

# THE LOS ANGELES ORGANIZER



January/February 2006

Volume 13, Issue 2

## The Year of Professional Excellence

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### NAPO Los Angeles

**Mission Statement:** 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  
Phone 213-486-4477

NAPO-Los Angeles  
Who's Who

President:

### Reminder:

*The L.A. Organizer* is published bimonthly. Look for "Announcements from the Board" in between issues. Deadline for submissions for the March/April newsletter is February 25th.

### Announcement:

**Katrina Relief Effort:** The We Care Coast to Coast team met recently to establish a long-term plan through 2007. Details to follow.

## CALENDAR

### January

January is "Get Organized Month"  
20 GO Month Event at NCJW-LA  
30 First Annual Los Angeles Organizing Awards  
**NO NAPO-LA Meeting in January!**

### February

February is "National Archive Your Files Month"  
8 Clean Out Your Computer Day  
8 Meeting of CD Support Group - 6 pm  
25 Deadline for submissions for March/April newsletter  
27 NAPO-LA Board Meeting - 1:30 pm  
27 NAPO-LA Chapter Meeting - 6:15 pm

### March

March is "Get Ready for Tax Time Month"  
1 MET Q&A Conference Call - 6 pm - 8 pm  
27 NAPO-LA Board Meeting - 1:30 pm  
27 NAPO-LA Chapter Meeting - 6:15 pm

### President's Message

**The Event of the Year Is At Hand**

**The 2006 Los Angeles Organizing Awards**



By Chris McKenry

Chris McKenry  
[ChrisMcKenry@napola.org](mailto:ChrisMcKenry@napola.org)  
323-525-0678

**Vice-President:**

Tiffany Schwartz  
[TiffanySchwartz@napola.org](mailto:TiffanySchwartz@napola.org)  
310-453-6878

**Secretary:**

Dee Saar  
[DeeSaar@napola.org](mailto:DeeSaar@napola.org)  
818-686-6823

**Treasurer:**

Cindy Kamm  
[CindyKamm@napola.org](mailto:CindyKamm@napola.org)  
310-836-6471

**Director of Marketing:**

Laurie Clarke  
[LaurieClarke@napola.org](mailto:LaurieClarke@napola.org)  
310-210-0761

**Director of Membership:**

**Director of Professional Development:**

John Trosko  
[JohnTrosko@napola.org](mailto:JohnTrosko@napola.org)  
323-512-7039

**Director of Administration:**

Kristine Oller  
[pdxbadger@earthlink.net](mailto:pdxbadger@earthlink.net)  
818-872-0619

**Director of Communications & Technology:**

Jodi McDaniel  
[JodiMcDaniel@napola.org](mailto:JodiMcDaniel@napola.org)  
310-503-3877

**Director of Finance:**

**Immediate Past President:**

Robin L. Davi  
[RobinDavi@napola.org](mailto:RobinDavi@napola.org)  
805-522-9687

## Coordinators & Committee Chairs

**Associate Member Coordinator:**

Barb Schmit

**Database/Directory:**

Jodi McDaniel

**Electronic Communications:**

Laurie Clarke

*Get It Together LA!*  
NAPO-LA President

The nominees are chosen; the silent auction items are cataloged; the script is written; and the food is being prepared. The Los Angeles Organizing Awards gala is just days away. Will you be joining us?

This unique event will celebrate the contributions of individuals, retailers, authors, and media who promote YOUR business. You and your guests will enjoy the elegance of Maggiano's Bellagio Room and the camaraderie of colleagues as the winners are announced by our host Dave Linden. Dave's wit and comedic insight will add to the evening's festivities. What an exciting end to this year's "Get Organized" Month.

Who will win in the 2006 Los Angeles Organizing Awards? One answer is every professional organizer of NAPO-LA. Already, two news organizations have conducted interviews for stories on how NAPO-LA members can make businesses more productive and homes more efficient. As winners promote their awards, NAPO-LA will be featured as the source for all of Los Angeles' organizing needs.

Congratulations to the 2006 nominees:

**Best Organizing Product Resource-**

Staples, The Container Store

**Best Organizing Book-**

"Clear Your Clutter with Feng Shui" by Karen Kingston, "Getting Things Done" by David Allen, "Organizing From the Inside Out" by Julie Morgenstern

**Most Supportive Media Outlet-**

KABC 7, The Los Angeles Times

**Best National Organizing Show-**

Clean House, Clean Sweep, Mission Organization, Neat

**Most Helpful Organizing Technology-**

Palm PDA, Paper Tiger Software

**Most Organizer-Friendly Charity-**

Goodwill Southern California, National Council of Jewish Women-Los Angeles, Out of the Closet, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Salvation Army-Southern California Division

**Best Office Organizing Product-**

Pendaflex Hanging File Folders, Rubbermaid/Eldon 3-Tier Organizer

**Best Residential Organizing Product-**

Sterilite Containers, Dymo Letratag Labelmaker

**Best Organizer as Coach or Mentor-**

Jean Furuya, Ann Gambrell, Donna McMillan

**Most Innovative Organizer-**

Dorothy Breininger, Julie Morgenstern

**Most Valuable Educational Resource-**

Ann Gambrell's Home Organizing Workshop, NAPO National Conference, National Study Group for the Chronically Disorganized

**Volunteer of the Year Award-**

To be announced January 30

**Raising the Bar Award-**

To be announced January 30

**Leading Edge Award-**

To be announced January 30

These businesses and individuals can all take pride in being nominated, but only one award will be given in each category. Come and share in the excitement as the winners of the 2006 Los Angeles Organizing Awards are announced at Maggiano's at the Grove on January 30. **If you have not purchased your tickets for this gala evening, please go to [www.napola.org](http://www.napola.org) and make your reservation TODAY.** The deadline for reservations is January 23.

**Golden Circle Advisor:**

Ann Gambrell

**Greeting Coordinator:**

Toni Scharff

**Greeter:**

Sttevvven Bennett

**Historian (Scrapbooker):**

Judy Powell

**Librarian:**

Susan Dunn Morua

**Meeting Assistant:**

Toni Scharff

**MET Program Coordinators:**

Jean Furuya, Ann Gambrell,  
Marilyn Crouch

**New Member Orientation:**

Jean Furuya, Ann Gambrell

**Photographers:**

Sara Getzkin, Evelyn Gray

**Prospective Member Coordinator:**

Linda Kodman

**Public Relations:**

Laurie Clarke

**Registration Assistants:**

Tiffany Schwartz, Laura Johnson

**Silent Auction:**

Cindy Kamm

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Mishele Vieira

**Webmasters:**

Jodi McDaniel, Susan Culligan, Susan  
Eleftherakis, Linda Kodman, Toni  
Scharff, Gayle Westrate

The Los Angeles Organizer  
Newsletter Staff

**Editor and Publisher:**

Claire Flannery

[ClaireFlannery@napola.org](mailto:ClaireFlannery@napola.org)

310-822-1820

**Proofreaders:**

Sheila McCurdy, Cheryl Perkins,  
Toni Scharff

**Submission Guidelines:** Published 6  
times per year in January, March, May,  
July, September and November. All  
articles are copyrighted, all rights  
reserved. Submit text in MicroSoft Word  
attachment or type directly into e-mail  
message. Attach visuals as .jpg or .tif.  
Send to [ClaireFlannery@napola.org](mailto:ClaireFlannery@napola.org).

**Deadline:** All articles must be received  
by the 25th of the month prior to  
publication.

See you on the red carpet!

2006 Los Angeles Organizing Awards



**Dave Linden**  
Master of Ceremonies  
**Monday, January 30, 2006**

**Maggiano's**  
189 The Grove Drive  
Los Angeles

6 pm Hors d' oeuvres,  
No-Host Cocktails (cash bar),  
& Silent Auction  
7 pm Dinner & Awards

Cost: \$75 per person, \$600 table of 8

*For more information, contact event chair John Trosko. The  
Los Angeles Organizing Awards is a NAPO-LA event and is  
sponsored by The Container Store.*

**Two Board Positions Open**

The chapter has two positions open on the Board of  
Directors. The Director of Membership and Director of  
Finance. If you are interested in fulfilling the remaining term  
of either of these positions, send an email to [Chris McKenry](mailto:ChrisMcKenry)  
or call him at 323-525-0678.

Up-coming NAPO-LA Programs



*By John Trosko, OrganizingLA  
NAPO-LA Director of  
Professional Development*

**January Membership Meeting  
Replaced by Awards Gala**

**Advertisements:** Ads appear as icons on an html page and include a hyperlink to your website. Send art in .jpg format at 72 dpi to [ClaireFlannery@napola.org](mailto:ClaireFlannery@napola.org). All art and payments must be received by the 25th of the month prior to publication. All payments to be arranged with Cindy Kamm. Contact Cindy at [CindyKamm@napola.org](mailto:CindyKamm@napola.org).

**Ad Size:** 125x100 pixels

**Ad Price:** \$25 Members,  
\$35 Non-NAPO Members

**Coupon:** This feature allows advertiser to provide a text of 50-75 words for a more detailed description than the sponsor link

**Coupon Price:** \$35 Members,  
\$45 Non-NAPO Members

## Chapter Membership

National NAPO membership required.  
Price includes electronic newsletter.

### Annual Dues (Oct. to Sept.)

\$85 - Basic Member w/ website referral listing  
\$135 - Basic Member w/ website referral listing and paid meeting fees (Available only with annual renewal in September.)  
\$50 - Out-of-State Individual  
\$250 - Associate Member/Local  
\$150 - Associate Member/Branch  
\$10 - New/Lapsed Member Processing  
\$10 - Meeting Fee

### Non-Members

\$25 - Newsletter Subscription (Annually)  
\$25 - Visitor Meeting Fee

## National Membership

### Annual Dues:

\$200 - Individual  
\$150 - Associate-Branch  
\$250 - Associate-Local  
\$550 - Associate-Corporate  
\$20 - New Member One-Time Processing Fee

## ABBREVIATED MINUTES

### November Board Meeting

Our formal chapter meeting this month is being replaced by the electrifying 2006 Los Angeles Organizing Awards brought to you by the Professional Development Team. Be sure to join us for the January 30 awards, filled with food, networking and an opportunity for Los Angeles Professional Organizers to walk "down the red carpet." This event will bring our chapter both media and public attention, which will increase our visibility in the community. Tickets are only \$75 and spouses are absolutely welcome.

## Barry Izsak, NAPO President Special Guest on February 27



Winter programming excitement continues as our special guest at the February 27 meeting will be Barry Izsak, President of the National Association of Professional Organizers. On the eve of the National Conference in Boston, Barry will bring us up-to-date with a strategic plan update and will speak to us about how we can all work together to build the organization through enhanced communication.

With 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and ten years as a professional organizer, Barry will also share his secrets to help you achieve your own brand of success as a professional organizer

Our February meeting will surely be our largest attendance to date! Join us prior to the meeting for informal networking over a cup of tea or coffee (included in the price of the meeting). Following Barry's talk, you are invited to Zip Fusion (downstairs at the Olympic Collection) for no-host informal socializing honoring our national president.

## March Meeting to Highlight NAPO National Conference

Our March meeting will feature [National Conference](#) highlights. If you are attending conference, the Professional Development Committee would like you to participate in our March program by providing overviews of sessions. Please contact [John Trosko](#) for more information on this fun opportunity.

### **Thank You!**

*NAPO- LA wishes to thank the participants of the November Golden Circle Panel - Debbie Gilster, Christine Reiter, Dorothy Breininger, and Dolores Kaytes - for sharing their knowledge about how to prepare both clients and their businesses for a new year. Special thanks to Ann Gambrell,*

1. Expenditure approved for postcard mailing announcing Barry Izsak's appearance at February NAPO-LA meeting.
2. Motion approved that L.A. Organizing Awards sponsorship of \$500 would receive associate member status.
3. Still need a chairperson for L.A. conference.
4. Host chosen for L.A. Organizing Awards.
5. National Council of Jewish Women selected as "GO Month" project recipient of the chapter's donated organizing services.
6. January board meeting to be held on 1/5/06.

#### **January Board Meeting**

1. Director of Membership position again open.
2. Barry Izsak speaker at February meeting – details finalized.
3. L. A. Organizing Awards dinner details finalized.
4. Secret ballot voting done for Raising the Bar and Volunteer of the Year Awards.
5. Nomination process for chapter board elections begun.

*~By Dee Saar, Space Diviner  
NAPO-LA Secretary~*

### **Participate in NAPO-LA**

The Assistant's List is available as a resource connecting those available to serve as assistants for projects of organizers. Submit your request each month you wish to be listed. Include your name and phone number. The list is only for members of NAPO-LA and does not guarantee work. The Assistants List is found here in the Newsletter and also in the "Members Only" section of the website on the membership directory page. To add your name to the list, send an email to [Assistant@NAPOLA.org](mailto:Assistant@NAPOLA.org).

#### **JANUARY/FEBRUARY ASSISTANT'S LIST**

Susan Eleftherakis  
323-662-3291

Dee Saar  
818-686-6823

*Golden Circle Advisor, for providing leadership and to Dorothy Breininger for bringing us back to the millionaire experience. Thanks, too, to Barb Schmidt who provided last-minute technical support.*



### **January is "Get Organized" Month**

## **NAPO-LA organizers donate their time**

On January 20, NAPO-LA volunteers will organize the offices of the [National Council of Jewish Women](#). Look for a recap of this exciting event in upcoming announcements.

### **NAPOLA.ORG Undergoes Redesign**



## **Check Out the New [napola.org](http://napola.org) Website**

*By Jodi McDaniel  
Organizing and More*

There is yet another reason to be proud of your membership in NAPO-LA. Our chapter's website, [www.napola.org](http://www.napola.org), recently underwent a major upgrade. In addition to a whole new look and feel, the site now offers a redesigned navigational system, as well as additional content and an enhanced directory search feature.

We are confident that this new site will be a useful tool and we are hopeful that it will attract more greater Los Angeles visitors in need of a professional organizer's services. A promotional campaign will be launched in the near future to get the word out about the redesigned website.

The NAPO-LA web team continues to fine-tune the site. Additional new features and expanded content are planned for the near future. If you discover any elements of the site that do not work, please contact Jodi McDaniel, Director of Communications and Technology at

[jodimcdaniel@napola.org](mailto:jodimcdaniel@napola.org).

### Some important things you should know about the transition to the new napola.org:

- Your login to the website is the same as it was for the "old" site.
- Email forwarding was not automatically carried over from the previous site.
- Email address names have been standardized.
- See "Email Access" to make sure you don't miss any of your napola.org email.

### Some actions that members need to take as soon as possible at the new site:

- **Review your entire profile** - choose "My Profile" under the "Members Only" menu - and check that it is accurate. Pay special attention to the "Company Biography" field as it may have been cut off in the transfer process. The new system will not allow bios to be longer than 400 characters.
- **Update your speciality codes** - The fields are set up to match the specialty codes of NAPO National. The new fields are currently only visible to members when they choose "My Profile" from the "Members Only" menu. The former specialty field is still visible and will continue to display in the search results until January 31. After that date, the former list will be deleted and the new fields will be made visible to both NAPO members and the public for searching. If you have not updated your specialty codes by January 31, you will not show up in a search that indicates a specialty.
- **If you want to forward your napola.org email to another address, you will need to set up email forwarding on the new system (even if you had it set up on the old system).** To do so, follow the link on the email access page to take you to your email settings, choose "Email" in the left menu, click on the enable box next to forwarding and enter the email address where you would like your email to be forwarded. (See below for email login info.)

### Some things that are different from the old site:

#### \* napola.org Email Access

- The new system offers 20MB of disk space for email storage (10 times the amount of the previous system)!
- Email addresses are now standardized and cannot be changed by the members. If your first and last name have 12 characters or less, you will use [FirstNameLastName@napola.org](mailto:FirstNameLastName@napola.org). If your first and last name have more than 12 characters, your email address was converted to a [FirstInitialLastName@napola.org](mailto:FirstInitialLastName@napola.org) format.
- To access your napola.org email: login to the website, choose "Email Access" from the "Members Only" menu, click on the appropriate link to login to your inbox, enter the part of your email address before the @ sign as your user ID, enter the same password that you do to login to the website.

\* Members now have the ability to **hide their own profile or individual fields** from search results through check boxes within the "My Profile" window.

\* The **new search feature** offers the ability to view results

Organizing events of members may be listed on the NAPO-LA calendar for only \$30 per month. Include event, date, time, location and your contact information, along with a 50-word description to [Calendar@NAPOLA.org](mailto:Calendar@NAPOLA.org), and your event will be listed.

For more information on becoming a NAPO member, click [here](#).

### Quick Links...

- [NAPO-LA Website](#)
- [NAPO Website](#)

### Visit Our Sponsors



[Los Angeles Organizing Awards Sponsor](#)



[Training Rescheduled](#)

in either a mini-card format or a list format. You can see more about each member from either view by clicking on "View Profile." If you would like to include a photo in your profile, **you must submit your profile picture to the Communications and Technology Department**, which will upload it for you. Your picture must meet the specifications below. Unfortunately, your all-volunteer web team does not have the time to devote to preparing images for each member. If you aren't sure how to format your image, we suggest asking for help from a friend, your I/T person or a graphic designer. Please send images to webmaster Susan Eleftherakis at [selefher@napola.org](mailto:selefher@napola.org).

#### **Profile Picture Specifications**

80 x 80 pixels in dimensions

72 dpi

50k max file size

jpg or gif format

A special thanks to all the webmasters and board members who contributed their time and energy to creating a site that has taken our professional image to a whole new level.

### **GOAL FOR 2006**



## **Your Own Company Makeover**

### **How a one-day retreat can create the foundation for your million-dollar business.**

*By Dorothy Breininger  
CEO, Center for Organization  
NAPO Board of Directors*

If you really want to achieve powerful business success, remember: It's who you choose to "be" (not what you choose to "do") that will create amazing results. Here is one idea to take you there: An annual company retreat with yourself.

Select one day for your own company retreat (away from your home or office). Clear all appointments; turn off your cell phone; leave the laptop at home. Depending on your budget, book a hotel room with a view, take a spot in the local library, or invest in a gondola ride to a ski lodge atop a mountain. Surround yourself with beautiful music, inspiring images, healthy foods and appealing beverages.

1. Decide who you plan to "be" in the new year (unstoppable, compassionate, magical, focused, abundant, energetic, calm, adventurous). Once you've selected who you are going to "be," assume that declaration as your guiding principle for the year – all other activities will build around that belief.

*Example: To achieve my business and financial goals, who I plan to "be" is: "pure health." By putting my own health first in the coming year, I will create energy, alertness, focus, and the understanding that I am incredibly important, which will also impact on my clients.*

2. No matter whom you intend to "be" in the coming year, the next step is to look through the calendar year ahead. Block out vacation dates for yourself (even if you have not decided who, what or where), reserve "date nights" with your sweetie each quarter, log in doctors' appointments and random days off. Don't forget to include major family events (weddings) or business functions (NAPO conference) and be sure to select one night a week as a "no commitments" evening. Once you have made yourself the priority, it's time to build your year according to your own guiding principle.

3. As you set goals, consider the following questions: Who are my most valuable clients? What equipment purchases do I need to make for my office or car to be more effective? What's missing in my everyday practice that would really make my business succeed (reading business magazines each morning, daily meditation, hiring a college student to help me file and assist with clients)? Should I enter into a partnership with another business associate?

4. Be sure to set specific measures such as: I will have nine new corporate clients by August, or I will switch from charging an hourly rate to a per-project rate by May, or I will hire one college student six hours a week beginning next month.

5. Transfer these 20-or-so goals and actions to your calendar and review your calendar quarterly to maintain awareness and success.

Remember, it's who you choose to "be," not what you choose to "do," that will bring you success. Whatever you decide and declare at your company retreat can indeed happen.

*NOTE: To learn more, Dorothy will be speaking on this topic of creating and declaring outrageous possibilities for your business at the NAPO Conference in March 2006.*

## Chapter Elections



## NAPO-LA Leadership Opportunities

*By Robin Davi  
Simply Arranged  
NAPO-LA Immediate Past President*

Are you interested in expanding your skills, getting involved with the leadership of NAPO-LA and taking the chapter to another level? If so, now is the time to submit your desire to run for a position on the NAPO-LA Board of Directors. We are looking for members in good standing who are interested in taking on a leadership role in our chapter by volunteering for a position on the Board of Directors. This is your chance to

make a difference and help the chapter while getting to know some wonderful people and expanding your own horizons. If this is something you think you might like to do, now is the time!

Serving on the Board of Directors is a great opportunity not only to get to know people but also to network and to learn how the chapter operates. We will be opening the floor for nominations at the February meeting. Elections will be held in March, and the new term begins May 15, 2006. If you are considering running, please read the description of positions below.

The Call for Nominations for the 2006-07 NAPO-LA Board of Directors will take place during the months of January and February through the website and via e-mail. An on-line ballot will be sent to all members prior to the March chapter meeting. Voting results will be announced at the March chapter meeting.

**PRESIDENT:** Duties include supervising the chapter's business and activities, organizing and presiding over the chapter Board of Directors' meetings and approving obligations and expenditures of the chapter.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Approves, processes, and forwards to the National Office all chapter membership applications, oversees membership functions, new member orientation, and the Marketing Director.

**SECRETARY:** Recording officer. Prepares and presents chapter meeting minutes and forwards same to National office. Maintains an inventory of official supplies and materials. Oversees the chapter historian, librarian and awards. Assists the past President with elections.

**TREASURER:** Responsible for the funds and financial transactions of the chapter. Prepares monthly reports, annual financial review and budget reports.

**DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Plans, coordinates, and executes the educational portion of the general meetings and oversees the chapter conference.

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY:** Oversees the communications venues used by the chapter. This includes the newsletter, client referrals, the website, and electronic communications.

**DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP:** Responsible for all areas relating to chapter membership including new member applications, annual renewals, verifying status of members at the national level, new member orientation and the MET program.

**DIRECTOR OF MARKETING:** Oversees "Get Organized" Month, public relations, media tracking, special events, and product chair.

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION:** Oversees all changes to chapter documents such as the Policy & Procedure manuals. Creates special awards at the direction of the Chapter President and takes minutes at chapter board meetings when the Secretary is absent.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:** Works with chapter treasurer on special projects. Oversees fundraising activities and events including the Silent Auction.

The 2006-07 NAPO-LA board will consist of the following five executive positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and three Directorships.

Getting involved with your chapter is a very rewarding experience. There are so many remarkable people who volunteer, and you could be one of them. It is a chance to learn and grow, to stretch your abilities, to help the chapter and make it shine.

If you think you'd like to self-nominate or know of someone else you'd like to nominate, please contact Past President [Robin Davi](#) or President [Chris McKenry](#).

## November 2005 Volunteer of the Month



## Extra Wife Goes the Extra Mile

*By Dee Saar, Space Diviner  
NAPO-LA Secretary*

Gayle Westrate was NAPO-LA's November 2006 volunteer of the month – a well-deserved recognition for her immense contribution as a webmaster. She played an instrumental part in getting the new website up and running, went above and beyond what was requested of her, and came through it all with flying colors when the website launch was bearing down on the team.

Being a graphic designer, NAPO-LA's large website seemed an obvious place for Gayle to volunteer, and Jodi McDaniel, who headed up the new website team, is really glad she did. Jodi said, "Gayle's logical, detailed approach was extremely valuable during the migration/upgrade process. Her witty sense of humor helped keep my sanity when something wasn't working right or things got intense."

Gayle's viewpoint is that volunteering is a great way to learn the inner workings of any trade or organization and is also a good way to get to know its most effective members.

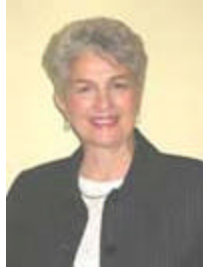
About four years ago while having breakfast with several friends, tall tales of adventures were flying. One had purchased a house filled with trash and rat droppings. A friend of another had found his mother collapsed in a house where everything was immaculately boxed but stacked shoulder high with only a 14" pathway through the maze. Another had a friend who felt safest with card-board on the windows. Of course the fatal words were said, "There ought to be a way to make a living doing this!"

Gayle and her friends subsequently formed the company Extra Wife. Gayle says that while they thoroughly enjoy "playing house" with people who need simple guidance and basic organization, two of them deal with the seriousness of hoarders and sit on the Hoarding Taskforce for the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health.

Thanks, Gayle, for your help on the new NAPO-LA website. It looks great!

*To volunteer, please contact Mishela Vieira at 818-907-9714 or [mishelevieira@napola.org](mailto:mishelevieira@napola.org).*

## Golden Circle Update



### Meeting of the Circles

By Ann Gambrell  
Creative Time-Plus

Golden Circle Liaison

On January 8, the Los Angeles area Golden Circle co-hosted our first quarterly meeting of 2006 with the San Diego chapter Golden Circle. We met at the Laguna Niguel home of NAPO-LA chapter member Debbie Gilster. It was a lovely, sunny day and we enjoyed plenty of good food and good conversation.

Twenty seven members attended and, as you can imagine, there was never a lull in the conversation. Topics included NAPO, networking and marketing, along with a general sharing of information and ideas for personal, business and community. Getting to know each other is not only personally educational but also helps when we need to make or receive a client referral.

We were updated on Golden Circle, both national and local. Many volunteers offered to write articles for the LA chapter newsletter, so be sure to watch future newsletters for great educational topics written by our veteran members.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 22, and will be hosted by Barbara Glass and Ann Thurley.

*NOTE: Golden Circle status is open to NAPO members who have been in business a minimum of five years and a NAPO member for one year. If you qualify for Golden Circle status, call Ann Gambrell at 310-212- 0917 or email Ann at [gambrellann@aol.com](mailto:gambrellann@aol.com).*

## NAPO-National Founders' Award

### Submit Your Vote for the Founders' Award

The nominations are in, and it's now time to vote! The deadline to cast your ballot for the 2006 Founders' Award winner is **February 3**.

The Founders' Award is presented to one NAPO member or a professional NAPO business partnership, for outstanding contributions to the organizing profession. It is given in the spirit of the Founders of NAPO to a member or business partnership that has helped to move the organizing profession forward. While NAPO recognizes and values the contributions of those who serve the association, the Founders Award is not given to honor NAPO service. When casting your vote, please remember that the Founders Award is given to the NAPO member(s) who has done the most to further the industry of Professional Organizing. This

could be through achieving outstanding results or public esteem in business, creating a new or innovative product or service, revolutionizing the industry in some way, or for other achievements that have furthered the industry. We admire and respect the recipient's professionalism and achievements and are giving the Founders' Award because we are proud to say they are part of our profession.

Click here to vote <http://www.napo.net/eballot>

## Organized Karma

### Recycle Those Wireless Gizmos & Gadgets



*By Sara Getzkin  
Hands On! Organizing Services*

Did you get a new wireless gizmo as a gift this holiday season? Do your clients have a drawer full of gadgets they don't know what to do with? The answer most likely is yes.

What do you do with an old cell phone, PDA, or wireless device? There are lots of choices and many are eco-friendly.

Mobile phones are a growing threat to the environment. According to INFORM, Inc. ([www.informinc.org](http://www.informinc.org)), in the U.S. alone, more than 500 million used mobile phones need to be recycled and the problem is growing at a rate of more than 2 million phones per week! The EPA has deemed that mobile phones are a source of hazardous waste. Once in the waste stream, phones may leak lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic and other toxic substances.

**One phone can make a difference! Recycle it. It's easier than you think.**

Depending on the recycling program, refurbished phones go to victims of domestic violence, hurricane survivors, needy people in third-world countries and the like. If you would like to donate your phone or gadget to a particular charity or cause, check out these sites:

- [www.charitablerecycling.com](http://www.charitablerecycling.com)
- [www.collectivegood.com](http://www.collectivegood.com)
- [www.recyclewirelessphones.com](http://www.recyclewirelessphones.com)
- [www.wirelessrecycling.com](http://www.wirelessrecycling.com)

Recycling programs accept all makes and models of mobile phones, pagers, and PDAs (like Palm Pilots). They also accept batteries, chargers, cradles, clips, cases, cables, headsets and wireless computer cards. You can send broken phones too!

What happens to the old stuff? All donations are refurbished and put into use, used for parts or recycled for their plastic, metals, etc. Toxins are handled properly and hazardous

waste is not introduced into our eco-system.

Recycling takes very little effort. Either mail your phones (see websites for addresses) or drop them off at any local wireless provider. Most online recycling programs offer printable mailing labels and donation receipts for tax purposes. Some of the online recycling programs offer free shipping, but if not, shipping costs are also tax-deductible.

*NOTE: Organized Karma is the third in an occasional series focusing on donation and recycling resources.*

## NAPO-LA MET Program



## Q&A Conference Call Scheduled for March 1

*By Marilyn Crouch  
Avenues to Organization*

The Mentoring, Education and Training (MET) program is offering a Q&A Conference Call for new and aspiring organizers to have their questions and concerns addressed and answered by two veteran NAPO members. The conference call will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 6 pm - 8 pm.

Here's what past participants have said about the call...

*"The veteran organizers were fabulous - direct, candid, and full of great information. I feel I got a 'leg up' on some of the important issues for me."*

*"We had plenty of time to ask questions. It was fantastic for us because there were so few people and we could each ask a lot of questions. Also, the convenience of the conference call was enormous."*

To register for the Q&A Conference Call visit the NAPO LA website at [napola.org](http://napola.org).

## MET Program Classifieds

The chapter website has been updated with the MET Program Classifieds for January - June 2006. The classifieds are an excellent opportunity for advertisers to share their knowledge and for others to investigate ways to move their businesses forward. If you would like to grow your business in 2006, check out the MET classifieds for an experienced organizer who can help you get to where you want to go!

## CD-Clients Support Group

## CD Support Group to Meet

## February 8

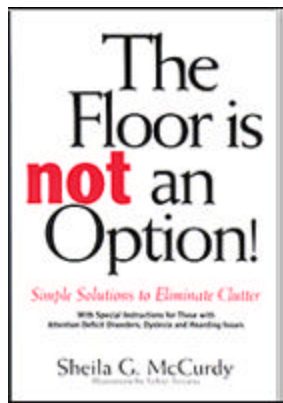
If you are working consistently and on an on-going basis with chronically disorganized clients, you are invited to participate in an informal support group.

The next meeting will be February 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Our discussion topic will be "Clients Who Buy too Much." Time will also be spent sharing individual issues.

A simple pot luck is planned.

TO RSVP or for further information, call Jean Fururya at 310-316-1753 or send an email to [jean@theofficejeanie.com](mailto:jean@theofficejeanie.com).

### Book Review



## The Floor Is Not an Option!

Simple Solutions to Eliminate Clutter

by Sheila McCurdy

Reviewed by Lani Gallegos  
Innovations Professional  
Organizing 

The book takes the reader on a journey, room by room, providing inexpensive and creative organizing solutions along the way. Each chapter breaks down a specific room of the house, and outlines typical uses and components typically found in each. Specific advice is offered for how to maintain order in every area of the home. The use of illustrations helps explain the detailed explanations of conquering nearly any organizational challenge.

Each chapter also contains thoughtful, relevant quotes for inspiration, a summary at the end, and a list of "I Will" statements to keep one motivated and on track. I particularly enjoyed the light and humorous tone of the book. The author offers time management, space planning and decorating tips in several chapters. She also provides special tips for people living with Attention Deficit Disorder, dyslexia, learning disabilities, and compulsive collectors.

Following are two examples of my favorite organizational design solutions:

- Take a toilet plunger, paint the handle to match your bathroom colors and put the toilet paper on the handle. Now you have a place for the plunger as well as the toilet paper!
- If you can afford to buy an extra set of curtains or drapes, have sunshine and flower curtains for the winter and cool colored curtains for the summer.

The author provides her wisdom as a starting point, and encourages readers to develop creative ideas of their own that best suit their needs.

## In the News

NAPO-LA was featured in an article with Peter Walsh of *Clean Sweep*. In [Resolved to get organized? Here's how to make it happen](#), Diana McKeon Charkalis, staff writer for *Los Angeles Daily News*, interviewed Chapter President Chris McKenry this month.

In November, Chris McKenry of Get It Together LA! was featured on the *WBIR (NBC) TV-10* program [STYLE: A Show for You](#). In the segment Chris demonstrated tips on organizing recipes.

John Trosko of OrganizingLA was recently interviewed for "[The Tao of Order](#)" for [Frontiers Newsmagazine](#), a popular West Coast gay and lesbian bi-weekly. Trosko provided insights on clearing out unwanted clutter and simplifying your life.

Debbie Gilster of Center for Growth & Productivity was quoted in the Business section of the [Orange County Register](#) for an article on planning for the new year. Entitled "Goal Rush," the article appeared on January 2.

*Editor's Note: Have you been "In the News" lately? If so, send an email to Claire Flannery, Editor, at [ClaireFlannery@napola.org](mailto:ClaireFlannery@napola.org) so we can brag about you in this space!*

email: [newsletter@napola.org](mailto:newsletter@napola.org)  
web: <http://www.napola.org>



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## Mentoring, Education & Training Classifieds

*Organizers offering their services:*  
[Marilyn Crouch](#), Avenues to Organization  
[Jean Furuya](#), The Office Jeanie

[Ann Gambrell](#), Creative Time-Plus  
[Lynne Gilberg](#), Lynne Gilberg Organizing  
[Kevin & Lynn Hall](#), Clutter No More  
[Sheila McCurdy](#), clutter STOP  
[Donna McMillan](#), McMillan & Company

[For information about each organizer  
listed above, click here.](#)

NAPO-LA | PMB 134 | 10573 W. Pico Blvd. | Los Angeles | CA | 90064