

Women's Council of Realtors
May 13-16 Mid Year Washington D.C.
Trip Report

Robyn Walker
President Elect Report

Thursday I arrived mid afternoon after an interesting trip with delays and lost luggage. I was of course very relieved when my luggage arrived on the next flight! After getting settled, I had a quiet lunch with Angie and we discussed aspects of next year. Thursday evening I spent some time chatting with other Michigan members and then attended a National YPN "meet-up".

Friday morning always starts with a bang. Welcome followed by a packed day of sessions. I started with attending the Leadership Development Strategic Forum. The forum started with a fun question and answer session, which ended with the question "who has been a member for 25+ years...please stay standing". I was so proud to Marge Paron of my own chapter one of three still standing. Marge got the opportunity to announce her chapter and that she has been a member for 29 years. Awesome!!! Another great highlight was seeing our very own Brenda Lee leading off the "Faces of WCR" video! Weight on the value of a WCR membership was key in this forum. A new marketing tool was unveiled, the Leadership Pathways brochure which makes it clear and easy to understand all of the ways that you can become involved with WCR through Local, State and National. I always look forward to the time when members from chapters all across the nation share ideas and offer suggestions to one another.

Next up was the Local Chapter Presidents Best Practice Session. "Back to Basics" and building on our strengths was the basis of this session. Most time was spent within our own table and chatting with peers about challenges we face, goals for 2011 and new ideas to try.

A short break allowed for lunch with some Michigan WCR peers and then back at it at 1:30 for another Strategic Forum – Outreach & Influence. Becoming a major donor for RPAC was discussed with a panel of current

major donors. Benefits of becoming a major donor were discussed, though much weight seemed to be put on the “party aspect” as to why one of the panelists donated as much as she did. Unfortunately is raised a flag for me that a portion of our RPAC donations are budgeted for just that – rewarding the major donors for their contributions with lavish trips and parties. I will surely being following up on this.

I attended the Regional Meeting, which unfortunately ran parallel with the Robert Morris Technology session that I had wished to attend. During the regional meeting, Anita discussed the upcoming Regional Conference July 13-15 in St. Charles, IL and she gave all a status update on the planning and attendance thus far. Shelley Morgan was selected as the Region II RVP for 2011. Angie Ridley will serve as an alternate on the Nominating Committee for Shelley should she not be able to serve. All State Chapter Presidents then gave reports.

Friday evening was capped off with the annual awards dinner and banquet where Michigan proved to shine through receiving numerous local chapter awards and two of the national awards. Way to go Michigan!

Saturday was a little less hectic. I attended Learning Labs that I feel personally depending on speaker are not offering what they have in the past. I was disappointed by the X & Y: The Face of the Future lab. Discussion and lecture simply does not seem to be matching up with the description that is given in the schedule, especially with this topic. Random facts about generations X & Y were given referring to pop culture instead of strategies for adapting to generational divides as stated. I feel the negative stereotype was only increased for the younger generation instead of highlighting positive attributes and qualities.

I then sat in on the Finance & Budget Committee meeting. Summit income was discussed which if my notes are correct was less than \$2000.00. Total membership figures were given as of first quarter end with a proposed 1%-2% gain by the end of the year. A dues increased was discussed and broke down based on a 3 year installment plan.

At the General Assembly Session, Debbie Lee Nation of the Saginaw Valley Chapter was awarded with her PMN Designation. Candidates for

line office then had some time to introduce themselves. Saturday evening I dined with a small group of WCR Michigan peers.

Sunday morning I took one last opportunity to get in a run and visited the monuments for the last time this trip. Packed up, checked out and attended the WCR Governing Board meeting at 10:00. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws were voted on that included the proposed dues increase. Dues increased passed. Financial reports were then given as well as Liaisons to NAR, Nominating Committee & Strategic Forum reports. The meeting ended with Debbie Z winning the \$100 lei!

A few key things that I walked away with this year were:

1. We need to market the VALUE of Women's Council to our members and potential members.
2. Mentoring is key in recruiting and retaining members.
3. I encourage local chapter members that are traveling together to stop sitting together! What you take away from the intimate discussions with fellow members across the country is priceless.
4. Attend the Finance & Budget Committee meeting. All of the financial information that is quickly covered on the last day at the governing board is gone over in much more detail and you will have a better understanding!

Thank you for allowing me to attend and serve this year as your State President Elect.

Robyn

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