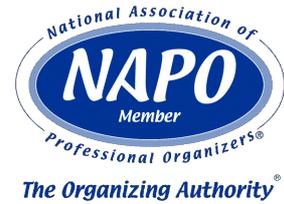


# CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS



**December 2012**

## **President's Message**

Elaine Johnson  
Personal Touch Organizing  
[Organize.it@att.net](mailto:Organize.it@att.net)

Dear {FIRST\_NAME|NAPO CT Member},

Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to our membership!

We had another GREAT meeting in November, thanks to our speakers who brought us detailed information about how to create and write effective business plans. About eight of our members also stayed afterward for the in-depth workshop as well.

Our CT NAPO Chapter is looking towards a VERY busy winter and spring this year! At our last meeting we discussed our plans for our 10th Year Anniversary, GO Month Activities, and an Associate Membership Fair.

Big plans are on the Horizon with NAPO CT's "Revive Your Room" Contest! Please encourage your clients, former clients, prospects and friends to apply. One lucky winner will be selected to receive a Room Makeover, courtesy of NAPO CT Professional Organizers. Please see the attached flyer and request the pdf to send to everyone you know and post on both your website and Facebook Page.

LASTLY, it is one of our Chapter Goals this year to increase Associate Memberships.

It is our plan to host a small Vender Fair in the spring, so time is of the essence. If you know of anyone who might benefit from Associate Membership in our Chapter, please invite them to attend our January Meeting.

Associate Members are individuals, who own or work for a locally-based, self operating retailer, supplier, designer, or independent sales rep engaged in the manufacture, distribution, and/or sales of organization equipment, supplies. or other services useful to

## **NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

**Friday, January 18th**  
9:00 - 12:00 pm  
Chapter Meeting and  
10th Anniversary Celebration  
[Eli's on Whitney](#)  
Hamden, CT



## **Upcoming Events**

**Chapter Meeting**  
February 15th  
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
[Eli's On Whitney](#)  
Hamden, CT

## **NAPO CT Board of Directors**

**President**  
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**Vice President**  
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**Secretary**  
Jennifer Burke

Professional Organizers. Basically they are non-organizers who would benefit from having the opportunity to network with our membership every month. Examples: Shredding Company, Estate Sale Specialists, Appraisers, Business Consultants, Office Supply Retailers, Organizations that accept donations, Organizing Products Retailer, Dumpster Company, etc...

Their membership would entitle them to:

- ☐ Opportunity to develop alliances and network with our membership who promote organizing products and services in the course of their business
- ☐ Opportunity to develop alliances and network with other Associate Members
- ☐ Subscription to NAPO News, our newsletter
- ☐ Promotional Activities associated with our GO Month and contest
- ☐ Discount on exhibit space and registration for NAPO's Annual Conference

Thank you again for your attendance last month, and I look forward to seeing you all again in January.



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## Monthly Article

### **When the Client Isn't Really the Client**

You know the drill. A Mom calls complaining "My teen's room is a disaster. I need help!" Part of you says "Sure, I can help," but part of you knows, when a parent wants to organize a teen's room, potential conflict is in the offing! As professional organizers, we know how hard it is to organize someone who does not want to be helped. Nonetheless, this is often what we are asked to do, especially by parents who are frustrated with their child's or teen's space. Next time you get a call to organize a teen's room (or a child's room or a husband's office), here are some tips to keep in mind:

1. Involve the real client in the planning. Many of us do an initial visit to scope and plan the job. It is critical that the "resident" of the space is a part of this meeting. Involving the real client helps to uncover some of the potential pitfalls, creates a dialog, and establishes trust. Allow the person whose space you are organizing to share what he likes about the room, what troubles he is encountering, and what changes he would make, if it were up to him. If he says "nothing", gently probe problems you are

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#### **Director of Professional Dev & Programming**

Vacant

seeing, and ask how that's working for him. Mom can also have a say, but the room will quickly fall into disarray if a teen feels like someone fixed what wasn't broken.

2. When purchasing supplies (bins, shelving, hooks, etc), try and work with Mom to get one or two items that the teen really likes. Maybe it is a certain kind of bin, or an item with the teen's favorite color. I've been asked by teens for such things as laundry hampers, full-length mirrors, and racks for hanging hockey sticks. If the teen or child sees the chance to get something he really wants out of the process, he is likely to be more excited about the outcome, and hence more cooperative through the experience.

3. When sorting belongings, the teen needs to have a say in what stays and goes. Encourage parents not to simply give away items that they find offensive. Teens own items of sentimental value just as adults do, and we can help parents find a middle ground for what stays and what goes. Also, respect a teen's need for privacy. If an item is off-limits, set it aside and speak to the parent about it offline.

4. Give the teen digital images of "before" and "after" which she can upload to Facebook or another site. Teens love to share visuals of their lives with their friends, and this can give the teen a sense of ownership for the work that has been done. As always, see the chance to work with children and teens as a wonderful opportunity to pass on your wisdom. By helping young people understand the process of sorting, organizing and maintaining their space, we can impart tools which will be useful to them throughout their lives. Odds are that these young clients will be going through many changes of location in the upcoming years (college, first apartment, etc), and as organizers, we have a special opportunity to help the teens of today become the organizers of tomorrow.

Submitted by Seana Turner  
Member, NAPO and NAPO-CT  
The Seana Method  
Darien, CT  
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**NAPO-CT**  
**10th Anniversary**  
**"Revive Your Room" Contest!**

Do you know someone who has a room in their house that has become completely disheveled, disorganized and downright disturbing?

Have them enter our contest to win the prize of NAPO-CT coming to their home for a total room revitalization!

Entries should be sent to [contest@napoct.com](mailto:contest@napoct.com) by midnight of

January 31, 2013.

Click [HERE](#) for more information!



**NAPO - CT**  
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**[www.NAPOCT.com](http://www.NAPOCT.com)**

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