



The Organizing Authority SM

CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS

Next Chapter Meeting

When: May 20
9:00 a.m. – noon

Title: NAPO-CT Chapter –
Our Future / Your Input

Facilitators: The Board

Agenda:

Continental breakfast
Networking
Volunteer Recognition
Your Input
Q&A

Where: Holiday Inn, North
Haven, Exit 12 off Route 91

RSVP: through Evite

May 2011

President's Message

Sandra Wheeler forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net



I am looking forward to our upcoming meeting on May 20th. The Board is designing a fun gathering that will help to capture your thoughts and input regarding all aspects of our Chapter. This information will be used when we come together at our 2011-12 Board Strategic Planning session in June.

Please make every effort to join us on May 20th and plan to speak up and share your opinions.

April Meeting Highlights

Jennifer Alden, Secretary

Below is a picture taken by our very special guest at the April Chapter meeting. Tracey Foulkes (pictured in the black & white dress) is an Organizer in Africa that happened to be in Connecticut visiting her sister.



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Tracey, we thank you for being with us and sharing stories and experiences with all who were in attendance. The gift to each of us of the wonderful beaded and braided bracelets made in Africa was so sweet. We tied them around each others' wrists and made 'big, fat, hairy goals' to ourselves. It would be interesting to hear everyone's progress on those wishes. (see note below from Tracey)

The Board's panel discussion was fabulous thanks to Judith Kirk's hard work in weaving the professionalism and customer service stories of Walt Disney with our Organizing industry. The panel was able to share their insights and experiences about "Walking the Talk as a Professional Organizer". Judith, thank you again for all of the time and energy you put into preparing an amazing format for sharing.

Please extend my HUGE thanks to the Napo-CT chapter for allowing me into the 'circle' this morning. What an absolute blessing to be amongst my wise and talented Connecticut colleagues (special thanks to my chauffeurs: Cara & Larry). I've attached the picture I took which I am sure will bring a couple of giggles to the group. Please forward it on.

If anyone would like to connect with me on LinkedIn, FB or Twitter please use the information below. It will be great to connect again. My personal twitter handle is #traceyfoulkes (I set this up a couple of days ago in line with my big, fat and hairy goal! And I really need some new friends ☺)

Also, I am loving my Time Timer ... means I'll be thinking of you all super often!

Much love and success for the year ahead. Hope to see you all very soon.
Cheers

Tracey Foulkes

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Member News

Cindi Filer, Membership Director

We welcome our newest member, Rick Woods. You have joined a really fun and active chapter and I am sure that in a short time you will realize there is strength in unity. We are now 39 members strong. I encourage all members to warmly welcome Rick when next you see him.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Lauren Guiditta of Organize for Today. She is expecting her baby any day now. Lauren, let us know when our newest little organizer arrives. We want a picture for the next issue!

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE: Deadlines Work

By Robert Wilson

As I sit here writing this column against the deadline, I am reminded of my days as a young advertising copywriter when I occasionally needed a deadline as motivation to finish a boring project. The deadline did more than motivate me to finish. More often than not, the deadline it was what finally stimulated enough creative thinking to move me forward. It motivated me to think outside of the box.

"Thinking outside of the box" – boy has that phrase become overused. People are so often telling us that we need to think outside of the box that it has fallen into the realm of cliché. Never-the-less it is still true. Sometimes, however, we need to be put into a box first before we can think outside of it. A deadline is just such a box.

I used to believe that the more freedom I had the more creative I could be. But it doesn't necessarily work that way. Ingenuity needs to be motivated by something, and if the desire to achieve isn't there, then an uncomfortable boundary may work.

Think of creativity as a prisoner trying to bust out of jail. When your resources and opportunities are limited you must become innovative. A good illustration of this is the World War II movie *The Great Escape*. It is an amazing tale of ingenuity. Men with little to work with escape from a German POW camp. In addition to digging three tunnels without shovels, they made hand drawn traveling documents and identification papers that looked authentic enough to pass for ones made on a printing press. Now that was a box to get out of!

I have enjoyed working for myself most of my adult life. People frequently tell me they wish they could be self-employed like I am. They say things like, "If I could just get one client then I could quit my job." My response is always the same, "Until you quit your job, you may never find that first client. There is nothing like the deadline of a rent or mortgage payment at the end of the month to motivate you to get out and look for clients."

Everyone works under some kind of deadline. Deadlines force us to prioritize our tasks, limit procrastination and help us achieve our work-related goals. But, we can often lack deadlines when we work for ourselves and in our private lives. Without those boundaries, procrastination can creep in and destroy our best intentions. The trick is to impose a deadline on yourself. But it has to have some teeth to work.

Here's how to do it: Write down your goal. Set a reasonable date in which you can achieve it. Pair up with a friend and you each take responsibility to follow up on the other one. You can get together once a week and check on each other's progress. If goals aren't being met, then nag each other into the 'UnComfort Zone'!

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is an author, speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

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NAPO Dues Notice

According to National NAPO policy, if your National dues lapse for 30 days, your membership date with NAPO will be reset to the date you rejoined. NAPO-CT will adhere to the same policy. If National membership expires, chapter membership automatically expires. It is your responsibility to keep both national and chapter membership current. Notify NAPO-CT Membership Director if you have any changes in your contact information.

Weather Policy

If the North Haven schools are closed due to bad weather, our meeting will be cancelled. Check local radio and television stations for updated news.

Our **Chapter Vision** is to be the leading resource for professional organizers in Connecticut.

Our **Chapter Mission** is to:

- Support, educate and provide networking for our members.
- Promote the profession of professional organizing.
- Educate the public about professional organizing.

**Our Goal is
Your Success**

Note your Calendar

June 17	Chapter Meeting	9:00 am to noon
June	Board Strategic Planning	TBD
July/Aug	No meetings scheduled	Enjoy the summer!
Sept 16	Chapter meeting	9:00 am – Noon
Oct 21	Chapter meeting	9:00 am – Noon
Nov 18	Chapter meeting	9:00 am – Noon

2011-12 Chapter Board of Directors

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 New Organizer Q&A Forum
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 Librarian Jen Alden
 Newsletter Editor

Advertising Information

Connecticut Connections is published at least six times a year and sent to all NAPO-CT members, subscribers, posted at www.napoct.com and www.napo.net.

The NAPO-CT Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad or article. Articles and ads must be sent by email and pictures must be in .jpeg format.

A 10% discount is given for a six-issue advertisement insertion. When space is limited, chapter news has priority over any paid advertisement and chapter members have priority over non-members.

Ad size	NAPO-CT	National Member	Non-member
3 – lines	\$7.50	12.50	25.00
3.5" x 2"	15.00	25.00	35.00
¼ page	25.00	50.00	70.00
½ page	50.00	75.00	100.00
Full page	100.00	150.00	200.00