



THE ORBITER NEWSLETTER

NAWIC Space Coast Florida Chapter #355

Join us for our Summer Kickoff Member Appreciation Meeting at Tin Whiskey in Cocoa Village. We will be holding Board elections. Hope to see you there!

NAWIC
The National Association of
Women in Construction
Space Coast Florida

VOTE

Summer Kickoff June Member Appreciation Meeting
The first 35 members to register will get a free drink
REGISTER TODAY!
Is a PMP Certification in your future? Learn More
Featuring: Kate Howick, PMP

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Where: Tin Whiskey
3 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa
When: Thursday, June 4, 2026
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

REGISTER

BIRTHDAYS

- Kate Howick (June 3)
- Janelle Swank (June 16)
- Rene Seeley (June 17)
- Robin Hurst (June 19)
- Cheryl Foley (June 21)

ANNIVERSARIES

- Terri Hart (18 years)
- Debra Mallard (18 years)
- Liana Foster (5 years)
- Ellie Lucas (5 years)

Check out our Monthly Calendar of Events HERE

Next Board Meeting will be held on Ann's Pontoon Boat cruising to **Sunset Grill** in Cocoa Beach on Thursday June 18th at 5:30

Interested in becoming a member of NAWIC Space Coast? Applications can be downloaded from our home page [here](#)

≡Welcome≡

NEW MEMBERS

Kim Santiago – Prema Consulting Group
Suzanne Odisho – RUSH Marine, LLC.
Ruth Harris – RUSH Construction, Inc.
Kimberly Carswell – Carswell Collective, Inc.



GET YOUR NAWIC SPACE COAST GEAR HERE



President's CORNER

Hope all is well with all of you! I'm excited to invite you to our June Summer Kickoff & Member Appreciation meeting at Tin Whiskey on June 4 at 6:00 PM. Please join us — and don't forget to vote!

A huge thank-you and congratulations to the Knoxville chapter for an incredibly well-organized Spring Forum. It was a tremendous success, and we greatly appreciate their warm hospitality and hard work. You are all welcome to come to the National conference in Reno NV August 13-15. I look forward to seeing you at Tin Whiskey to celebrate our members and continue the momentum from the forum.

Ann Jeanette Miner
President

Spring Forum 2026 in the books and Space Coast truly shined! Our very own, VP, **Jen Yoli** was named **2026 Southeast Region Rookie of the Year**, presented by 2025 ROTY, **Donna Skarosi**! Our chapter won the **WIC Week Inspire Award** along with the **PD&E Award**!

Our team of **Ann Miner, Jen Yoli, Jacqueline Williams, Donna Skarosi, and Brandi Patterson** did an amazing job representing the Space Coast. They brought energy and style to this special Southeast Region hosted by the Knoxville Chapter. They walked away with some great connections, renewed enthusiasm for the NAWIC mission not to mention some fabulous raffle baskets! We couldn't be prouder! Way to go, team!



Nominations for 2026-2027 Board

President – Ann Miner
Vice President – Jen Yoli
Secretary – Kate Howick
Treasurer – Donna Skarosi

Director – Amber Wilson
Director – Debra Mallard
Director – Ellie Lucas
Director – Jacqueline Williams
Director – Michelle Voyer
Director – Brandi Patterson
Director – Tara Chaidez

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June membership meeting, prior to voting. This will be our last in-person election as we migrate to online voting next year.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee for putting together the slate of candidates



Guest COLUMN

As we move through 2026, the surety market remains notably soft, creating more opportunities for both established firms and newer companies looking to grow. One advantage in today's market is the availability of credit-based programs. Many contractors can now qualify for bonds up to \$3 million based on strong personal credit, and experience. This has opened the door for companies to pursue larger projects that may have previously been out of reach, not because of lack of experience, but because they didn't have a formal CPA Statement.

For established contractors, traditional markets continue to offer expanded capacity and competitive rates. Sureties are actively looking for well-managed firms with solid project history, banking relationships, and strong internal controls. Even in a soft market, maintaining accurate job costing, healthy cash flow, and consistent communication with your agent and surety remains essential to having the most competitive bonding package.

Easier access to bonding brings increased competition. We are seeing an increased number of bidders on public bids. Contractors must still be careful not to underbid simply to win work. Strong estimating, project selection, and protecting profitability remain just as important as securing the bond itself. Contractors who grow strategically—not just aggressively – will be the ones positioned for long term success. Being aligned with a good bonding agent helps contractors reach their goals by positioning them for long-term growth and project opportunities.

Cheryl Foley
Surety Bond Specialist

Registration is now open for our Summer Social. Casa Bonita in Indialantic is opening their doors for us to build flower arrangements. [Click here for more information.](#)



Safety Space – Heat Illness Awareness

June marks the start of peak heat season on construction sites, making **heat stress prevention** a top priority. Crews should rotate strenuous tasks, hydrate frequently, and watch for early signs of heat exhaustion to keep everyone safe as temperatures rise. Here are some symptoms of heat related illnesses:

- Flushed skin
- Confusion
- Dizziness / fainting
- Muscle cramps

June Safety Challenge

Look into the four stages of Heat Illness: Heat Rash, Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, Heat Stroke. Find out if your company has a heat illness prevention/ action plan for employees that work outside and learn what the steps are and how it applies to your position. Maybe you can implement it while working in your yard at home!

Megan Robillard, EIT
Hensel Phelps

UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

- Annual Conference 2026 – Reno, NV (8/13–8/15) **(Register HERE)**
- Fall Planning and Leadership – Savannah, GA (11/5–11/7) **(Registration is NOW OPEN)**
- Spring Forum 2027 – Space Coast, FL **(5/13 – 5/15)**
- Annual Conference 2027 – New Orleans, LA
- Fall Planning and Leadership 2027 – Tampa, FL
- Spring Forum 2028 – Memphis, TN

Girls Construction Camp is right around the corner! **June 8 - 11** we will have a full house of campers ready to learn all about construction at Viera High School.

There is still time to volunteer! Sign up is available through the website.

SIGN UP

Read the article about construction camp published in May 2026 issue of BBN on our website.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2026 CAMP SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Congratulations!



Kate Howick was announced as the UCF Space Coast Alumni Notable Knight for 2026. The award recognizes one alum for their work within the community.
Charge On!

Welcome to our newest little builder, **Baby Catherine Robillard** was born May 8th.
Congratulations, **Megan and Dan!**

Congratulations to the NAWIC Space Coast Annual Scholarship winner, **Natarajan Sharanya** of Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School in Merritt Island. Her goal is to pursue a construction-related degree to build practical systems that solve environmental problems, especially those involving water quality and infrastructure. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



Share your good news by the 25th of each month, nawicspacecoast@gmail.com



CLICK HERE TO LEARN HOW TO BECOME A 2025-2026 NAWIC SPACE COAST SPONSOR. THANK YOU, TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS!



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