

# **THE STAGES OF NAPO-CT: Stage One**

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Published: NAPO-CT CONNECTIONS September-October 2006

In the beginning, there were two rookies...

In 1995, there were only four NAPO members living and working in Connecticut. At that time, industry awareness was minimal. We each had to explain that, “No we did not organize unions nor political rallies; and no, we did not clean houses or wash windows.” The concept of a Professional Organizer was new not only in Connecticut, but across the country. We have come a long ways since those days. Industry recognition has propelled “getting organized” into the spotlight and each of us benefit from the publicity.

National NAPO membership has grown from sixteen in 1985 to touch the rim of 4,000 today. Likewise, NAPO-CT has experienced the same increase, presently hovering around seventy. Clearly, this growth represents the continued awareness of the importance of organization at home and at work.

In 1995, as a newbie, I attended the NAPO Regional Conference in Albany, NY. Here I met dedicated organizers from the Northeast area who clearly stated that a professional organizing business was possible and lucrative. I knew I was on the right track. This conference provided me with the catalyst to grow a successful business and with colleagues to support that growth. This is where I met Anita Taylor.

Anita and I vowed to meet frequently to support each other in the development and evolution of our businesses and the growth of the industry. We contacted the other NAPO members in Connecticut and began meeting at breakfast time chatting about our newest adventures. Others joined in this forum and we began structured meetings on a monthly basis.

In January 1998, the official Informal Group of Connecticut was recognized by NAPO and the two rookies were on their way to successful businesses that continue to thrive today.

Next issue will include the events of the beginning years. Stay tuned!