



reporter

ONLINE EXTRA

Women in HVACR Conference Educates & Inspires

Conference provides a forum for women in our industry.

Members of the MCAA-supported Women in HVACR (WHVACR) gathered in Nashville for the organization's sixth annual conference. The event, which took place from September 22–23, is the industry's only conference specifically for women and those who support the vital role that women will play in the future of our industry.



WHVACR members and President Barbara Keil (right) enjoy the welcoming reception.

The first evening's welcoming reception offered participants a chance to re-connect and to share challenges and triumphs.

The following day, WHVACR President Barbara Keil reported on the association's activities over the past year, including additional education programs; new communities on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter; and steps toward a WHVACR chapter in the Chicago area. The chapter's first meeting on November 12 attracted more than 50 participants.

Morning sessions included a keynote speech by *Contracting Business* magazine 2009 HVACR Woman of the Year Donna Lanier, a session on superior customer service led by Blaine Fox and a panel discussion on social media moderated by WHVACR Past President Ruth King.

Following a delicious luncheon, Barbara Keil discussed in-person networking, Vicki LaPlant offered tips on managing change and Sharon McGee provided an inspirational Power Hour of Self Development—Embracing and Empowering Self.

The day concluded with a Wine & Cheese Goal Setting Session, where participants set short-term goals to be completed on return to the office. The goal lists were then collected and will be mailed to participants in three months, providing a gentle reminder of the great ideas gleaned from the conference.

Plans are underway for the 7th Annual WHVACR Conference, which will be held in conjunction with HVAC Comfortech 2010 in Baltimore, MD, next September.

If you would like additional information about Women in HVACR, visit www.womeninhvacr.org or contact [Adrienne Breedlove](#).