



THE ORBITER NEWSLETTER

NAWIC Space Coast Florida Chapter #355

Our next membership meeting will be on June 5th at Pizza Gallery in Viera at 6 pm. Please plan on attending as we will be voting for 2025-2026 Officers

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

March

NILVA GONZALEZ



NAWIC

Limited Edition

Company: Nakoma Construction, Inc.

Position: Owner

Brief Description: Commercial construction focus on roofing and remodeling. Minority, Woman and Veteran Owned

Professional accomplishments: Holds CGC License and Roofing License

Strengths: She is passionate about construction and always looking for ways to involve women in this industry. She is ambitious and always looking for her next move

Hobbies: Loves to read a good book and travel

WIC Member Since: 2024



Series 027

April

AMBER WILSON



NAWIC

Limited Edition

Company: Wharton-Smith, Inc.

Position: Operations Coordinator

Brief Description: Issue and QC Subcontracts, handle ODP request and invoicing, plans team lunches and events

Strengths: Ability to prioritize/organize tasks which allows her to ensure deadlines are met and effectively handle multiple responsibilities

Hobbies: Karaoke

WIC Member Since: 2024



Series 018

May

KATE HOWICK



NAWIC

Limited Edition

Company: Danella Engineering & Construction

Position: Director of Operations

Brief Description: Oversees all design-build functions, finds ways for project teams to work more efficiently

Professional accomplishments: PMP, M.S.E.d. 2-time Member of the Year

Strengths: Problem-solving, 'get it done' attitude, removing roadblocks, leading by example

Interesting Fact: She has flown on a Zero Gravity Flight

Hobbies: attending concerts/shows, watching all kinds of sporting events, spending time with family and friends

WIC Member Since: 2020



Series 029

Want to be highlighted on the next trading card? Send your headshot and bio to **Kate**

May **Board Meeting** is on May 14th at Gators Portside in Port Canaveral at 6 pm

BIRTHDAYS

- Amber Wilson (05/11)
- Catherine Kugelmann (05/14)
- Lindsey A. Samion (05/20)
- Elizabeth Eskildsen (05/28)
- Bo Stroda (05/31)

ANNIVERSERIES

- Ariel L. Martinez (1 year)
- Alyssa J. White (1 year)
- Bethaney M. Anderson (1 year)
- Lindsey A. Samion (1 year)
- Megan J. Loft (1 year)
- Jace N. Tuttle (1 year)
- Samantha L Swaggerty (1 year)
- Jamie Hogrefe (1 year)
- Angela Fegers (1 year)

Make-A-Wish.

We're looking for some help with our next Make-A-Wish project to drywall a shed in Palm Bay. Please reach out to **Stacy** or **Ellie** for more info!



We're looking for help organizing our Summer Social coming up in July! If you're interested, please contact **Jen Yoli** for more details.



GET YOUR NAWIC SPACE COAST GEAR HERE

GOT NEWS?

email Klaudia to get your story in the next newsletter

We have 3 excellent candidates for Southeast Region Director. Meet Heather Nelson, from the Tallahassee Chapter.



Heather Nelson
PMP, CDT
SOUTHEAST REGION DIRECTOR CANDIDATE

ABOUT ME

As a 27-year construction industry veteran and 17-year NAWIC member, I bring experience and leadership to strengthen our region. I've served in multiple Board of Directors roles at the chapter level, helping grow membership and add value to members.

I'm committed to enhancing our region's growth, communication, and opportunities for all members.

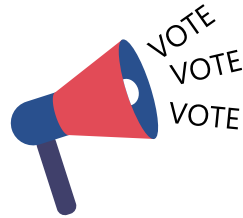
SENIOR AVIATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE
KIMLEY-HORN
27+ YEARS IN CONSTRUCTION

MY GOALS AS REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- Expand professional development through new programs, speakers, and education opportunities.
- Strengthen connections between chapters, fostering collaboration and skill-sharing.
- Grow membership by sharing successful strategies across chapters.
- Partner with NAWIC National to build on the Southeast Region's success.



REDEFINING THE BLUE PRINT
HEATHER NELSON
FOR SOUTHEAST REGION DIRECTOR



All Southeast Region Director Candidates will be participating in a Town Hall May 12, 6:00-7:00. [Click here to join the webinar](#), ask questions and hear their plans for the Region.

Voting for the Southeast Region Director opens on May 15th — be sure to watch your inbox for the electronic ballot!

SAVE THE DATE

NAWIC's 70th Annual Conference



BOSTON, MA

Aug. 20-23, 2025

nawic.org

TOGETHER WE RISE

REGISTER

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Thank you

Alisha Hansford of Boys Electrical for sharing their approach to creating an in-house electrical apprenticeship program

June Membership Meeting: *Leveraging AI in the Construction Industry*

NEF Course Offerings: CIS (Construction Industry Specialist) group study sessions begin Wednesday, June 4. [Click here to learn more about the Certification.](#) Ask a board member, how to qualify for financial support from the Chapter



NAWIC SPACE COAST SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that this year's Scholarship recipient is **Sierra Lydic** from Space Coast Jr/Sr High School.





🎉 It's Safety Week! This Year's Theme: All in Together 🎉

This year's theme, All in Together, is a call to action for precision planning, personal accountability, and a shared commitment to safety. It's a reminder that we're strongest when we work as one team with one goal: keeping everyone safe.

Construction companies across the country are encouraged to participate by organizing on-site events and promoting a strong culture of safety. You can register your company, access helpful resources, and enter a giveaway on the official Safety con website.

🔧 Monthly Safety Challenge:

Build out a Safety Week schedule for your project, team, or office using these daily topics:

- Monday: Plan with Protection
- Tuesday: Identifying High Energy Hazards
- Wednesday: Own Your Part
- Thursday: Engage and Empower Team Members
- Friday: Commit to Excellence

Let's lead by example—because we can't build our projects without our people.

Happy Safety Week! Stay safe, stay strong.

Looking to further expand your companies' reach and your professional network? Consider attending Member Mixers with other local residential and commercial construction industry professional organizations, Space Coast HBCA.



Thank You

We appreciate our Nominating Committee: Jen Y., Terri H., and Jacqueline for polling our membership to pull together the next slate of officers. Nominations will still be accepted from the floor at the June Membership meeting.

GIRLS CONSTRUCTION CAREER CAMP AT VIERA HIGH

June 16 – 19, from 8:30 – 3:30 each day

Camp Registration

Registration is open for rising 8th, 9th, and 10th grade girls in Brevard County to attend this FREE construction camp. [Click here for the link to register on the BPS Summer Enrichment website](#)

Camp Schedule

- Monday – Safety, Intro to Tools, Blueprint Reading, Project Professionals Panel
- Tuesday – Carpentry, Drywall, Plumbing
- Wednesday – Tiling, Electrical
- Thursday – Heavy Equipment Operations, Soft Skills

Schedule subject to change



Volunteer

All volunteers must be badged through Brevard Public Schools. Register online: [Volunteer Registration](#) and complete fingerprinting at the School Board Security Office (2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, M-F, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Volunteers will be needed to support this camp throughout the week. We are looking for 6 volunteers to fill (4) hour shifts each day. [Sign up here](#)

Donations Needed

Thank you to **WELBRO** for the safety vests, **Boys Electrical** for hard hats and tool belts, **Charles Perry Partners** for goody bags, **Studio Tile** for many of the supplies to cover the tile module and **HUGE Thank you to Sisi Packard** for picking up our entire Amazon Wishlist!

We are still looking for sponsors to help support breakfast, lunch, t-shirts for our campers along with some material donations. Contact Kate if you are interested

BREAKING NEWS



Kate Howick is the 2024-2025 Southeast Region Member of the Year

Donna Skarosi is the 2024-2025 Southeast Region Rookie of the Year

Space Coast won the **WIC Week Reaching Out Award** for our library books displays and our work with a local girl scout troop
Space Coast won the **WIC Week Marketing Award** for the creative ways we promoted our WIC Week events

Space Coast will be hosting the Southeast Region Spring Forum in 2027!!

Congrats

We have a new NEF Ladder Pin! For chapter donations exceeding \$10,000 over the years to support NEF industry certifications and education



CHEERS TO OUR 2024-2025 SPONSORS, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

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