

History: How it all began ...

In the fall of 1990, **Barbara Azzinaro**, founded the Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter of The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality; today known as NEWH , Inc., The Hospitality Industry Network. After completing the first step of protocol, which requires the founding person to hold membership in the organization and, thus, enabling them eligibility to start a chapter, Barbara applied to be a “member at large” through the Atlanta chapter. The Atlanta chapter proved to be an ardent supporter and mentor to Barbara. Upon being voted in, Barbara was considered qualified and, immediately, petitioned to the NEWH Los Angeles headquarters to send her the official "How to Start an NEWH Chapter" handbook.

With excitement and dedication, the "networking" ensued with a small band of believers and entrepreneurs. Networking was not a well known term at this time. The "good old boys" had been doing it forever. These intrepid women took up the torch and learned as they journeyed forward under the guidance and support of NEWH creator, Shelia Lohmiller. Other supporters were Elsie Dahlin, President at the "National" level at the time, Helen Marcus, Delegate and Judy Dobin, Chapter counselor and mentor who traveled from her business to our regular Board of Directors meetings. We recognize for their professional support and friendship Ruth Drachler, Independent Manufacturer's Representative, Rachel Long, Interior Design Media Group, Lynda Sullivan, JL Furnishings, LLC and Jillian Van Dresser, The Van Dresser Company.

Barbara called **Lynda Welte** and **Lydia Heitt** and explained the details and mission. Lydia invited **Roberta Rosenbaum** and **Stephanie Greenberg** of Bethesda Design Group. Soon, thereafter, she invited **Desiree Perkins**, Shaw Industries and **Elizabeth Grimsley**, Grimsley Inc. Lydia also reached out to **Glenn Wilson**, Marriott International and Barbara reached out to **Linda Mansy**, McIntyre-Mansy Associates. Interesting how minds work. Linda Mansy had done her own investigation into the organization and saw the merits of the chapter formation. The names noted, herein, are the earliest members.

The first chapter program was held at the Brown Jordon Showroom at the

Washington DC Design Center in October 1992. Rebecca Jones, R. D. Jones and Associates (previously associated with The H. Chambers Company at that time) was the guest speaker. She and Rita St. Clair of Rita St. Clair and Associates were members of Network of Executive Women in Hospitality, NYC Chapter. It was at this program that Elizabeth Grimsley became president and delivered our chapter to become chartered.

The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality, Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter was chartered on November 5, 1992 at the program event held at the Marriott Key Bridge, Arlington, VA. Present from National to bestow the charter were Delegate, Helen Marcus and Elsie Dahlin, President of the overall organization. Washington became the 11th chapter to be chartered. In 1998, our chapter voted to amend our charter to allow men to hold office and membership during the presidency of Jan Huss, Resort Interiors. Cliff Tuttle provided leadership, as our first male president, from 2001 to 2002. We credit and thank over 100 individuals for their service and leadership on our Board of Directors and committees these many years.

NEWH, Inc., an international organization, has 18 chapters and 6 regions.
Red highlights NEWH DC founding members.

How did you originally learn about NEWH, Inc.?

Who may have invited you to join and when did you become a member?

We are honored that you did!