

CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS



The Organizing Authority®

January 2013

President's Message

Elaine Johnson
Personal Touch Organizing
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Dear {FIRST_NAME|NAPO CT Member},

Happy New Year NAPO CT!

I trust that everyone enjoyed the holidays and are back to work. I know I was glad when Jan 2nd arrived and I could get back into my home and work routine.

January is here and I am happy and proud to say, HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY NAPO CT! What an exciting time for our Chapter. As I mentioned in my December note, 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.

In addition, 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.

January's Meeting promises to be great fun! Courtesy of our own KB Bryant, we have organized an exercise similar to a round robin, speed dating concept. Below is an example of how the program will work:

- 1) Divide the attendees in half, the grouping doesn't matter.
- 2) Sit the "remain seated" group along a table the other half across.
- 3) Timer is set for four (4) minutes.
- 4) Spend the time either catching up with old colleagues, talking about new projects, picking the brains of veterans, giving advice to new POs....but remember it's only four minutes, so have a plan!
- 5) When the buzzer rings, one side moves to their left, the last person

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Friday January 18th
9:00 -12:00
[Eli's on Whitney](#)

NAPO CT Board of Directors

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Treasurer
Karen (KB) Bryant
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Past President
Sandra Wheeler

moves to the beginning, until the moving group has met each one of the seated group.

6) Then each side splits in half to a smaller table and repeats. 7) Timer is set for four (4) minutes.

8) When the buzzer rings, one side moves to their left, the last person moves to the beginning, until the moving group has met with each one of the seated group.

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 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

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday, January 18th.



Member News

Cindi Filer

Membership Director

alifeinorder@comcast.net

A big focus for Membership is to grow membership! With that in mind, please keep our profession and chapter in mind as you interact with family and friends and as you meet new folks who might be interested in



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what you do. Feel free to invite them a meeting by giving me their name and email address which will ensure they receive an invitation. If any questions arise have them email me at alifeinorder@yahoo.com and I will happily connect with them. We also would like to grow our Associate Membership. These members are generally engaged in "the manufacture, distribution, and/or sales of organizational equipment, supplies or organizing industry related services". The main benefit to them, according to one of our own Associate members, is that they may receive referrals from us and can benefit from our guest speakers as we do. Unlike us they do not need to be a member of NAPO National. Some areas of interest might be:

Shredding Company
Junk Hauler Interior Designer
Computer Tech
Print Expert
Antiques Appraiser
Organizing Products Company
Website Design
Mailing/shipping Services
Dumpster Services
Staging
Moving Company
Graphic Design
SEO (search engine optimization)
Non-profit looking for donations (clothing etc)

Keep a look out for these folks and tell them about NAPO-CT! We've had so many guests lately which has been wonderful. And from that group, several are in the process or are seriously considering joining. We will soon need another table at Eli's!

The deadline for entry into NAPO CT's
"Revive Your Room" Contest
is fast approaching!

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

My NAPO-CT

Sandra Wheeler
Past President
For Peace of Mind

March 21st 2008 I stepped foot into my first NAPO-CT Chapter meeting. I was so incredibly nervous and on the hour drive, I kept asking myself 'What am I doing? What will I say?' Less than 10 minutes of listening to the networking in that Holiday Inn conference room, I knew that I was in the right place. I was with my 'people'. I still clearly remember meeting Judith Kirk, Jill McKean, Faith Manierre,

Cara Brook and Joann Grabinski.

One year later, I volunteered for the role of Director of Communications. I knew that serving on the Board would make me attend every meeting and be more attentive, more interested in each member. I loved capturing the news and creating fresh sections to the Connecticut Connections Newsletter. I loved being involved.

We lost several board members in January of 2010 and it became necessary for two individuals to step forward and complete the Executive Board. To remain a chapter, the five key Executive Officer positions must be filled. When asked if I would step into the Vice President spot, I felt a little unsure but believed so strongly in the chapter moving forward, that I did not hesitate. A natural progression to the role of President followed. I loved serving the Chapter in that capacity and raised my hand for a second term. What a privilege and honor to serve my fellow NAPO-CT members as a leader, officer and board member. It has been a wonderful time, full of enthusiasm, learning and growing.

Today I realized that I am now eligible for the Golden Circle. I have been a member for five years. I laugh when I think back on that woman who was so unsure stepping into her first NAPO-CT Chapter meeting. I think back on getting instantly hooked and started my own company and created a website. I fondly remember my first sparse clients and enduring long, quiet periods when the phone refused to ring for me. Here we are today, five years later, where I have wonderful fellow organizers that I call dear friends, all that I have learned, how much I have grown as a result of finding this chapter.

I cannot encourage members enough to get involved. Think about your first chapter meeting. Think about all you have gained. Take this opportunity to step up to the plate. Invest in your future and the future of this chapter. Talk to fellow members, existing and previous board members, and find out what it takes to become a part of this team!

Nomination Process and Timing Early

January: Nomination requests sent to Chapter members

January meeting: Nominations gathered

Early February: Nominee information sent to Chapter members

February meeting: Nomination ballots presented

March meeting: Election deadline and announcements

May 15th: Term begins

Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have!

Library News

Peter Gilsean

NAPO CT Librarian

The Library has, a few, missing CD's. Please check your personal library to see if you may have forgotten to return them. THANK YOU!!!

Also, we have updated the list of available materials. Click [HERE](#) to check them out!

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