

THE STAGES OF NAPO-CT: Stage Two

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The year was 1998...

Connecticut organizers were meeting on a monthly basis solidifying friendships and supporting each other in the growth of the organizing industry as well as individual businesses. We needed each other. We had so much to learn as the profession of organizing evolved around us. We needed and wanted to be a part of this evolution.

The Annual NAPO Conference was held in Portland, Oregon with 270 registered attendees. If you spend a little time perusing the list of volunteers that made that Conference such a success, you will see names of members that are still active today.

What is it about this association that keeps members active for many, many years? Susan Lannis, 1998 NAPO Treasurer and Conference Chair quoted Italian artist Luciano de Crescenzo, by stating, "We are, each of us, angels with only one wing; and we can only fly by embracing one another."

Gloria Ritter, NAPO President at that time stated that, "from the original five people who recognized a deep human need, we have evolved into a new profession." Because of the newness and rapid growth of the organizing industry, we had to support each other as we grew in stature and accountability. There was, and still is, no better place to access this support than the monthly get-togethers – coming together to learn how to fly. As new organizers, we knew this fact to be true in 1998, and it is still pertinent today.

Gloria went on to say, "The irony, of course, is that we didn't invent, or even discover anything new. We have merely recycled what industrial psychologists and engineers discovered 50 years ago and home economists discovered 50 years before that."

Gloria continued her President's Message by quoting novelist Marcel Proust; "The voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

Those new eyes are yours, NAPO-CT members. Each individual that walks into the North Haven Holiday Inn conference room on the third Friday of every month brings a new perspective to the landscape of the organizing industry. Monthly meetings were important in 1998 and remain just as important today. Keep coming and stay involved!

More retrospection on the foundation and growth of NAPO-CT in the next issue.