



Young Professionals Benefit from Chapter Activities

Imagine being a high school student and walking into the world's premier training and simulation conference. Overwhelmed by the extensive offerings of technology? Not if the **Central Florida Chapter's** delegation is handy. Volunteers served as tour guides for groups of students attending the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation & Education Conference (I/ITSEC). WID members helped the students make the most of their time. As a result, more young people were able to see the range of professions awaiting—and needing—them. **Debbie Berry, Lockheed Martin**, is chapter president.

Another chapter linking students and professionals is the **Picatinny Chapter** in northern New Jersey. For the sixth year, the chapter's *Bring Your Child to Work Day* in April will provide children ages 8-12 the opportunity to understand the mission of a key player in their region, Picatinny Arsenal. "The experience leaves a memorable impression on each child and helps open their minds to career fields in math and science," said chapter president **Wendy Franciscovich, U.S. Army**. "It gives the children a hands-on approach to career choices and celebrates the vital support their parents provide to ensure the safety and strength of the soldier." In the past, students have visited the Target Behavioral Response Laboratory, the Software Engineering Center, and more.

In February, the **New England Shoreline Chapter** joined the Society of Women Engineers and General Dynamics Electric Boat in recognizing National Engineers Week. The engineering profession is especially important in the geographic area the chapter covers—Southern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Engineers Week programs are designed to reach out to current and future generations of engineering talent. Chapter president is **Annette Seling, General Dynamics Electric Boat**.

At another chapter, fostering professional growth through mentoring is the goal. The **Capital Chapter's** March 24 "speed mentoring"

program will provide the opportunity to mentor and to be mentored. According to program coordinator **Nicole Rizzolo, Lockheed Martin**, prospective mentors and mentees can meet potential matches in brief, one-on-one encounters. **Linda McKnight, KBR**, is chapter president. Details: <http://wid.ndia.org/chapters/DC/>.

The people who inspire students to pursue defense-related careers is the focus of the **Greater Frederick (Md.) Chapter's** awards program. "Through the Reach For the Stars Award, we honor inspirational people in the Greater Frederick area who demonstrate the chapter's vision of motivating young people to pursue, excel in, and seek careers in math and science and technical and scientific fields," said president **Karen Dickman, General Dynamics Information Technology**. Details about the May 6 award dinner, featuring BG Loree K. Sutton, M.D., Director, DoD Center for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury as speaker: http://wid.ndia.org/chapters/Greater_Frederick/.

Educational Programs Spotlighting Leadership Skills Draw Members

At the **Iowa/Illinois Chapter**, the Ninth Annual WID Symposium focused on *Leadership: Marching to Your Own Beat*. Under the leadership of chair **Christine Weatherspoon, U.S. Army**, the symposium engaged participants in a thought-provoking day of leadership examples for personal growth. "A diverse group of speakers made this learning experience enjoyable," said Christine. President is **Dianne Wheeler, U.S. Army**, and the chapter serves those around Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Leading with Resilience: Be Your Own Champion of Change is the topic of the March 16 luncheon for the **Chesapeake Bay Chapter** in Lexington Park, Md. Those who attended the WID National Fall Conference might recall references to the book, *It's Not a Glass Ceiling, It's a Sticky Floor*. Its author, Rebecca Shambaugh, will speak. President is **Holly Snyder, Booz Allen Hamilton**.



Network Notes

The Newsletter of WID National

Late Winter 2010

WID Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

This year WID marks 25 years since its founding as an official organization. Women In Defense was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia on Dec. 19, 1985. Its roots go back to 1979 when seven women saw the need for their own networking group. Today WID has more than 2,300 members.

A variety of activities will mark this important year. According to WID National Vice President **Tricia Ward, Booz Allen Hamilton**, chapter leaders will be invited to record the history of their chapters. "When we take the time to find out where we came from and to record it, we have a better understanding of our purpose, and we're better equipped to meet our goals."

Informative, Inspiring Speakers Headline Events

At the **Upstate New York** (Syracuse, N.Y.) **Chapter**, the commander of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, **RADM Carol M. Pottenger**, addressed a standing-room only crowd at a February reception. "It's about readiness. It's about being a top 50 employer. It's about wanting the best and keeping the best and the brightest. So in order to put that capability forward for our combat commanders, we need to have the opportunity for women to succeed across every career field," said Admiral Pottenger. **Sue Werner, SRCTec**, is chapter president. View the news clip: <http://news10now.com/cny-news-1013-content/498004/women-in-defense-hosts-guest-speaker?ap=1&MP4>

Members of the **Rocky Mountain Chapter** (Colorado Springs, Colo.) were inspired by their speaker **Latoya Lucas**, a retired Army sergeant who was the first female soldier from Fort Carson, Colo., to earn the Purple Heart. President is **Laurie Carroll, Schafer Corp.**

The **National Headquarters** continues its popular Executive Breakfast Series coordinated by **Eileen Giglio**. Details about these Arlington, Va. events: <http://wid.ndia.org/news.htm>.

President's Message

Dear WID Members:

March is Women's History Month! This year marks the 30th anniversary year of Women's History Month. The overarching theme for this year is "Writing Women Back into History."

I can relate to that because recently, I've been thinking about the last 30 years of my life as I gather photos to share with my college classmates this summer as we celebrate our 30th year reunion. As I reminisce, I recognize the efforts of countless women and organizations like Women In Defense that have made an impact on opportunities for today's women.

I believe that personal success as well as the success of WID as an organization is a result of recognizing your strengths and staying focused. As we at WID celebrate our 25th anniversary, we can take pride in our accomplishments of fostering the advancement of women and of serving our nation. I believe that WID will continue its success by doing what it does best—networking, mentoring and supporting education in science, technology engineering and math, especially as related to women.

Thank you for letting Women In Defense be part of your history. I hope you will continue to turn to the organization as you shape your future. I challenge each of us to take time to record our accomplishments and milestones. Today is tomorrow's history!

Margaret DiVirgilio

Save the Date

Oct. 5, 2010—WID National Annual Dinner, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Oct. 6, 2010—WID National Fall Conference, Mayflower Hotel

Dec. 19, 2010—WID 25th Anniversary





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Chapters Increase Interaction Among Members, Experts

Strength Through Diversity: Accepting Challenge, Accepting Change was the theme of the **San Diego Chapter's** second symposium in February. According to conference chair **Tricia Ward, Booz Allen Hamilton**, four keynote speakers, two panel discussions, and an inspirational "fireside chat" with Iraq veteran CAPT Dawn Halfaker, U.S. Army (Ret.) drew nearly 300 professionals to Loews Coronado Bay Resort, San Diego. View photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/79086409@N00/sets/72157623521824706>.

Cyberspace security will be the focus of the **Belvoir Chapter's** (Northern Virginia) March 16 breakfast. MG Steven W. Smith, Director, U.S. Army Cyberspace Task Force, will address cyber activities. Previously, the chapter hosted Rosemary Wenchel, Director of Information Operations and Strategic Studies, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, who discussed cyber activities and her career as a woman in the defense profession. Chapter president is **Katherine Hollis, Institute for Defense Analysis**.

The movie *Lioness* tells the story of the first women in U.S. history to be sent into direct ground combat. Members of the **Mid-Atlantic Chapter** will enjoy a screening March 11 at Harford Community College, according to Aberdeen Director **Tamera Rush, SRC, Inc.** In April, the chapter will host a discussion on base realignment and closure. President is **Sandra Coryell, U.S. Army**. Details: <http://sites.google.com/site/monmouthwid/>.

In Huntsville, Ala., the **Tennessee Valley Chapter's** February member appreciation reception focused on small business support to national defense. "For each reception, we have a theme," said **Cristina Hinkle, CohesionForce, Inc.**, president. **Carol Tevepaugh, ARES Corp.**, and **Donna Burrell, Oak Ridge Partnership Office**, assisted with the event. View photos at http://www.ndia-tvc.org/gallery/wid_reception_gallery/?detectflash=false&.

The **Palmetto Chapter**, in the Carolinas, sponsored a Small Business Track in December in

conjunction with the Charleston (S.C.) Defense Contractors Association C5ISR Government and Industry Conference. Representatives of small businesses took part in a "matchmaking session," in which needs and opportunities were matched, gained "lessons learned" from four successful Charleston small businesses, heard an acquisition overview, and fostered new business connections. According to president **Ellen Pfeiffer, Palmetto IT Solutions**, "The chapter was recognized for its organizational contribution to making the annual C5ISR conference a success. Our workshop was a runaway, beat-the-band success."

How to Get a Prime's Attention is the topic of a Supply Chain Panel Discussion for the March 24 **Michigan Chapter** event in Troy, Mich. According to president **Nancy Loerch, Archetype Joint LLC**, many Detroit region companies seek to explore business opportunities in defense work, so the chapter is introducing four prime contractors and two woman-owned businesses to this business community. Details: <http://www.wid-mi.org/>.

A Note from the Staff Director

I jot down women's "firsts" just for fun. In honor of Women's History Month, I wanted to share my list. I'm writing this on the day a Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) of World War II. Recently gathered:

- The next director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency—Letitia Long—will be the first woman to head a major intelligence agency.
- In the last round of Nobel Prizes, three were awarded to women: Elinor Ostrom (Economics), Ada E. Yonath (Chemistry), and Carol W. Greider (Physiology and Medicine). Since 1901, 40 women in total have received the Nobel Prize.
- The U.S. Army has selected the first female commandant to lead Drill Sergeant School, Command Sergeant Major Teresa King.
- Kathryn Bigelow was the first woman to receive an Oscar for Best Director and to head the Best Picture winner.
- Kelly Kulick became the first woman to win a regular Professional Bowlers Association tour title, winning the 2010 Tournament of Champions.

--Jane Patrick Casey