have each year to jump start our business goals and they were not waiting until they “made it”. They were setting their goals for success by coming to the NAPO conference.

My days in Columbus were a wonderful, energy-charged experience for me. But the most important lesson I learned was that I should have put conference attendance higher on my priority list.

Live and learn. I’ll see you in San Diego next year!

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## IKEA Open House



Wendy Rogers of IKEA, speaks with Pi-errette Ashcroft and other NAPO-WDC members during the store tour.



Sally Wagner of IKEA shows C. Lee Cawley features of an IKEA kitchen.

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## June Visit from NAPO President Leist



NAPO's current president Laura Leist will be our guest at the NAPO-WDC June chapter meeting. She will be here to update us on what is happening at the NAPO national level that can benefit you.

Also, take advantage of one last chance to network before the summer break. Directly after the chapter meeting join Laura Leist and your fellow chapter members on the patio at Sweetwater Tavern. It is conveniently located between the meeting site and the Beltway. Maps will be available at the chapter meeting.

Hope to see you there!

### NAPO-WDC 2009-2010 Committee Chairs

Golden Circle

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Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton

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703-969-8407

# NAPO Conference 2010

## Two Sides of a Coin

### September

- 14 Chapter Meeting:  
Lessons Learned  
Rock Creek Mansion  
Bethesda, MD
- 15 Book Club North



Alisa Levy  
*Embrace Your Space*  
NAPO-WDC Vice-President  
[Alisa@EmbraceYourSpace.net](mailto:Alisa@EmbraceYourSpace.net)

### October

- 1-3 NSGCD Fall  
Conference  
Los Angeles
- 5 Chapter Meeting:  
Tech Talk  
Workshops  
Kena Shriners  
Fairfax, VA
- 17 MARCPO
- 21 Book Club South

Recently, Kim Oser and I gave the Grand Tour of the 2010 NAPO Conference to NAPO-WDC's Rockville Pike Neighborhood Group. Here's what we covered.

A large part of the conference revolves around speakers and workshops. Highlights of these presentations include:

- "Ask the Organizers" Panel moderated by Monica Ricci
- Opening Keynote Speaker Tim Sanders discussed creating "wow" experiences for your clients
- Gina Schreck, The Geek Chick (aka Geeky Girl on YouTube) showed us how the sometimes scary world of technology can help us to innovate, connect and inspire
- Two members of NASMM (National Association of Senior Move Managers) presented "Engaging the Aging – Marketing to the Senior Client"
- Sharon Lowenheim presented "Less is More: Maximizing Small Residential Spaces"
- Closing Keynote Speaker Monica Wolford spread "Contagious Confidence"

Three of our NAPO-WDC members also presented:

- Lauren Halagarda did "Tackle the Towering To-Do List: Task Management & Technology"
- Scott Roewer did "An 'Apple' Today, Keeps Disorganization Away"
- Susan Kousek was a member of a panel discussing Small Business Organizing.

Our Associate Members set up an outstanding Expo Hall featuring the latest products and services available. Over 60 vendors met with us, showering us with information and samples of their products. Just a smattering of these included The Container Store, Time Timer, Ziploc, Office Max, Esselte, A Red Bench, Organized A to

Z.com as well as many, many others. Each conference attendee also received a NAPO tote bag and water bottle.

In addition to great presentations and the Expo Hall, we did quite a variety of other activities, had other meetings and attended receptions. Some of these included:

- Leadership Forum for chapter officers.
- Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings
- Scavenger Hunt in the Expo Hall
- Golden Circle Meeting
- Quantum Leap® Meeting
- Annual Membership Meeting/Luncheon
- Awards Luncheon
- Reception with the stars of A&E's popular show *Hoarders*
- NSGCD Reception
- "Tweetup" starring Kim Oser and Deb Lee
- NSGCD Level 2 Chronic Disorganization exams were taken and passed by Terri Fischer and Alisa Levy

In between and during these presentations and activities came what many would say is the most important part of conference, meeting other organizers. Seeing old friends and making new ones is an experience beyond description. Being recognized by and meeting Facebook friends is amazing. Not only do we speak the same language but we have a common purpose. Somehow, a hotel full of your "peeps" creates its own aura.

So, we have the two sides of the coin called Conference. Call it "Knowledge and Camaraderie" or "Education and People". I can only say, "Together, we are better".

See you next year in San Diego!

### November

- 2 Chapter Meeting:  
Ethics in Organizing  
Rock Creek Mansion  
Bethesda, MD
- 14 New Member  
Brunch  
Invitation Only  
Vienna, VA
- 17 Book Club North

### December

- 7 Chapter Meeting:  
How to Grow Your  
Business and Make  
More Money  
Kena Shriners  
Fairfax, VA
- 16 Book Club South

### January

- 4 Chapter Meeting:  
Organizing Specialty  
Workshops  
Rock Creek Mansion  
Bethesda, MD
- 12 Book Club North

(Continued on page 5)

# NSGCD wins NAPO Organizers' Choice Award Two Years in a Row

(Continued from page 4)

For the second year in a row, the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization (NSGCD) has won the Organizers' Choice Award in the Best Service category. Award recipients were announced at the recent NAPO conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The mission of the NSGCD is to benefit people affected by chronic disorganization. The NSGCD explores, develops and communicates information, organizing techniques and solutions to professional organizers, related professionals and the public.

For more information about the NSGCD, please visit <http://www.nsgcd.org>, or contact your NAPO-WDC NSGCD Ambassador, Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton, at [Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com](mailto:Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com).

## Lending Library Expands!



Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton  
Organizing Maniacs  
NAPO-WDC Secretary  
[Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com](mailto:Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com)

Just wanted to give everyone an update on the exciting new additions to our lending library!

- We added the 2010 NAPO Conference CDs.
- We added the 2009 MARCPO Conference CDs.  
*(FYI — Save the Date for the 2010 MARCPO Conference – October 2, 2010 in Bethesda, MD. We have some AWESOME speakers lined up already!)*
- We added the 2009 NSGCD Conference CDs.
- We received a gift from Marla Dee – Get Organized the Clear & Simple Way – Unabridged Set of 8 CDs.
- We replaced tapes for the 2003 NAPO Conference with CDs.
- We replaced tapes for the 2004 NAPO Conference with CDs.

Also, I would like to remind everyone to be careful with lending library materials and be sure to return all borrowed CDs. Starting in the fall we will be enforcing our damaged and missing items policy.

### Become a Certified Professional Organizer® (CPO®)

Check out the official [CPO® website](#) to find eligibility requirements, answers to commonly asked questions and other details to help you decide if you are ready to sit for future CPO® examinations.

#### Benefits of Certification

- Recognition of achievement within the industry.
- Competitive market advantage.
- Professional development and increased knowledge gained through preparation for the BCPO examination.
- Listing on the BCPO web site.
- Authority to use the CPO® designation on letterhead, business cards and all marketing materials.

### February

1 Chapter Meeting:  
Getting Measurable  
Results With the  
Residential Client  
Kena Shriners  
Fairfax, VA

17 Book Club South

### March

1 Chapter Meeting:  
Project Management  
Rock Creek Mansion  
Bethesda, MD

16 Book Club North

### April

5 Chapter Meeting:  
What's New?  
Kena Shriners  
Fairfax, VA

21-24 NAPO National  
Conference  
Columbus, OH

### May

3 Chapter Meeting:  
Annual Awards  
Dinner  
Location: TBD

18 Book Club North

### June

7 Chapter Meeting:  
NAPO 2010  
Kena Shriners  
Fairfax, VA

16 Book Club South

### July

20 Book Club North

### August

18 Book Club South

**No chapter meetings  
in July or August.**

## Newsletter Information

Published monthly (September through June) by the Washington DC Chapter of NAPO, PO Box 7301, Arlington, VA 22207-0301, 202-362-6276. The contents are copyrighted, with all rights reserved.

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## Newsletter Topic Schedule

Sept	Welcome Back
Oct	Tech Talk
Nov	Ethics in Organizing
Dec	Successful Marketing
Jan	Unique Business Models
Feb	Residential Highlights
Mar	Safety on the Job
Apr	What's New?
May	Organizing Students
Jun	NAPO 2010

The deadline for each newsletter submission is one week after each chapter meeting.

The NAPO-WDC Chapter is  
*(Continued on page 7)*

# Website Report

Nealey Levi  
*On Track*  
NAPO-WDC Director of Communication & Technology  
[liveontrack@gmail.com](mailto:liveontrack@gmail.com)



Date	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits
April 2010	811	1350 (1.66 visits/visitor)	3895 (2.88 pages/visit)	34,279 (25.39 hits/visit)
April 2009	596	986 (1.65 visits/visitor)	3048 (3.09 pages/visit)	25,608 (25.97hits/visit)

## TECH TIP – [www.NAPO.net](http://www.NAPO.net)

How much do you know about the national NAPO website? There are oodles of resources there, so I thought I would outline a few awesome ones for you. Enjoy!

- In the *Our Profession* section, there are really interesting organizer statistics.
- In the *Get Organized* section, there are eye-opening consumer case studies , perfect to show to potential and current clients!
- In the *Our Profession* section, there is a helpful list of resources links pointing to websites dedicated to helping small business owners.
- In the *For Members* section, there is a searchable statistics database that will blow your mind!
- In the *For Members* section, there is a publicity tool kit to make getting the word out easier.

## Membership News:

### Final Pro-rated Dues Period Begins June 1st

As a reminder to our Membership, NAPO-WDC launched a pro-rated dues structure at the beginning of the 2009-2010 membership year which began October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 the second pro-rated dues period begins and will be in effect through September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. New member dues for this period are \$55 plus the required \$25 membership processing fee.

The prorated dues option only applies to new members joining at this time. All new members will then be subject to the full renewal rate during our annual Membership Renewal Drive, which begins in August and continues through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please visit the chapter website at for details or contact Jackie Kelley, Director of Membership at [membership@dcorganizers.org](mailto:membership@dcorganizers.org).

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# Book Clubs

## Book Club North

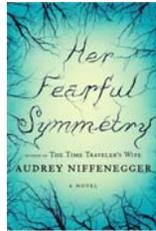
Coordinator: Lynn Meltzer  
*Clutter and Paperworks*

When: Tuesday, July 20, 7pm

Where: Home of Melanie Patt-Corner  
301-263-9482

Book: *"Her Fearful Symmetry"* by  
Audrey Niffenegger

Following her breakout bestseller, [The Time Traveler's Wife](#), Audrey Niffenegger returns with [Her Fearful Symmetry](#), a haunting tale about the complications of love, identity, and sibling rivalry.



## Book Club South

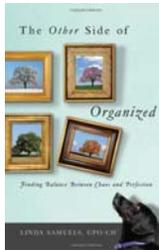
Coordinator: Judy Parkins  
*Gently Organized*

When: Wednesday, June 16, 7pm

Where: Gently Organized Office  
Alexandria, VA

Book: *"The Other Side of Organized"* by  
Linda Samuels

An industry veteran of 17 years and NAPO member for 16, Samuels shares her experience with organizers and clients. The book is divided by seasons and focuses on philosophical ideas about organizing and life balance mixed with a dose of practicality.



(Continued from page 6)

committed to providing information through the newsletter. Contributions from members are encouraged. All articles are subject to editing. Please include your full name, business name, email address and photo for possible publication.

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact Lauri Mennel, [Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com](mailto:Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com). NAPO-WDC makes no endorsement of products or services advertised.

Advertising sizes and rates:

Small (3 1/2 x 2") \$30

Medium (3 1/2 x 4") \$50

Large (7 x 4") \$100

25% discount for members

25% discount for repeat ads  
(three or more consecutive months)

All ads must be pre-paid.  
Rates subject to change at  
anytime.

Take part in this great opportunity to get to know other members and to share your knowledge. The NAPO-WDC Book Clubs meet every month (alternating locations) and choose their own books.

All chapter members are welcome to attend. The clubs read organizing books or books related to business. We discuss the aspects of each book and how the book relates to our work as organizers and small business owners.

Please check the chapter newsletter for future dates for both the North and South Book Club. RSVP to Lynn Meltzer at [arnielynn@verizon.net](mailto:arnielynn@verizon.net) or 301-530-3551 for directions to the Book Club North meetings. RSVP to Judy Parkins at [judy@gentlyorganized.com](mailto:judy@gentlyorganized.com) or 703-548-1000 for directions to the Book Club South meetings.

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### Book Club North Review: *"Digging Out: Helping Your Loved One Manage Clutter, Hoarding and Compulsive Acquiring"* by Michael Tompkins, PhD and Tamara Hartl

We gave this book five stars. It provides suggestions which would really help everyone improve their professional skills with all their clients and family members. We all agreed this was a "Must Read" book.

The authors take a different approach to helping families of clients who hoard by reconnecting with them and developing and implementing a "harm reduction" plan. Rather than stress the removal of items, the book stresses protecting your loved one's health and safety. Chapters have "how to plans", tips for successful problem solving and a review of what was taught in each chapter. There are tips on setting workable, realistic goals, how to develop target areas, getting everyone on board, implementing successful contracts and so much more. In addition there are many informational charts to help professionals and family members as well as a list of resources.

Lynn Meltzer

### Board Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled immediately preceding the September chapter meeting. Board meetings are open to all chapter members. To ensure enough space at the location of an upcoming board meeting, non-board members who wish to attend should contact Chapter President Janet Schiesl one week prior to the meeting.

**NAPO-WDC  
Corporate Partners**

**Premium Partners**

123Junk.com  
[www.123junk.com](http://www.123junk.com)

Closet Factory Washington DC  
[www.closetfactory.com](http://www.closetfactory.com)

Clutter Free Box  
[www.clutterfreebox.com](http://www.clutterfreebox.com)

Homeplexity  
[www.homeplexity.com](http://www.homeplexity.com)

Junk in the Trunk  
[www.JITT.com](http://www.JITT.com)

**Standard Partners**

College Hunks Hauling Junk  
[www.1800junkusa.com](http://www.1800junkusa.com)

The Container Store  
[www.containerstore.com](http://www.containerstore.com)

Eco-Nize Closets  
[www.eco-nize.com](http://www.eco-nize.com)

More Space Place  
[www.morespaceplace.com](http://www.morespaceplace.com)

ReSale Solutions  
[www.resale-solutions.biz](http://www.resale-solutions.biz)

Shelf Genie  
[www.shelfgenie.com](http://www.shelfgenie.com)

# Golden Circle Report



Helen Montfort  
*Making Space for Life*  
NAPO-WDC Golden  
Circle Liaison  
[hsmontfort@mac.com](mailto:hsmontfort@mac.com)

## Ask the Expert Table

At the beginning of each chapter meeting, an "Ask the Expert" table is hosted by Golden Circle members. This gives new folks an opportunity to ask questions of more seasoned organizers and for GC members to give back to the organizing community. Volunteers are still needed for upcoming dates. Please let Helen know which meeting you'd like to be the "expert!"

## Golden Circle Gatherings

Our first Golden Circle social event will be on Sunday, October 17. We will be going by bus on a wine tour! More details to follow.

## Golden Circle Listserv

If you are part of the NAPO national chat, then you know that this membership benefit provides a wealth of information on a daily basis. But are you aware that there is also a Golden Circle Member listserv?

This is another venue for more seasoned professional organizers from around the country to network, to ask each other for advice, to get a referral for a vendor or product and to share knowledge about a variety of topics with other Golden Circle members. Find more information about this listserv at:

<http://lists.napo.net/listmanager/listinfo/golden-circle>



## Golden Circle

Golden Circle originated in 1990 as a way to recognize our veteran members with a special designation for their dedication to the organizing profession and to NAPO. There are more than 600 members throughout the country and 48 in our area.

If you've been in business as an organizer for at least five years and a NAPO member for at least one year, you may qualify for GC membership. To apply, go to [http://napo.net/members/gc/golden\\_circle\\_application.pdf](http://napo.net/members/gc/golden_circle_application.pdf) for an application.

There are no membership fees or dues and new members receive a GC certificate and a gold membership pin. The GC logo can be used on your marketing collateral and you are designated in the national and local NAPO membership directories, and websites, as a Golden Circle member.

GC members attend many outstanding events at the NAPO national conferences including luncheons, special lectures and roundtable discussion groups as well as attend local get togethers.

# Premium Corporate Partner Spotlight

**Mubuso Zamchiya**  
Co-Owner  
Homeplexity, LLC

## What is your company's biggest challenge?

Homeplexity, LLC is new in the marketplace. We're taking on an industry that has some established players with a head start and a command of everyone's attention. Our biggest challenge – which we are completely excited about since our model is unique – is to establish our own footprint in the marketplace, help our customers and clients understand how we're different and of value to them, and radically improve the way homeowners and professionals like you connect and interact.

## How does Homeplexity Work?

**For Homeowners:** Our business is designed to help people succeed as homeowners. To us that means providing them access to tools, professionals, merchants and opportunities that can best help them manage, maintain and improve their homes and impact their communities, while also reducing the complexities associated with homeownership. Starting in June, 2010, homeowners will be able to join our site at [www.homeplexity.com](http://www.homeplexity.com) and enjoy the community and its services for only \$7 a month.

**For Professionals:** To provide homeowners with access to professionals organizers as well as twenty other disciplines, we've launched another community called Prohomeplexity ([www.prohomeplexity.com](http://www.prohomeplexity.com)). Professionals who join this community for only \$25 a month will get benefits including:

- A dynamic marketing video (to feature on our websites as well as yours);
- Business profiles on [Homeplexity.com](http://Homeplexity.com) and [Prohomeplexity.com](http://Prohomeplexity.com);
- Access to leads from [Homeplexity.com](http://Homeplexity.com);
- Online, project and client management tools, including invoicing tools, as well as PayPal integration;
- Networking opportunities online and at business mixers with other Prohomeplexity.com professionals;
- Access to business service providers.

## Does Homeplexity offer a discount to professional organizers and their clients?

**Yes we do.** We're offering free membership for 6 months to all NAPO members who join ProHomeplexity.com by June 30, 2010. All you have to do is cover the cost of your video production – which is \$199 if you make a one time payment; or two payments of \$99 over two months; or three payments of \$69 over three months.

The video shoot is an exciting experience. We come to your location with our videographers. They film for about an hour and reduce your best takes down to a 2-3 minute infomercial which we feature on our two websites and allow you to place on your website, too.



## NAPO-WDC Chapter Membership Dues

Regular chapter membership requires membership in NAPO National (*see below*).

Current prorated dues \$55  
(*see page 6 for more info*)  
Regular chapter member (local) \$165  
Regular chapter member (non-local) \$120  
New member one-time processing fee \$ 25

Corporate Partner  
Standard: \$325  
Current Prorated Dues: \$185

Corporate Partner  
Premium : \$500  
Current Prorated Dues: \$300

Membership year is from October 1 through September 30.

For NAPO-WDC Chapter membership information and application, visit [www.napowdc.com](http://www.napowdc.com) or contact the Membership Director Jackie Kelley at [membership@dcorganizers.org](mailto:membership@dcorganizers.org). For Corporate Partner info, contact Julie Gray at [corporatepartners@dcorganizers.org](mailto:corporatepartners@dcorganizers.org).

## NAPO National Member Dues

Provisional member annual dues \$180  
Active member annual dues \$200  
Corporate Associate member annual dues \$550  
One-time processing fee \$ 20

Send NAPO National dues to:  
NAPO  
15000 Commerce Parkway  
Suite C  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
Tel: 856-380-6828  
Fax: 856-439-0525  
Visit the website to download a membership application.

## Welcome New Members!

Kimberly Gleason  
Hamilton, VA  
[areuorganized@aol.com](mailto:areuorganized@aol.com)

Callie Schaper  
Alexandria, VA  
[callieschaper@yahoo.com](mailto:callieschaper@yahoo.com)

Diana Firth  
Arlington, VA  
[simplifywithdi@yahoo.com](mailto:simplifywithdi@yahoo.com)

There are currently 108 members and 11 Corporate Partners in NAPO-WDC. There were 39 members (regular and CP) at our May 2010 membership awards dinner.

### Membership Directory

Detailed information about members can be found on our chapter website, [www.napowdc.com](http://www.napowdc.com), in the Members Only section.

### Changes and Corrections

Once you join or renew your chapter membership, you can update your own information at any time. Go to [www.napowdc.com](http://www.napowdc.com). From the "About Us" menu, select "Members Only Pages." Enter your NAPO National membership number and your unique password. Click "My Account" and make changes.

# 2010 Membership Appreciation and Awards Dinner



Lauri Menne  
Bluebonnet Professional  
Organizing  
[Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com](mailto:Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com)

The NAPO-WDC Annual Membership and Awards Dinner was held on May 3, 2010 at the Positano Ristorante Italiano restaurant in Bethesda. The food and company was fabulous as chapter members, the board of directors and Corporate Partners gathered in a wonderful private dining room to network and show appreciation to the many volunteers who help make the chapter run smoothly. There were 54 chapter members recognized for their contributions over the past year.

After networking, a glass of wine or two and tasty hors d'oeuvres, all were seated and outgoing President Judy Parkins welcomed everyone. She proudly listed the numerous accomplishments the chapter had made over the past year which couldn't have happened without the efforts of the chapter members.

Some of the highlights of the year included completing required financial audits, establishing a board Google group, upgrading meeting equipment, increasing our social media presence on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, launching new meeting locations, creating chapter t-shirts, revising the chapter operations manual and hosting a new member brunch. In addition, a member skills and interest survey was completed, a super successful GO Month was held with IKEA, new member benefits were implemented including a new member packet, online application and prorated membership fees. Finally,

three NAPO in the Neighborhood groups were established, our Alexa Internet ranking dropped below one million (that's a good thing!), informative open houses were hosted by The Container Store and IKEA, and a candidate forum and transparent board elections were held. Wow! What a busy, productive year!

After the current board of directors was recognized, along with all 54 volunteers, it was time to present the chapter awards. Julie Gray presented the **Corporate Partner of the Year Award** to **The Container Store** which was accepted by Kim Matalon from the Rockville store. Lauren Halagarda presented **Deb Lee, D. Allison Lee, LLC**, the **Professional Organizer of the Year Award**. Janet Schiesl gave **Alisa Levy, Embrace Your Space**, her **Volunteer of the Year Award**. And Judy Parkins surprised **Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton, Organizing Maniacs**, with the **President's Key Leader Award**. Congratulations to each of these worthy award recipients!

Judy Parkins, NAPO-WDC president, then presided over the installation of the new board of directors, effective May 15, 2010.

Everyone anxiously anticipated the drawing for the free chapter membership for 2010-2011. And the winner was...**Jane Campbell** of Back in Sorts Organizing Systems! Congrats to Jane for winning this very coveted prize!

## Organizing Assistants

Are you interested in letting other chapter members know you want to work as an organizing assistant? Advertise in the monthly Constant Contact. This publication comes out approximately one week before chapter meetings.

The list will consist of your name, phone number, email address and photo. You will be able to purchase space on the list for \$45 for a three month ad. Sign up now for the September issue! Contact [Lauri Menne](mailto:Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com) for more information



Happy 2010 Award Winners: Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton, Deb Lee, Alisa Levy and Kim Matalon from The Container Store.



New board of directors: Judy Parkins, Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton, Helen Long, Alisa Levy, Janet Schiesl, Susan Unger, Pierrette Ashcroft, Nealey Levi and Jackie Kelley.



Presenters and winners: Judy Parkins, Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton, Lauren Halagarda, Deb Lee, Janet Schiesl, Alisa Levy, Kim Matalon and Julie Gray.



Current Volunteer of the Year, Alisa Levy, joined by past Volunteers of the Year: Norm Zalfa, Janet Schiesl, Susan Unger, C. Lee Cawley and Susan Kousek.



A good time was had by all including Lauren Halagarda, Kim Oser and Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton.

## NAPO in the Neighborhood Meetings

### Rockville Pike

May 24

LaMadeline—Rockville Pike

6:30—8:30 pm

Contact: Wendy Glover

[wendy@minordetailz.com](mailto:wendy@minordetailz.com)

301-906-2125

### Route 66

May 25

Whole Foods—Vienna

7:00—9:00 pm

Contact: Terri Fischer

[fischer.terri@gmail.com](mailto:fischer.terri@gmail.com)

703-638-5995

### Route 7

May 26

Borders Books—Sterling

6:00—8:00 pm

Contact: Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton

[Cris@organizingmaniacs.com](mailto:Cris@organizingmaniacs.com)

703-969-8407

## PR Corner

Cheryl Larson, *Cheryl's Organizing Concepts*, was quoted in the April issue of *The Business Monthly* (the business newspaper of Howard and Anne Arundel Counties, and BWI Business District). The article was titled "Economy, Lifestyle Changes Driving Demand for Professional Organizers."

Cheryl Larson, *Cheryl's Organizing Concepts*, presented a workshop on "Organizing for Young Children" for the Gaithersburg Mom's Club on April 16 and on April 19 for the Potomac Mom's Group.

Lauri Mennel, *Bluebonnet Professional Organizing*, presented "Spring Cleaning Organizing Tips for Busy Moms" to the Leesburg MOMS group on April 28.

Alisa Levy, *Embrace Your Space*, presented "Organizing Your Quilting Studio" on May 13 to the Quilting Club at G Street Fabrics in Rockville.

10% discount or commission  
for NAPO-WDC members



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