

President Walker's AIC Poor Man's Raffle Report
November 11, 2009

The American Institute of Constructors (AIC) had their 24th Annual Poor Man's Raffle at Casa di Borally on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. AIC hosts this event as their main fundraiser for AIC's education fund. In the past 24 years, AIC has given out over 100 scholarships.

In addition, they use these monies to fund the Constructor for a Day Program, guest speakers, job tours, special student programs and also reduce costs for students to attend AIC meetings and tours.

I also found that AIC has developed student chapters at Lakeland College, University of Akron, University of Toledo and Bowling Green University. Maybe this is something NAWIC could look into for our chapter . . . any volunteers?

NAWIC has been invited to the Poor Man's many times in the past and we never responded positively or gave them our support. But, I had heard some of our members do attend and wondered why we did not participate more.

The invitation arrived and it was discussed at our October 22 Board Meeting. It was decided that a few of our board members would attend. When the reservations were finally called in, we had seven members and three guests attending and each paid their own way, except for me since I am giving this report.

AIC did a wonderful job hosting the event. They had DJ Mark "Munch" Bishop host of Munch in the Morning on ESPN 850 WKNR emceeding the event, and while I was purchasing tickets, Bernie Ashyk, past president of AIC, good friend of mine and a CEA member, introduced me to the DJ, who asked me about our organization. He gave us two plugs of thanks for attending the Poor Man's Raffle. Also, the following morning he did a wrap on his radio show and gave us another plug.

Our table of ten sat down for a delicious family style dinner. During the reception and dinner, you were able to buy tickets for the side boards, Chinese auction and silent auction. All in attendance were eligible for door prizes. When the time came for raffles, our table did clean house. We had lots of winners for the Chinese auction, door prizes and two won side boards. Our table was a little rowdy, and they got to know us as the NAWIC ladies with lots of luck and wondered how we could win so much.

The event was one we should have been involved with long ago as a good will effort to support each other's association's events.

I had a very good time and I will probably attend next year. It is very good to support another association for a good cause, especially the education of our youth.