

Member Spotlight – November – Kathy Rolland

Having worked with a Temp Agency for several months, four years ago I was offered a temporary position with The Mechanical and Plumbing Industry Council. Arriving that Monday morning, I was greeted by a gentlemen, whom I came to find out down the line, was the Safety Director. He proceeded to show me my desk, indicate what my first assignment would be, and then told me that the person I would be working with (which I later found out was none other than our own Betty Kearney) had met with a slight accident over the weekend and wouldn't be in for a day, or maybe two or three! My first bewildered question to him was, well ok, but (before he retreated back to his office), could you at least tell me how to get into the computer and the company files? Six months later, with the encouragement of one Miss Betty Kearney, I was very blessed to become a permanent member of MAPIC's staff.

That same Betty Kearney has been a NAWIC member for several years. When I became a 'real' employee of MAPIC, she asked me if I would like to attend a NAWIC meeting with her, filling me in on the why's and wherefore's of NAWIC. One meeting led to another, and another. And those meetings led to making acquaintances with some of the nicest, friendliest ladies. Now, being rather quiet and uncomfortable when I attend something new around people I do not know, I tend to 'blend into the background' so to speak, avoiding eye contact to discourage conversation with those around me – merely because I am unsure of what to say, feeling awkward and having a 'I don't belong' attitude.

Well, let me tell you, those nice, friendly ladies would have none of that. They actually remembered my name at the second, and third, and fourth meetings. They made sure to not only include, but involve me in NAWIC's activities, so much so that I co-chaired last year's Bowling Halloween Party, as well as last year's Industry Appreciation evening – having a super fun time working on both events. I was even asked to be the acting chaplain for last year – truly an honor in my eyes. My granddaughter participated in MAGIC Camp, and it was amazing at the closing luncheon to see the

week's results as the girls emerged from their cocoons and became butterflies through the guidance of our truly incredible and dedicated NAWIC women.

So, I guess that pretty much explains my desire to keep coming back to NAWIC. Can't ask for more than being blessed with the friendship of so many loving, caring women!!

When not attending NAWIC meetings or events, I lecture at Assumption Church in Broadview Heights, as well as teach second grade PSR (Parish School Religion) classes, both for over twenty years. I mix that in with a little bowling and a little dancing (just freestyle – nothing fancy), and thoroughly enjoy Broadway plays and musicals (ah, The Phantom!), and Ohio Light Opera. Quiet times find me reading, and when in my car, listening to audio books (and sometimes even Christmas music in the middle of summer). Add a sprinkle of 17 grandbabies and 2 great grandbabies, and that just about fills up my life!!