



The LA Organizer

NAPO-LA's newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 3

January 2003

The President's Message

Note on the Next Meeting

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Tanya Whitford, *Organizing Wonders*

Many of us make New Year's resolutions for ourselves. Sometimes we turn them into realities; sometimes, we allow them to make repeat appearances on our list for years! Here are some New Year's resolutions I'm making for NAPO-LA this year!

1. To have a wildly successful Winter Workshop. With the incredibly hard-working Heather Thompson and Mishele Vieira, I can just cross this off my list right now! With a fabulous keynote, twelve speakers to choose from in four sessions, a vendor expo, food, prizes and networking, how could anyone *not* register for this day! It is going to be amazing!

2. To create the Policy & Procedures Manual. This is one of those resolutions that has been lingering on our list for years. Some of you may not think that this is so important, but those who volunteer know it would make a lot of things easier. We have been able to accomplish quite a bit without real guidelines, and we have been blessed to have so many smart volunteers who can

successfully pick up a new job with very little to go on. But, we need this manual completed as a gift to those who come after us. Robin Davi, Dolores Kaytes, Marilyn Crouch, and Kathleen Klein have already put in some valuable time to help me accomplish this. We hope to have this huge project complete in time for the next board turnover.

3. To move to a new meeting location. At the Membership Meeting, we discussed in detail why we need to move to a better meeting location. With our attention temporarily on the workshop and then the holidays, we have not been able to focus our energies on this yet. Now we can return to the search, present the results to the Chapter and hopefully make the move before the National Conference in April.

4. To continue to improve our website. Our website is now one year old. It has proven to be an incredible asset to our Chapter. Shawna Smith, Toni Scharff and I had no experience in websites when we first began this project

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A NEW TRADITION FOR NAPO-LA

Justine Miceli, *Organizing by Miceli*

This year's first meeting on January 27th will mark the beginning of an exciting, new annual chapter tradition.

A panel of some of our esteemed Golden Circle members will share their collective years of wisdom by engaging in a question and answer session with meeting attendees.

This year's panel, comprised of Ann Gambrell, Sheila McCurdy, Cyndi Seidler, Donna McMillan and facilitated by Dorothy Breining, will address questions on the topic *Ethical Dilemmas and Real Life Experiences with Clients*.

We want to extend a special thanks to our November speaker, Katherine Anne Lewis, founder of *Harmony and Balance*, for making our Holiday meeting informative, inspirational and festive!

For her workshops, products and private consultations, call (310) 770-1970.

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Who's Who in NAPO-LA

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COORDINATORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Associate Member Coordinator	Barb Schmit
Chapter Historian	Marci Alpert
Client Referrals Coordinator	Diane Ridley
Database/Yellow Pages	Shawna Smith
Ethics Committee	Sheila McCurdy
Golden Circle Advisor	Ann Gambrell
Greeting Coordinator	Toni Scharff
Meeting Assistant	Debra Frank
New Member Coordinator	Sherry Kelly
New Member Orientation	Jean Furuya Ann Gambrell
Prospective Member Coordinator	Claire Quinlan
Public Relations	Heather Thompson
Special Projects Coordinator	Jean Furuya
Webmaster	Chris Janetsky, Shawna Smith, Tanya Whitford
Web Listing Coordinator	Toni Scharff
Web Sponsor Coordinator	Heather Thompson
Workshop Co-Chairs	Heather Thompson, Mishele Vieira

LA ORGANIZER STAFF

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The LA Organizer

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DEADLINE The first of the month for any submission.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Size	Members	Nonmembers
3-line classified	\$5.00	\$10.00
Business card size	\$10.00	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$25.00	\$50.00
Half page	\$35.00	\$70.00
Full page	\$50.00	\$100.00
Full page insert	\$85.00	\$150.00



The mission of the National Association of Professional Organizers is to encourage the development of Professional Organizers, to promote recognition of and to advance the professional organizing industry.

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NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES

Individual (renews on member's anniversary)	\$200
Associate-Corporate	\$550
Associate-Branch	\$150
Associate-Local	\$250
New Member (one-time processing fee)	\$20
National NAPO Name Badge	\$10

MISSION STATEMENT—NAPO-LA

NAPO-LA is an organization dedicated to bringing Southern California Area Organizers together through networking, education, professional growth, industry updates, support, and public awareness.

NAPO-Los Angeles
PMB 134, 10573 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064
HOTLINE (213) 486-4477
www.napola.org

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

National Membership required
 Includes electronic newsletter

ANNUAL DUES

Basic Member (Oct. 1st–Sept. 30th)	\$75
Full Member (includes monthly meetings)	\$135
Out-of-State Individual (Oct. 1st–Sept. 30th)	\$50
Associate Member (Oct. 1st–Sept. 30th)	\$150
New/Lapsed Member Processing Fee	\$10
Meeting Fee	\$7

NONMEMBERS

Newsletter Subscription (annual)	\$25
Meeting Visitor Fee	\$15



MARILYN CROUCH, AVENUES TO ORGANIZATION

Talia Eisen, Staff Writer

The Volunteer of the Month is selected by the Board of Directors and is awarded to a member in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to our Chapter. The winner is announced at the Chapter meeting and is profiled in this column the following month.

Marilyn Crouch makes an extraordinary contribution to NAPO-LA, volunteering as VP/Membership on the Board of Directors. She is cheerful and composed as she oversees the New Member Coordinator, Prospective Member Coordinator, New Member Orientation and Database Coordinator. She also volunteered to coordinate the GO week event at Break the Cycle, which was a fabulous success. She conducted the Membership Survey this year as well. Her volunteer work began as soon as she joined NAPO. In her first month, she wrote an article for the newsletter and volunteered to organize a summer picnic for the Chapter. She became the New Member Coordinator soon after that and stepped in as interim VP/Membership

before officially taking over the position this term. Marilyn is a member and volunteer at the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and holds a first level certificate with NSGCD. She brings her wish to help others to everything she does, and NAPO-LA benefits greatly from it.

Marilyn grew up in Australia and has spent a great deal of time there. She held a corporate job for twenty-one years at TRW before realizing she wanted a different lifestyle. Hoping to make a real difference in the world, she left her secure job to do some soul searching. During this time, she reacquainted with Jean Furuya, from whom she'd taken a course in starting a home-based business years before. Jean suggested she look into the field of organizing and brought her to a NAPO-LA meeting. After a few meetings, Marilyn joined, realizing this was what she'd been looking for: organizing gave her a way to help others and make a difference in people's lives. Dedicated to self-development and personal growth, this was important to her.

Avenues to Organization focuses on office organizing, systems set-ups, paper processing, procedures development, filing systems and efficiency. She also does closets, garages and other household organizing as well, rounding out the company's services. Most rewarding for Marilyn are the relationships she forms with clients and the trust they place in her. She works by keeping a guiding question in mind: "What is the goal we are trying to accomplish?" This guide keeps her motivated and helps her clients find real solutions for organizing their lives. Certainly we are blessed that this caring individual has made it one of her continuing goals to contribute so generously to our chapter.



Abbreviated Minutes November Board Meeting

Talia Eisen, Staff Writer

1. To avoid incurring costs, the Board decided that new members will be asked to print out handouts for their orientation from the website, rather than having Orientation Directors make extra copies for them.
2. People may now register for the 2003 Workshop online.
3. The Workshop Committee is looking for additional vendors, raffle prizes and computer projectors.
4. The January meeting will be a Golden Circle panel, facilitated by Dorothy Breininger.
5. The search for a new meeting location continues. A new location is expected by Spring.
6. The Policy & Procedure Committee is continuing to make progress on completing the Chapter manual.

Agenda

Monday, January 27, 2003

- 5:50 Registration: Please wear badge
- 6:15 Meeting begins promptly
 - President's Remarks
 - Silent Auction
 - Member Spotlights
 - Announcements *
 - Computer Tips
- 7:00 Break
- 7:15 Golden Circle Panel
- 8:30 Silent Auction Results
- 8:35 Meeting adjourned

Fourth Monday except as announced
Olympic Collection Conference Center
11301 Olympic Blvd. at Sawtelle

Parking: \$5 Look for signs to meeting.
Meeting: \$7 NAPO-LA members
\$15 Visitors/prospective members

We welcome all Professional Organizers and those interested in entering the field (no clients please). Business attire is appreciated. Networking table is available to display brochures and flyers.

* To make an announcement, please email JustineMiceli@napola.org prior to the meeting or call her at (310) 576-6043.

The President's Message

fourteen months ago. With many lessons learned, the addition of Chris Janetsky and a little bit of a break, we now have the ability to improve some areas and expand others.

5. To bring in more website sponsors. This program is our single greatest method of raising money for our Chapter. It benefits both our Chapter and the sponsors. We get much needed funds so we can increase member benefits without raising dues, and we learn about new products and services that can help us and our businesses. Sponsors get major visibility in a highly targeted market through our website and newsletter.

6. To create opportunities for veteran and new organizers to share knowledge and experiences. A first step in this direction will be at our January meeting, when we will have a Golden Circle Panel. This is a great chance for all members to ask questions and learn from some of our veteran members. Our new members are lucky to have an orientation and mentor program; however, they probably have some great skills and experiences they can share as well. Perhaps they are very good with computers, the internet, or know all about the most recent electronic gadgets. Everyone has something to give. And you always receive when you give.

This should keep us busy for a while! With so many talented and wonderful volunteers in this Chapter, I don't doubt for a minute that all these New Year's resolutions will turn into realities. Happy New Year everyone! Best wishes for you, your loved ones, your businesses and NAPO-LA in 2003!

DISABILITY INSURANCE

Glorya Belgrade Schklair,
The Practical Organizer

A short while ago, I wrote about Disability Insurance. My answer quoted a publication of the Employment Development Department for the State of California (EDD) second quarter newsletter, offering a means to protect you from loss of income if you are self-employed.

The EDD is offering Disability Insurance Elective Coverage (DIEC) as a safety net to self-employed individuals doing business in California. I downloaded (<http://www.edd.ca.gov>) the application and found it to be straightforward and easy to complete. I recommended sending in an application to learn if you are eligible and how much the premiums cost.

Here is a follow-up to that recommendation and an explanation of my personal ineligibility: I am incorporated. As such, I am an employee of my corporation. The response I received from EDD stated, "The major part of your remuneration is from services you perform as an employee of *The Practical Organizer, Inc*; therefore, you are not eligible.

I hope that some of you downloaded the application and followed through. If you did and have received an answer, please notify me of the outcome. This is an opportunity that should not be wasted.

Please email any comments to me, and I will include them next month: glorya@schklair.com.



Sponsors/Resources

We wish to extend a great big
Thank you
to our Platinum Website Sponsors

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Organized
Living

Go to www.napola.org and click on Sponsors/Resources for more information on what our sponsors have to offer.

Complete details on becoming a NAPO-LA Website Sponsor are available online or by contacting Heather Thompson, our Web Sponsor Coordinator, at advertising@napola.org



Members...

...remember to bring any unused cell phones and ink cartridges to the meeting for recycling.
Thanks!

HAVE YOU HEARD!!!!!!!

Robin L. Davi, Treasurer
Simply Arranged

It's nearly time to select our 2003-2004 Chapter Board of Directors.

The official call for nominations will be held at the February Chapter Meeting. The election will take place in March, and actual duties begin in June. All members who are in good standing with both NAPO-LA and NAPO-National for at least six months are eligible for nomination.

We are looking for candidates willing and able to fill positions that are opening up for the 2003-2004 year. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning how our amazing chapter operates from the inside out!

If you are interested in becoming our next Chapter's President, Vice-President/Membership, Program Director, Treasurer, Communications Director or Secretary, please contact Tanya Whitford at TanyaWhitford@napola.org.

Further details will be available in the February newsletter.

Membership Report

Marilyn Crouch, VP Membership
Avenues to Organization

November Meeting Attendance	35
Members	30
Guests	05
New Members	00
Total Membership NAPO-LA	75

2003 Southern California Winter Workshop

Ready! Set! Organize!

*The workshop that is designed to inspire, enlighten
and motivate all Professional Organizers!*

Learn how to improve yourself and your business!

Meet new friends and visit with old friends!

THIS SPECIAL DAY WILL INCLUDE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

• Caterina Rando, MA, MCC

**"Power Thinking:
Staying Motivated Day after Day"**

• 4 WORKSHOP SESSIONS • 12 TOPICS

*From Brand New Organizers to Veteran Organizers,
there will be sessions of interest to all*

• Continental Breakfast & Lunch Buffet

• Presentation of the President's Leading Edge Award

• Vendor Expo full of "must see" products

• Door Prizes

• February 1, 2003
8AM-5PM

• Radisson Westside, 6161 W. Centinela, Culver City

REGISTRATION FEE

Members \$145
Nonmembers \$165

Visit <http://www.napola.org> for details & registration information

LISA SARASOHN

Jean Furuya, *The Office Jeanie*

Lisa Sarasohn began her organizing career in December 1998, when she helped clean out her late Cousin Henry's apartment. Henry had died at 93 and left behind a houseful of shabby, grubby, dusty belongings. When no one else knew where to start, Lisa grabbed a garbage bag and went to work. In the process, she liberated several items that other family members might have sent to Goodwill, including some unusual collectible glassware and a gold velvet slipper chair that sits in her bedroom today as a reminder of her humble beginnings.

Lisa has been working as an organizer full time since January 2000 and loves every minute of it. Her gross income has increased dramatically with each passing year. Her services include: residential organizing, paper management, relocations and helping the bereaved deal with their lost loved one's property—as inspired by Cousin Henry. Her clients have included celebrities as well as people on permanent disability; seniors and children; a law firm and a shoe factory; published writers and harried housewives.

In addition to running her own business, *Hire Order*, Lisa was invited to train with Julie Morgenstern at the Empire State Building in New York and is currently Julie's sole sub-contractor in the Los Angeles area. She also teaches organizing classes at Santa Monica College and the University of Judaism, and speaks to various organizations.

Lisa believes that the success of her business is due in large part to her focus on "remaining a humble servant," not of her clients, but of her Higher Power. "We have the talent and the power to change lives with our gifts as organizers. I believe we're all here for a larger purpose. Every time I get a new client, I say a big 'Thank You' for another opportunity to help another person in such a hugely positive way."

Lisa will be happy to share her marketing successes and failures, her ideas and methods for running her business, her principles for interacting with clients, how she keeps the faith during the slow times, and her secrets for—almost always—booking the client.

Calendar

January

*International Quality of Life Month
National Clean Up Your Computer Month*

- 6 Organize Your Home Day
- 6–10 National Thank Your Customers Week
- 12–18 Home Office Safety & Security Week
- 13 National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- 27 Board Meeting 2:30pm
- 27 Chapter Meeting 6:15pm

February

International Expect Success Month

- 1 2003 Winter Workshop
- 1–7 Publicity for Profit Week
- 2–8 International Personal & Business Coaching Week
- 24 Board Meeting 2:30pm
- 24 Chapter Meeting 6:15pm

Happy Birthday to You!

January

- 6 Sheila McCurdy
- 7 Marianna Long
- 19 Kevin Hall
- 20 Karen Solomon
- 30 Bette Martin

February

- 3 Julie Signore
- 20 Sandra Ateca
- 23 Tanya Whitford

March

- 6 Mischele Vieira
- 8 Michelle Gordon
- 28 Cathy Torre-Houghton
- 29 Diane Ridley

Website Hits

Chris Janetsky, Webmaster, *All Organized*

	<u>November 2002</u>	<u>December 2002</u>
Home page	4145	3868
Find an organizer	2096	1790
Clicks on specific members after search	453	630
Becoming a member	288	195
Calendar	376	228
Cumulative hits	13290	9962