

# CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS



**August 2011**

## President's Message

Sandra Wheeler  
[forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net](mailto:forpeaceofmind@sbcglobal.net)

Dear {FIRST\_NAME|NAPO CT Member},

I hope that this newsletter finds you having a most delightful summer. Even though we do not have Chapter meetings during the summer months, the Chapter Board continues to work behind the scenes to prepare for the coming year.



Starting in September, we are replacing our 'Situation of the Month' with a series called 'The A-B-C's of an Organizing Business. At each of our Chapter meetings, we will take 15-20 minutes to discuss how to keep your business running smoothly. Thank you to Judith Kirk for redesigning this portion of our meetings. Elaine Johnson, our Director of Programming, is working hard to find and schedule speakers for our Fall meetings. She is off to a great start. If you have ideas for topics or specific speakers, please pass them on to Elaine at [organize.it@att.net](mailto:organize.it@att.net). Enjoy the second half of your summer! We look forward to seeing you in September.



## Member News

Cindi Filer  
Membership Director  
[alifeinorder@comcast.net](mailto:alifeinorder@comcast.net)

We welcome Beth Schlater of LNM Organizing Solutions as one of our newest members. Beth is based out of Riverside and has already joined our Board as Director of Communication and Technology. Way to jump in Beth!

Anne Thurlow also joined our Chapter. Anne's company is called

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**When:**  
September 16, 2011  
9:00 a.m. – noon

**Speaker:**  
**Randi Brawley**  
from  
SYNERGe-marketing

**Agenda:**  
Continental breakfast Networking  
Speaker  
Q&A

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

Click [HERE](#) to R.S.V.P.



## Upcoming Events

October 21st  
Chapter meeting  
9:00 am – Noon

November 18th  
Chapter meeting  
9:00 am – Noon  
*Board Meeting*  
12:30 - 2:30

January 20th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon  
*Board Meeting*  
*Strategic Plan Update*  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Keep it Simple Organizing based out of Niantic. Anne, you have joined a really fun and active chapter. We are now 42 members strong.

I encourage all members to warmly welcome Anne and Beth!

## Volunteer Recognition

At our May meeting, the following individuals were recognized for their volunteer service in 2010-11:

**Jen Alden:** Secretary; Librarian

**Cara Brook:** Past President

**Jen Burke:** Vice President; Meeting Presenter 'How to Find a Stud'

**Cindi Filer:** Director of Membership

**Elaine Johnson:** Director of Programming

**Susan Lovallo:** Meeting Presenter 'Preparing Yourself & Your Client for Taxes'

**Faith Manierre:** Newsletter Editor and Contributor; Meeting Facilitator 'Open Spaces'

**Beth Schlater:** Database Coordinator

**Sandra Wheeler:** President; Director of Communication & Technology

**Judith Kirk:** President's Award for her many years of service to our Chapter. She was one of the founding members and has served on the Board since the beginning. This past year, Judith was Board Treasurer, Creator and Facilitator of the GO Month panel presentation on Professionalism, Newsletter Contributor, and Facilitator of our 2011-12 Board Strategic Planning meeting. We thank you Judith for your dedication and commitment to NAPO-CT.

## Thank You...

Dear NAPO-CT members:

Words cannot express how humbled I felt as I stood speechless in front of you all at our May meeting while being showered with appreciation for the years of NAPO-CT work. The old adage to give and you will receive is so, so true. I gave with all my heart to establish the CT organizers informal group in 1995, launch the chapter in 2003, and then participate in its growth and outreach ever since. Today my heart is overflowing with what I have received in return – friendships, loads of best wishes and thank you's, and of course the abundant gift card. Thank you, thank you all for being present at the meeting. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to know each one of you in a special way.

Now Sandra stated that I had to use this gift card for something special. It is sitting right here in front of me as I contemplate exactly what I will spend it on. Well, I want you all to know that I plan to outfit myself with a waterproof backpack and camera rain sleeve to protect my camera and equipment on my Antarctica trip. Of course, you all will want to see some really crisp pictures of those penguins organized according to size, color and location. Well, maybe if I can't organize the penguins, I'll take stunning pictures of



February 17th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon  
*Board Meeting*  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

March 16th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon  
*New Board Welcome*  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

March 21 - 24th  
NAPO National Conference  
Baltimore, MD

April 20th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon  
*Board Transition*  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

May 18th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon  
*Board Meeting*  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

June 15th  
Chapter Meeting  
9:00 am - Noon



## June Meeting Highlights

Thank you to Janet Johnson for presenting "The Lean Office". Many attendees commented that they enjoyed the overview and the games. The puzzles are a terrific way for us to help our clients understand how having a system in place can relieve the stress in their lives. Thank you Janet for the terrific presentation, the fun activities and the opportunity cost worksheet that you shared.

**NAPO CT**  
**Board of Directors**

*the icebergs as I kayak along the coastline. (I'll probably let my sister do the paddling as I take the pictures!)*

*Again, thank you all for everything. I am not going away, just stepping down from being one of the movers and shakers on the board. Please consider stepping up. Many hands make light work and it takes a whole village to keep NAPO-CT growing.*

*With an overflowing heart, thank you all!  
Judith Ann Kirk*

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## **Part 1: The Buck Stops Here**

Judith Ann Kirk  
[OrganizingResources.com](http://OrganizingResources.com)

The 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman faced many challenges during his presidency, none more important than his decision to use nuclear weapons. During his terms, he popularized the phrase, "The buck stops here." President Truman stood by this saying and never relinquished his responsibility. The saying "the buck stops here" derives from the slang expression "pass the buck" which means passing the responsibility on to someone else. This expression is said to have originated with the game of poker, in which a marker or counter (frequently, in frontier days, it was a knife with a buckhorn handle) was used to indicate the person whose turn it was to deal. If the player did not wish to deal he could pass the responsibility by passing the "buck," as the counter came to be called. What does this have to do with you and your organizing business, you ask? Well a lot, when you begin to accept responsibility for past decisions and understand that where you are today and where you will be tomorrow is because of those decisions. The beginning of wisdom is to accept responsibility and refuse to pass the buck. You might be inclined to pass the buck by declaring that it wasn't your fault you ended up where you are today. It was your upbringing, specific situations, events, or the bad economy that has placed you in perilous times, or simply good luck that you have been successful. Either way, good or bad, where you are today is not because of parents, spouse, friends, colleagues, economy, luck or any other factor. Where you are today is because of decisions you have made along the way. Outside influences are not responsible for successes or failures. You are! Decisions are governed by thinking. Therefore, you are where you are today because of how you think, and you can change where you will be tomorrow by changing the way you think. Constructive thoughts move you forward; destructive thoughts (dwelling on problems of the past) stifle and stagnate. The words It's not my fault! have been symbolically written on the gravestones of unsuccessful people. The buck stops here! The past was in your hands, and the future is also in your hands. Control your thoughts and accept challenges as gifts-opportunities to learn. Your future is what you decide it will be. The ultimate outcome of anyone's life is a matter of personal choices. Choose wisely!

*This is an excerpt from Traveler's Gift by Andy Andrews. There are seven decisions that determine personal success. The first is the*

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### **Director of Professional Dev & Programming**

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### **Member News!**

Congratulations to Lauren Guiditta on the birth of her beautiful daughter **Simone Carmella Guiditta**. Welcomed into the world

*ability to accept responsibility. I will present a single decision for each newsletter. It will be your responsibility to incorporate the principles into your life and your profession. Excuses are not acceptable because the buck stops with you!*  
Next issue: *Seek Wisdom*

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## Board Strategic Planning Meeting

On June 13, the Board met for our 2011-12 Strategic Planning session. Thank you to Judith Kirk for facilitating our day. We reviewed past years' Board goals and accomplishments. We reviewed the member feedback gathered at our May meeting and each Board member took responsibility for a specific area moving forward.



We quickly came to the conclusion that many hands contributing a little would make much more progress than our Board of eight alone. So at our September meeting, we will encourage all members to lend a hand by introducing our 'Volunteer Teams'. Every member of the chapter will have the opportunity to choose which team they feel best fits their talents:

**Chapter Records** with Jen Alden

**Communications** with Beth Schlater and KB Bryant

**Membership** with Cindi Filer and Jen Burke

**Programming** with Elaine Johnson

**Public Relations** with Sandra Wheeler until a Director of Marketing is named

**Volunteering** with Cara Brook

There are opportunities for everyone – for someone that attends all meetings and has little extra time, we need a meeting photographer; for someone that does not attend meetings at all, we need a newsletter editor. For chapter members that do not sign up for a team, we will round out the teams as needed by filling in the slots. All of this will be explained further at our September meeting.

on May 25 at 6:01 p.m. She was 7 lb 8 oz and 19.5 inches long.



**NAPO - CT**

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