President’s Message

Happy November Ladies!

I want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me as your President for the coming year. I can only pray I do the position the justice it deserves. In the coming year I hope we can reach all the goals that we set for Chapter #72. We may be small in numbers, but we are big in heart.

Recently at our Strategic Planning we set some goals. One of our goals is to build up our membership. In addition to adding more active members, I would really like to see more Student members. I think that by bringing these young women in at the student level, we can introduce NAWIC to a new generation. Our experience and wisdom will be valuable to them. It is my hope that as they transition from student to professional, they will want to continue as members of NAWIC.

There are many reasons women join NAWIC. I joined NAWIC to get out and get some socialization during a divorce. But I gained so much more. And that leads me to another goal we have made. I want our monthly meetings to be productive with professional development and education opportunities that help us to learn and grow as professionals. I think this will be key to our goal of building our membership. I want new members to feel that there is value in being a member of NAWIC. Let’s be honest, we do not pay the dues that we have just to socialize and raise money. We want to increase our knowledge, which increases our value as professionals.

Again, thank you for electing me as your President. I hope everyone has a great October and that we will get some real fall weather soon. I look forward to all that we have planned for the coming year. Please invite others to come out and check out Chapter #72.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT—MICHELE MADISON

Michele Madison is the founder of Farming the Future (FTF), a Tallahassee-based business that designs and builds greenhouses and aquaponics systems in schools, juvenile detention centers, low-income/food desert communities, private backyards and commercial scale farms. Farming the Future raises tilapia and catfish in ponds, then pumps that water into bioreactors, which power a system that grows vegetables, and then send that water back to the fish clean and filtered. The students use this system as a tool for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), agricultural and vocational training. Additionally, all the food grown goes to school cafeterias, women’s shelters, homeless shelters, and other charitable organizations. FTF provides the underserved individuals with the opportunity to save money at the grocery store, create an enriching and educational environment for their children and healthy nutrient-dense food to nourish families.

Farming the Future is partnered with local institutions, Florida State University (FSU), Florida A&M University (FAMU), and Tallahassee Community College (TCC), to further develop the STEM, agricultural and career education offered by FTF as well as enhancing food access as a means of empowering underserved youth. Most recently, Michele has taken her partnership with TCC to the next level, becoming TCC’s Wakulla Environmental Institute’s new Agricultural Innovation Specialist. Leading the way in developing TCC’s agricultural department, she is the Lead in a new project working with underwater greenhouses in the ocean used for developing new techniques for space based interplanetary agriculture. The goal is to eventually get her fish into space so that future NASA astronauts may one day dine on fresh tilapia while colonizing Mars.

Early on in her career, Michele identified STEM access and food access as critical aspects of strong community development. Michele saw the potential to serve and develop the underserved students in her area. She created a business that cultivates opportunities for youth and hands them the keys to their own future. Creative lessons, hands on gardens and greenhouses put students to work in a real learning laboratory that produces food and demonstrates all critical STEM targets as well as a twist of entrepreneurship. She is active in her local government and professional community by serving on three boards of professional organizations, including NAWIC.

Her previous awards in profession, education, social entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation demonstrate her active role in her professional community. She is the recipient of the Rueben Askew Progressive Leadership award, the NAEE 30 under 30 Environmental Educator, Startup of the Year for Consumer Services for Women in Business, Girl Scouts recognized Woman of Distinction, a John E. Hughes entrepreneurial advocacy finalist, Energy Innovator Finalist, NSF Developmental Education Intern and of the most recent award, the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award. All within the last 2 years and being only 25 years young...she is just getting started! In the last month she has also been endorsed by the international clothing company Carhartt, in a sponsorship endorsement for modeling and STEM awareness.

Michele is doing AMAZING things and we are happy to call her a NAWIC member!
JOIN US FOR BLOCK KIDS!

To meet the demand in a workforce shortage, The BLOCK KIDS Building Program is sponsored by NAWIC Chapters that wish to introduce children in grades K-6th to the construction industry in an effort to create awareness and interest in construction careers.

NAWIC CORE PURPOSE:
To enhance the success of women in the construction industry.

TALLAHASSEE CHAPTER #72
STRATEGIC PLAN
1. Increase personal & professional growth of our members
2. Increase awareness of NAWIC in our “Big Bend” community
3. Continue to participate in community based programs
4. Make concerted efforts to increase membership

GADSDEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
732 S Pat Thomas Parkway
Quincy, FL 32351
Tuesday November 19th
Registration starts at 5:00pm
Pre-register online at capitalcityblockkids.eventbrite.com
to reserve seating

NAWIC Tallahassee
National Association of Women In Construction

Follow us on
NAWICTallahassee.org
@NAWICTallyChapter72

Free Registration
Kids K-6th Grade
Awards & Prizes
Fun with LEGOS

VISION
VALUES
MISSION
STRATEGY
National Association of Women In Construction
Tallahassee Chapter #72

2020 Open House

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 5:30 PM—8:00PM

**WHERE:** Glory Days Grill
1926 Capital Circle NE
Tallahassee, FL 32308

**EVENTS:** *Networking
*Silent Auction

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event!

Advertise your business and support local women in the construction industry.

RSVP your sponsorship or attendance to Jackie Wilson at 850-980-1414 or by email at jackiekw@aol.com

Deadline for sponsorships is 01/10/20
## 2019-2020 OPEN HOUSE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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Advertising will be for a full year in “Inside Hardhats”, the Newsletter for Tallahassee Chapter #72.

Contact Jackie Wilson at 850-980-1414 or by email at jackiekw@aol.com for Sponsorships by January 10, 2020.
Make Plans to Join Us at the 65th NAWIC Annual Conference! Visit www.nawic.org for additional information

“Success is not built on success. It’s built on failure. It’s built on frustration. Sometimes it’s built on catastrophe.” —Anonymous

**MEMBER LIST**

*(NEW MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED IN RED)*

- **Candi Antonetti**—Certified Inspections / Radon Solutions, LLC
- **Angela Dickey-Jones**—The Jones Company
- **Kerwyn Jones-Wilson**—Jones Construction & Design, LLC
- **Michele Madison**—Farming the Future
- **April Mizell**—JRA Architects
- **Heather Nelson**—Tallahassee International Airport
- **Melissa Seitzinger**—SAM, LLC
- **Karen Simmons**—Total Home Repair (NEW MEMBER)
- **Sofia Villamizar**—Farming the Future
- **Valerie Weeks**—Weeks Environmental, LLC
- **Jackie Wilson**—Consultant
DATEs To REMember

♦️ Board of Directors Meeting—Tuesday, November 5, 2019; 6:00PM
  Festival of Trees Decorating
  Location: Heather Weigel's Residence

♦️ General Membership Meeting—Tuesday, November 19, 2019; 5:00PM
  NAWIC Block Kids Event
  Location: Gadsden County Library

♦️ Board of Directors Meeting—Tuesday, December 3, 2019; 6:00PM
  Location: Masa

♦️ General Membership Meeting—Tuesday, December 17, 2019; 6:00PM
  Holiday Gathering
  Location: TBD

♦️ Board of Directors Meeting—Tuesday, January 7, 2019; 6:00PM
  Location: Masa

♦️ General Membership Meeting—Tuesday, January 21, 2019; 6:00PM
  Open House Event
  Location: Glory Days

JOIN US!

BRING A GUEST!
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Professional Environmental Services

Urban Catalyst Consultants

Capital City Collision Center
NAWIC

For more than 65 years, NAWIC has helped women take advantage of the opportunities in construction. Whether you want to embark on a new career, establish a networking base, be a mentor/mentee, make a difference in your community, continue your education, or invest in great friendships, NAWIC offers a variety of opportunities—large and small. Savvy NAWIC members, business owners and managers can expect value from their investment in NAWIC. NAWIC membership affords many opportunities.

www.nawic.org

SUBMIT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION TO:

Heather Nelson
heatherweigel@gmail.com
(417) 576-8409