

# The ARC Newsletter

## ARC Spotlight: Women in Construction

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The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) originally began as Women in Construction of Fort Worth, Texas. It was founded in 1953 by 16 women. Knowing that women represented only a small fraction of the construction industry, the founders organized NAWIC to create a professional support network.

Women in Construction of Fort Worth was so successful that it gained its national charter in 1955 and became the National Association of Women in Construction, or NAWIC.

NAWIC has a membership of more than 5,500 with approximately 160 chapters in almost every U.S. state.

In NAWIC's 55 years of service to its membership, NAWIC has advanced the causes of all women in construction, from tradeswomen to business owners.

The goal of NAWIC is to enhance the success of women in the construction industry.

Recently, ARC employee Rachel Moviel was elected President of Cleveland Branch of NAWIC, the third largest branch in the country.

Her path to this role is an interesting one.

Rachel is a Marketing Communications and Sales and Support Representative for ARC's Cleveland branch. She was first drawn to volunteering in NAWIC after attending a meeting in 2004. She became instantly energized by the association's passion and the value of networking with like-minded professionals.

Some early volunteer work cemented her feeling about the group. One of her first projects was to co-chair the local Block Kids competition.

Block-Kids is a national building competition that's sponsored by local NAWIC chapters and other organizations. The award-winning program introduces children to the construction industry and promotes interest in future careers in construction.

Open to all school children in grades 1-6, the competition involves using Legos to build a structure within 45 minutes. Volunteer judges from local firms choose winners to advance to regional and national competition.

Another motivating NAWIC project Rachel promotes is M.A.G.I.C. Camp.

M.A.G.I.C. (Mentoring A Girl In Construction) Camp is a week-long summer camp that encourages female high school students to consider non-traditional construction careers. Industry experts teach the campers the basic skills of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, sheet metal, masonry, landscaping, roofing, insulation, blueprint reading, surveying, estimating, and new technologies like solar and alternative energy construction.

After volunteering for these programs and serving on the Board of Directors for her chapter, Rachel was motivated to run for president. She won and started her one-year term on September 15, 2011.

Rachel's theme for her tenure is "Be Inspired." "What's so fulfilling about NAWIC for me," Rachel says, "is

the value NAWIC delivers as a supportive place to network, to bounce ideas, and to mentor other women.”

After surveying her chapter members as her first task, Rachel developed her goals: to promote professional education, grow the chapter with more community outreach, and encourage and motivate her peers.

Rachel believes that “NAWIC inspires everyone with an incredible professional passion that chapter members bring to the association.”

For more information on how to get involved with your local NAWIC chapter, visit [www.nawic.org](http://www.nawic.org).