
Greater Tidewater, VA

I am pleased to report that the 2024-2025 NAWIC year was a successful one for Greater Tidewater Chapter #137.

Our year started off with a TEE-rific event. Our 2024 golf committee chairs, Lauren Phtisic and Gabby Godfrey, did an amazing job organizing a very successful Top Golf event. The event was a huge success; allowing the chapter to be active and involved with our community supporters; whom we could not do without!

The holidays brought a time of volunteering with The Salvation Army at the Christmas Depot helping them get gifts ready for families in need as well as stuffing stockings to donate. Our annual holiday gathering & ornament exchange was phenomenal. We could not have asked for a better group to spend the evening with. The conversation had everyone engaged, the food was outstandly delicious, and the ornament exchange was a highlight! We even had one of our founding members, Nan Smith (age 90), in attendance!

February has us wearing red to honor heart health month. It also brought us Block Kids, which, if you have not experienced, is an inspiring event. We watched about 50 fifth graders design construction related structures using nothing but Legos and three additional designated items. What they were able to build in less than an hour provides a sense of hope and encouragement! What young and creative minds!

March = WIC Week. This week always has us busy with at least one activity each day. We spent the week celebrating women in construction collaborating with the Richmond chapter at New Kent Winery, multiple jobsite tours, a virtual scavenger hunt, brunch with ABC and WID and many uplifting women and a happy hour event! Our efforts had our chapter recognized as we received the 2025 WIC Week Reaching Out Award for medium chapters for the South Atlantic Region; to honor our collaboration events!

Our April membership event was a success as we had non-members become members, gave away chapter t-shirts and created a pulse that will continue to grow as we refine our membership initiatives and move into the future.

We had a second jobsite tour of Atlantic Surf Park that allowed us to see the progress from last year's jobsite tour of the beginning/middle stages to the venue being almost complete and open!

June brought us trash...yes, trash. We realized with a great group of volunteers even picking up trash can be fun as we participated in Clean the Bay at Fort Monroe for the second year! We thought we did well last year with the amount of trash our group gathered but we surpassed it this year and in less time!

Our nominating committee worked hard to ensure we had a slate of officers to present to the membership for voting. The members voted and our leadership for the 2025-2026 year was elected! Which brings us to today, celebrating the past success and passing the torch on to our new board.

In summary I am happy to report that we are ending my term as President in a sound and secure condition. Our outgoing Treasurer, Mary Beth Williams, kept our financial books in good order. The outgoing secretary, Katherine Poston, ensured we recorded the minutes of all of our board and general meetings appropriately and was diligent about informing our members through communications via email and social media platforms. And our outgoing Vice President, Jenny Davis, ensured everyone was supported and provided valuable insight.

On a personal note ~

To the outgoing board, thank you for your dedication and commitment to NAWIC Greater Tidewater Chapter #137. The time and energy devoted to the success of the chapter was astounding. Together, unified, we rose through the challenges faced and banded together as a board. We connected with our NAWIC chapter sisters and community to bring our association to where it is today. Although some of the visions we had did not come to fruition, we should be, and I am, extremely proud of the sound structure we have created for those who follow behind us to accomplish great things. I am forever grateful to have served beside you and honored in the confidence you had in my leadership.

To the incoming board, thank you in advance for your commitment to serve the NAWIC Greater Tidewater Chapter #137. As one who has served on this board as well as multiple others, your commitment and dedication does not go unnoticed and is not taken for granted. The excitement, energy and great ideas that have been circulating are contagious, keep the energy up! You all, as a team, are a group of talented people who will work together to attain incredibly awesome results, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for Greater Tidewater Chapter #137.

To all members, community and supporters of NAWIC Greater Tidewater #137, thank you for your continued support. It has been an honor to have been entrusted to serve as the President of NAWIC Greater Tidewater Chapter #137 for both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 terms.

Your outgoing President,

Janine Sabo