



Capital News & Views

Volume 17, Issue 7

www.NAPOWDC.com

September 2010

What's in Your Client's Attic?

Monday, September 13, 2010 6:30 pm — 9:00 pm

Please join us for the first meeting of the chapter year. When working with a client's estate do you know the difference between what's valuable and what's worthless?

Matthew Quinn from [Quinn's Auction Galleries](#) will share with us the steps of downsizing including what should be sold and how to make the process easier for your client.

Prior to the chapter meeting, there will be a gathering for those in the **Quantum Leap® Program**. This includes current QL trainers, those who want to become a Trainer and those who just want to learn about the community service arm of NAPO. Please join Chapter Vice President and Quantum Leap® Liaison **Alisa Levy**

from 6:30 to 6:55 to discuss our plans for the new year. For more information, email [Alisa](#) or visit the [NAPO website](#).

“Ask the Expert” Focus Group

If you are new to organizing, attend the “Ask the Expert” session. It is an informal gathering where new organizers can receive free advice on owning an organizing business from members of the Golden Circle, a prestigious designation within NAPO for experienced organizers.

In This Issue

Chapter Meeting Information	1
President's Message	2
MARCPO Info	3
Membership Drive	4-5
Website Report	6
Book Club Info	7
Golden Circle	8
Premium Partner	9
Spotlight	
Back to School	9
Winter Coat Drive	10
Community Partner	11

Chapter Mission:

To develop, lead and promote professional organizers and the organizing industry.

Location

[Rock Creek Mansion](#)
5417 West Cedar Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Parking is free and plentiful!

Agenda

6:30—7:00 pm Registration, networking, Quantum Leap® and “Ask the Expert” focus group.

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

Hey, want to beat the traffic and meet up for dinner with fellow chapter members? Prior to meetings in Bethesda, folks can meet up at the Chipotle at 10400 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. They specialize in burritos and other Mexican delights. Buen apetito!

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

Professional Attire Please

This Issue

Welcome Back!

**NAPO-WDC 2009-2010
Board of Directors**

President

Janet Schiesl
Info@BasicOrganization.com
571-265-1303

Vice President

Alisa Levy
Alisa@EmbraceYourSpace.net
301-651-1697

Secretary

Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton
Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com
703-969-8407

Treasurer

Susan Unger
sunger10@cox.net
703-864-1055

Communications/Technology

Nealey Levi
liveontrack@gmail.com
202-258-9040

Marketing

Helen Long
LongSolutions@cox.net
703-281-1783

Corporate Partners

Susan Perez
SGilman4@gmail.com
571-217-5116

Membership

Jackie Kelley
Jackie@ClearingHouseNow.com
301-580-6895

Programs and Professional
Development

Pierrette Ashcroft, CPO®
Pierrette@GetOrganizedDC.com
202-537-9705

Immediate Past President

Judy Parkins
Judy@GentlyOrganized.com
703-548-1000

Welcome Back!



Janet Schiesl
Basic Organization
NAPO-WDC President
www.BasicOrganization.com

After a long hot summer, I am glad to welcome everyone back to the NAPO-WDC chapter. I hope you had a profitable summer and are ready to get back into the swing of chapter activities.

During our summer break your board of directors met for two, day-long retreats. We worked to promote the chapter and the professional organizing industry, and to provide interesting and challenging activities for our members.

You can see the evidence of our efforts already. Have you been to our website NAPOWDC.com lately? We now have a modern, easy to navigate site with great plans to expand it further this coming year. All of this work was done by our awesome Director of Technology Nealey Levi. Please join me in thanking her for all the time and energy she put into this massive effort.

Through the continuing work of Jackie Kelley, our director of membership, we had a net gain of two new members since our June meeting. Jackie is continuing her efforts with membership renewal going on right now. Please make Jackie's day and renew your membership before the end of September. Our chapter is now **110** strong and we would like to continue to be a growing and vibrant group.

In addition to our new chapter members, we welcomed a new Corporate Partner over the summer. Susan Perez, our director of corporate partners, is launching a new effort to reach out to new and different professions that can help us serve our clients.

In a little more than a month we will be hosting the 12th Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Professional Organizers. Countless hours have been spent this summer to pull this event together. I'd like to thank all who helped, and are helping, including our conference committee chairs Judy Parkins, Deb Lee, Lauren Halagarda and Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton. I must include a thank you to the numerous volunteers who have helped to plan MARCPO. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

This chapter is run totally by the volunteer efforts of its members. I'd like to invite all our new chapter members to step forward and volunteer to help. I promise you that you will receive more than you give.

For those of you who are returning, Welcome Back. If you are new to the chapter, I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming chapter meeting. Here's to another great year.

Register for MARCPO Now—Save \$100!



Judy Parkins
Gently Organized
NAPO-WDC Past President
www.GentlyOrganized.com

Purpose. Passion. Profit. I'm so excited about the October 2, 2010 Mid-Atlantic Conference for Professional Organizers hosted by our chapter. Our committee has shown their organizing skills and created what will be an outstanding conference full of education, networking and, a must, fun!

If you haven't already [registered](#), do so before the registration fee increases on September 15! Who doesn't want to learn from the experts, see all the new products in the Expo, win door prizes and get books signed by the authors? Who wouldn't enjoy a continental breakfast, delicious buffet lunch (with a Tweet-up!) and snacks all day long? Wouldn't you like to spend time in beautiful downtown Bethesda (with a Container Store!) and network with over 100 professional organizers? Of course!

Caroline Adams Miller, our opening keynote speaker, is a certified coach who will share her insight into goal setting – a must for professional organizers – in, "The Ten Things Everyone Should Know to Be Happy and Successful."

Dorothy Breininger is America's hoarding expert on the A&E Show, "Hoarders." She will send us home with an inspiring closing keynote, "What Do Your Conversations Say About YOU?"

Our session speakers include:

Deborah Gallant, a business coach who "gets" the Internet and will teach us "Profiting From The Internet: How to Use Technology to Build Your Organizing Business."

Ken Smith, who will present new approaches for professional selling and client development in his session, "Winning Sales Strategies For Small Business Owners."

Nicole Nolte will help us identify PR opportunities for our businesses with her session, "Creating an Executable Public Relations Plan with Purpose, Passion and Profitable Results."

Sharon Lowenheim's session, "Less is More: Maximizing Small Residential Spaces," will show us how small space dwellers can be ideal clients for professional organizers.

Casey Moore's session, "Re-Purpose Your Skills to Profit from Office Clients," teaches us how to work successfully with office clients.

Margit Novack's session, "Capturing Your Share of The Senior Market: Understanding the Senior Client," will teach professional organizers how to prepare for working with this population base.

All-in-all, who wouldn't want to participate? If you haven't already done so, please register today.

NAPO-WDC 2009-2010

Committee Chairs

[Golden Circle](#)

Helen Montfort

hsmontfort@mac.com

301-320-8970

[Newsletter](#)

Lauri Mennel

Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com

703-336-9231

[Nominating](#)

Judy Parkins

Judy@GentlyOrganized.com

703-548-1000

[Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference](#)

Judy Parkins

Judy@GentlyOrganized.com

703-548-1000

Points of Contact

[Book Club Coordinators](#)

Lynn Meltzer

arnielynn@verizon.net

301-530-3551

C.Lee Cawley, CPO®

info@simplifyyou.com

703-625-7336

[Lending Library](#)

Maria White

maria@enuffwiththestuff.com

703-729-2455

[CPO® Liaison](#)

Heather Coccozza, CPO®

hcoccozza@CoccozzaOrgDesign.com

703-276-1243

[NAPO in the School](#)

Missy Thomas

Missy@HSorg.com

301-910-8517

[Quantum Leap®](#)

Alisa Levy

alisa@embraceyourspace.net

301-651-1697

[Webmaster](#)

info@napowdc.com

[Yahoo Group](#)

Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton

Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com

703-969-8407

[GO Month](#)

Sally Reinholdt

closets911@erols.com

703-845-1473

2010-2011 Membership Drive is On!

September

- 13 Chapter Meeting:
**What's In Your
Client's Attic?**
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD
- 21 Book Club North
- 23-25 NSGCD Fall
Conference
Austin, Texas

October

- 2 MARCPO
- 4 Chapter Meeting:
**Case Studies
Round Table
Discussions**
Kena Shriners
Fairfax, VA
- 20 Book Club South

November

- 1 Chapter Meeting:
**Strategic Partners:
How to Recognize,
Attract and Build
Effective
Relationships**
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD
- 16 Book Club North

December

- 7 Chapter Meeting:
**Manage Large
Client Projects with
Multiple
Organizers**
Kena Shriners
Fairfax, VA
- 15 Book Club South

January

- 3 Chapter Meeting:
**Basic Feng Shui to
Enhance Your
Professional
Organizing Practice**
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD

(Continued on page 5)



Jackie Kelley
Clearing House, LLC
NAPO-WDC Membership Director
Jackie@ClearingHouseNow.com

The NAPO-WDC 2010-2011 membership drive is now on! We are excited to share our new program year with you and help your business grow with enhanced chapter benefits and opportunities to be involved and connected with fellow organizers.

Log in to the NAPO-WDC website to renew your membership for the 2010-2011 membership year, which runs from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. Annual membership in NAPO-WDC remains a great value at \$165, and is a solid investment in your business. Renewals received after September 30 will incur a late fee of \$25.

Visit the "Members Only" section of NAPO-WDC website to find the renewal link. Your NAPO National membership must be active in order to renew membership in NAPO-WDC. You will need your NAPO National ID number to log-in and renew. Contact the NAPO-WDC Director of Communications and Technology, Nealey Levi (techdirector@dcorganizers.org), if you require assistance with your login or password.

Please review your member information for completeness and add any updates or changes to your database listing. Please share information on related professional certifications and affiliations. This information will enhance our membership by recognizing individuals in our chapter with unique expertise, and allow for better information sharing among members.

As an option, sign-up for an Enhanced Listing when you renew. The Enhanced Listing will appear on the *Find an Organizer* section of NAPO-WDC's website to make your business profile **stand out**.

Enhanced listings include:

- Your photo
- Special color background to display your information
- Headings in a bold red font

Enhanced listings are only \$50 for the year. Select the box in the "Upgrade to an Enhanced Listing" section of the renewal form.

After you renew, be sure to spend some time exploring our *NEW* and *IMPROVED* NAPO-WDC website! We are excited about the fresh new look for NAPO-WDC, our own chapter blog and the

opportunity these changes offer for future member input and resource sharing.

2010-2011 NAPO-WDC Membership Benefits

The benefits of membership in NAPO-WDC include opportunities to network with other professionals, educational programs on organizing topics and a variety of professional resources and services aimed at business growth and development.

NAPO-WDC is committed to providing our members with strong programming for professional development, organizational skills and personal growth. In addition to our chapter meeting program schedule for the 2010-2011 membership year, NAPO-WDC hosts two book clubs, offers participation in three NAPO Neighborhood groups and hosts a New Member Brunch each year. The chapter also plans GO Month and chapter marketing activities during winter and spring months. In addition, the chapter actively supports other NAPO programs such as NAPO in the Schools, Quantum Leap and Golden Circle activities.

Benefits of membership are numerous and include:

Education:

Membership in NAPO-WDC increases your professional credibility in the industry. NAPO-WDC also offers educational opportunities to help you become more efficient, knowledgeable, and competitive:

- Free admission to all monthly educational chapter meetings (September through June).
- NAPO-WDC sponsors the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for Professional Organizers (MARCPO) which provides educational sessions on many topics.
- "Ask the Expert" Q&A sessions at chapter meetings offer professional support.
- Access to member-reviewed organizing book list.
- Access to members offering specialty workshops and classes.
- Mentoring resources for new and aspiring organizers.

(Continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Professional Resources:

NAPO-WDC provides resources and services geared toward your professional growth and development:

- Lending library offers CD recordings from previous NAPO, NAPO-WDC and NSGCD conferences.
- NAPO Neighborhood group meetings held monthly
- Book club meetings held monthly in two geographically diverse locations.
- Book Share program via Yahoo group.
- Media exposure through NAPO-WDC chapter promotions, print and electronic media.
- Online organizer referral network to generate business leads and connections with new clients.
- Unique "Members Only" section for additional chapter resources.
- Participation in the NAPO-WDC Yahoo Discussion Group offering vendor referrals and job leads.
- Access to chapter Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.
- Access to chapter public relations and cooperative marketing efforts.

Networking:

NAPO-WDC recognizes the importance of being able to interact with and learn from the leaders in the organizing industry:

- Meet and utilize our Corporate Partners to learn about the local organizing products and services they offer and how they can benefit your clients.
- Take advantage of volunteer opportunities that provide experience, exposure, and promote the organizing industry.
- Enhanced membership identification for Golden Circle members, Certified Professional Organizers®, and NAPO-WDC Award Winners.
- Your business web site linked to the chapter web site (www.dcorganizers.org).
- Access to chapter membership database for connections to organizers working in specialty areas.
- Small group interaction with fellow organizers at monthly book club discussions and NAPO neighborhood groups.
- Leadership opportunities through committee positions, board leadership, and project and event coordination.

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.

(Continued from page 4)

18 Book Club North

February

7 Chapter Meeting:
Capturing Your Share of the Booming Senior Marketplace
Kena Shriners
Fairfax, VA

16 Book Club South

March

7 Chapter Meeting:
Business Model Round Table Discussions
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD

22 Book Club North

April

4 Chapter Meeting:
Referral Fees Panel Discussion
Kena Shriners
Fairfax, VA

6-9 NAPO National Conference
San Diego

20 Book Club South

May

2 Chapter Meeting:
Favorite Organizing Products
Rock Creek Mansion
Bethesda, MD

17 Book Club North

June

6 Chapter Meeting:
Membership Appreciation and Awards Dinner
Location: TBD

15 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, 202-596-2761. The contents are copyrighted, with all rights reserved.

Committee Chair & Layout

Lauri Mennel
Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com

Editors

Advertising

Lauri Mennel
Lauri@BluebonnetPO.com

Newsletter Topic Schedule

Sept	Welcome Back
Oct	Disaster Preparedness
Nov	MARCPO Recap
Dec	Clutter Free Gift Giving and Holiday Organizing
Jan	Board Duties and GO Month
Feb	Board Nomination Bios
Mar	Social Media
Apr	Spring Cleaning and Feng Shui
May	What's New and My Favorite Things
Jun	NAPO 2011

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

The NAPO-WDC Chapter is committed to providing information through the newsletter. Contributions from mem-

(Continued on page 7)

Website Report

Nealey Levi
On Track
NAPO-WDC Director of Communication & Technology
liveontrack@gmail.com



Date	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Pages/Visit
June 2010	378	595	2521	4.24
July 2010	312	473	1903	4.02

TECH TIP – Our New Website!

We did it! The new website is up and running. Here's a quick highlight of what's changed. Enjoy!

- The design is modern, clean and visually pleasing.
- It is much easier to navigate because it is more ORGANIZED (woohoo!).
- Buttons linking to our social media efforts (Facebook and Twitter) are now present on every page. We even have a YouTube video on the MARCPO page!
- We have a blog!
- We have more content, which equals more traffic.
- Making easy changes like content edits or adding pages can now be done by me, the Communications and Technology Director. This is a huge money-saver!

Note that with the new site comes a new way of tracking our traffic so we won't have the year-to-year comparisons you've been accustomed to seeing until our first year with the new site is finished.

2009-2010 Chapter Accomplishments

Successful Board Retreat • **Completed Financial Audits** •
 Established Board Google Group • **Member Skills and Interest Survey** •
New Meeting Locations • Volunteer of the Month Program • Upgraded Meeting
 Equipment • **Revised New Member Packet** • Created Online Member Application •
Prorated Membership Fees • Social Media—You Tube, Twitter and Facebook for
 Chapter and MARCPO • GO Month with IKEA • **Alexa Ranking Dropped Below One
 Million** • Chapter T-shirts • **Website Improvements** • Successful MARCPO and EXPO •
 Revised Chapter Operations Manual • **New Member Brunch** • Candidate Forum and
 Transparent Election • **Established NAPO in the Neighborhood Groups** • **Container
 Store Open House** • IKEA Open House • Smooth Board Transition •

We had fun!

Book Clubs

Book Club North

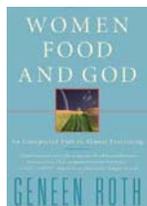
Coordinator: Lynn Meltzer
Clutter and Paperworks

When: Tuesday, September 21, 7pm

Where: Home of Lynn Meltzer
10131 Ashburton Lane
Bethesda, MD 20817

Book: *“Women Food and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Everything”* by Geneen Roth.

Packed with revelations on every page, this book is a knock-your-socks-off ride to a deeply fulfilling relationship with food, your body...and almost everything else. *Women, Food and God* is, quite simply, a guide for life.



Book Club South

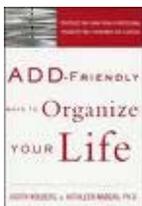
Coordinator: C. Lee Cawley
Simplify You

When: Wednesday, October 20, 7pm

Where: Whole Foods
Clarendon, VA

Book: *“ADD-Friendly Ways to Organize Your Life”* by Judith Kolberg and Kathleen Nadeau, PhD

This book addresses the specific challenges that adults with ADD face. Using humorous but compassionate stories that adults with ADD can easily relate to, the authors offer ADD-friendly organizing solutions that will provide long-lasting, life changing organizing success.



(Continued from page 6)

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. 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 or 301-530-3551 for directions to the **Book Club North** meetings. C. Lee Cawley is the contact for the **Back to Basics Book Club South** meetings.

Book Club South is Getting Back to the Basics!

During the June meeting of Book Club South, we decided to switch things up a bit to increase attendance. We are re-branding ourselves as the **Back to Basics Book Club South!** We are going to focus on the classic organizing books many of which will be on the BCPO reading list. We are hoping to attract more **newbies** especially.

In addition, we decided to move the location to the **Whole Foods** in Clarendon, which is a block from **The Container Store** and three blocks from the Clarendon Metro station for easy access. There are two hours of free parking with validation and we will meet upstairs in the dining area. I will be the coordinator and take RSVPs [here](#) so that we will know how many tables to push together.

The first meeting of the **Back to Basics Book Club South** is on Wednesday, October 20 at 7:00 pm. We'll be reading the highly-rated classic *“ADD Friendly Ways to Organize Your Life”* by Kolberg and Nadeau. Hope to see you there!

C. Lee Cawley

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

Closet Factory Washington DC
www.closetfactory.com

Clutter Free Box
www.clutterfreebox.com

Duffy Organizers
duffyorganizer.com

Homeplexity
www.homeplexity.com

Junk in the Trunk
www.JITT.com

Standard Partners

College Hunks Hauling Junk
www.1800junkusa.com

The Container Store
www.containerstore.com

Eco-Nize Closets
www.eco-nize.com

More Space Place
www.morespaceplace.com

ReSale Solutions
www.resale-solutions.biz

Shelf Genie
www.shelfgenie.com

Golden Circle Report



Helen Montfort
Making Space for Life
NAPO-WDC Golden
Circle Liaison
hsmontfort@mac.com

New Golden Circle Member

Our newest Golden Circle member is Janet Schiesl of Basic Organization. We are thrilled to have our chapter president joining our group. Welcome Janet!

Golden Circle Gatherings

Our next meeting is a potluck at Helen's home in Bethesda on September 19 at 4:00 pm.

Our first Golden Circle social gathering 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 [here](#).

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

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 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.

Meet Our Newest Premium Corporate Partner



Susan Perez
Interior Organization Concepts
NAPO-WDC Director of Corporate Partners
sgilman4@gmail.com

As a busy mom, **Karol Logan** was looking for a way to get her family's belongings efficiently in order. From laundry to accessories, Karol needed to separate categories of items for herself and each member of her family. She started with homemade duffel bags fit into drawers which evolved into the **Duffy Organizers** of today.

Duffy Organizers fit into drawers, neatly dividing the spaces into compartments. They can be stacked, which is great for shelves and closets. The front and top view windows make finding what you need very easy, while protecting the items inside. The bonus for the disorganized individual is that the easy-open top view window flap requires that items be sorted. Tossing mixed items in a big messy drawer isn't a possibility with Duffy Organizers! Another neat feature of the Duffy Organizer is that it can be collapsed to pack for travel. Just open and pop into hotel drawers to maintain order while away from home.



Karol found success in teaching her young daughters how to organize their belongings using Duffy Organizers. Today those same adult daughters still use Duffy Organizers to help manage their belongings. Karol is now bringing her invention to NAPO-WDC to share her secret of organization with us and our clients. Please help me welcome Karol Logan as our new **Premium Corporate Partner!** She can be reached at duffyorganizer@aol.com or 301-552-2820.

Back to School, Back to Life



Helen Long
Long Solutions, LLC
NAPO-WDC Director of Marketing
longsolutions@cox.net

By the time this issue of the newsletter goes to print, our children will be back in school and we will be feeling the weight of the fall schedule.

There are a few quick tips that anyone can use to make the activities "fall" (sorry!) into place.

Try creating a "Mommy Central" or a "Command Central" where your calendar, supplies and important phone numbers are kept. Set up "in boxes" for each member of the family and, especially, for yourself. These are not the electronic in boxes we are all used to checking on email, but the sturdy, old-fashioned kind. Wood, Lucite, plastic, even a shoe box....anything goes.

When students come home in the afternoon and need you to sign a paper to be returned the next morning, teach them to put it in your in box. Fill out the form and put it back in your student's box so that they have it when they get their backpack organized. In turn, be committed to checking your own in box and making sure that things don't stack up. The same boxes can be used for mail sorting. You may need an extra in box called "Bills"!

So often at the end of a busy day, the Command Central looks like a tornado has gone through, but by using in boxes you will reduce some of the clutter and have a better grip on keeping things running smoothly.

NAPO-WDC Chapter Membership Dues

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

Regular chapter member (local)	\$165
Regular chapter member (non-local)	\$120
New member one-time processing fee	\$ 25

Corporate Partner Standard: \$325

Corporate Partner Premium : \$500

Membership year is from October 1 through September 30.

NAPO-WDC Chapter membership information and application visit

www.napowdc.com or contact the Membership Director Jackie Kelley at membership@dcorganizers.org. Corporate Partner info, contact Susan Perez at corppartners@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!

Emily Belcher
Fairfax, VA
ebelcher@hotmail.com

Darryl Glick
Urbana, MD
lessfamess@ymail.com

Andrea Hancock
Alexandria, VA
a_hancock07@comcast.net

Katherine Morris
Chevy Chase, MD
DrMorris@InspiredSettings.com

Veronica Perry
Falls Church, VA
vperryassoc@yahoo.com

Carroll Poppalardo
Arlington, VA
cpop-palardo@gmail.com

There are currently 110 members and 12 Corporate Partners in NAPO-WDC. There were 45 members (regular and CP) at our June 2010 chapter meeting and we hosted eight guests.

Membership Directory

Detailed information about members can be found on our chapter website, 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. 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.

New Year, New Partnership



Pierrette Ashcroft
Get Organized DC
NAPO-WDC Director of Programs and Professional Development
Pierrette@GetOrganizedDC.com

This summer, the NAPO-WDC Board of Directors met Christopher Fay, Executive Director of Homestretch. Homestretch is a not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive services to homeless families with young children in Northern Virginia and they make a real difference.

There was not a dry eye around the table as he told us stories of families who overcame obstacles to train for and find jobs, buy their first homes and send their children to college. We were so touched by the services and hope they provide to their clients that we adopted them as our community partner for 2010-2011.

Throughout the year we plan to collaborate with Homestretch in a variety of ways and we are kicking off our partnership by collecting new winter clothes for the Homestretch children.

Our goal is supply all Homestretch children with a winter coat, scarf, hat and gloves. Currently there are 110 children in the program and 70 of them are under 10 years old. Please bring new winter outerwear to MARCPO on Saturday, October 2. We will also accept Target gift cards with which we will purchase coats and other items so that each child will be warm this winter.

I am sure when you have a chance to hear the Homestretch story at our September meeting you will want to help. In addition to MARCPO, you can also bring your donations to the September or October chapter meetings. For more information or to ask a question, email [Pierrette Ashcroft](mailto:Pierrette.Ashcroft).

Looking Ahead



Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton
Organizing Maniacs
NAPO-WDC Secretary
Cris@OrganizingManiacs.com

Hope everyone had a great summer! In between vacations, the NAPO-WDC Board of Directors was hard at work making preparation for the new chapter year. Here is a sneak peak on what we worked on: We made individual and group goals for the year. We'll be busy working our lists and you'll see results throughout the year.

We dissected the budget and analyzed every line to make sure our members are getting the most out of their membership. Balancing the budget can be one of the most challenging tasks of the board, but as a team we have made changes to accomplish this task.

We worked on selecting great speakers for each of our chapter meetings. We listened to your requests and suggestions and have great programs lined up for you!

We worked on making MARCPO the best conference ever. Remember MARCPO is a great opportunity for our chapter to supplement our income. It's also a great way for members to increase their professional knowledge and skills.

We selected Homestretch, a non-profit organization, to support for the year. Homestretch is a great organization supporting people who are homeless and helping them get back on their feet.

We revamped the website (well, Nealey did that!). If you have not seen the new website, take a few minutes to take a tour!

We added a new "Ask the Expert" table for the first part of chapter meetings and much more! I am extremely excited about this year. Remember the chapter offers many opportunities to get involved so just take one!

Homestretch: Empowering Families to Rebuild Lives

Christopher Fay
Homestretch Executive Director
www.Homestretch-Inc.org

Did you know that the average age of a homeless person is only *nine* years old? Did you know that *half* of the women with children who are homeless in America are homeless due to domestic violence?

There are many misconceptions about homelessness, chief among them that the majority of homeless people are single, chronically homeless adults who are either addicted to drugs, mentally ill or both. While this is true for some of the homeless population, the fastest growing segment of the homeless are women with dependent children; and the most significant cause of their homelessness is violence and abuse at the hands of a loved one.

There is an organization doing remarkable work with homeless families, and with survivors of domestic violence, called Homestretch. Founded in Northern Virginia in 1990, Homestretch provides transitional housing and comprehensive services to homeless families in a way that is making a dramatic impact on their lives. By providing a wide range of intensive and rigorous services, as well as housing, Homestretch is able to help the families make substantial changes in their lives, including reducing debt, establishing financial solvency, increasing income, learning skills, and securing safe, stable and permanent housing. Homestretch also provides a vast array of services for the children to ensure that they can compete with their peers in school and recover from the trauma of their past.

Through the help of friends like Organizing Maniacs, Homestretch is getting the word out about the needs of homeless families right here in our midst, and about the amazing success we are having in helping families escape from homelessness for good. Speaking of success, 85% of the families coming through Homestretch are able to achieve self-sufficiency – a rate that leads the nation.

There are many ways that people can get involved with Homestretch. We always need volunteers. And because we are in the business of housing families – specifically, families who bring very little with them and are beginning their journey at Homestretch at the bottom of the economic scale – we need help in furnishing apartments for new families and in decorating and organizing their homes. About 90% of Homestretch families are led by single moms who often work long hours and whose homes may get cluttered and need loving attention.

One more inspiring statistic is due. Over the past year, 10% of our families qualified to become first time homebuyers. This is incredible when you realize that all of them came into the program homeless, in crisis, in debt, with poor credit, and either no job or a very low paying job. The amount of work they accomplish in roughly two years in Homestretch is astounding.

We are excited about sharing Homestretch with our friends at NAPO and finding ways that connections can be made with professional organizers to enhance the lives of our homeless families even more.



NAPO in the Neighborhood Meetings

Rockville Pike

September 27
LaMadeline—Rockville Pike
6:30—8:30 pm

Contact: Wendy Glover
wendy@minordetailz.com
301-906-2125

Route 66

September 28
Whole Foods—Vienna
7:00—9:00 pm

Contact: Terri Fischer
fischer.terri@gmail.com
703-638-5995

Route 7

September 29
Borders Books—Sterling
6:00—8:00 pm

Contact: Cris Sgrott-Wheedleton
Cris@organizingmaniacs.com
703-969-8407

PR Corner

Pierrette Ashcroft of *Get Organized DC* appeared on Let's Talk Live on News Channel 8 on August 4. She shared organizing tips, sample products and before-and-after photos with the hosts.

10% discount or commission
for NAPO-WDC members



pink & "green"
junk removal
machine

www.jitt.com 877-jitt-now

©2007 Closet Factory. All rights reserved.



MASTERS OF ORGANIZATION

Custom storage solutions for every room in
your house.

- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

**We work with you or
your client...you decide**

Call for a FREE design consultation

301.893.1605
888.256.7587



www.closetfactory.com