



History of NAPO

1983

- People involved in the profession of organizing begin to meet informally in their Los Angeles homes.

1984

- The small, still informal group, names itself the Association of Professional Organizers (APO).

1985

- The association formalizes by electing officers, who later that year would be named the founding members: Beverly Clower, Stephanie Culp, Ann Gambrell, Maxine Ordesky, and Jeanie Shorr.

1986

- APO changes its name to the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO).
- NAPO is granted non-profit and tax-exempt status by the state of Texas and the Federal government, respectively.

1987

- The California *Yellow Pages* agrees to list the category of “professional organizers” in the telephone directory.
- NAPO holds first conference on September 12 in Los Angeles, CA. The theme of the conference is “Success Through Organizing.” A total of 50 members attended.

1988

- The first national Board of Directors is formed in Los Angeles, which becomes the first official NAPO chapter home.
- NAPO spins off into chapters (NY, San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles) with a national governing body.



1990

- Golden Circle launches to acknowledge the expertise of members who have been engaged in the business of organizing for at least five years and have been a NAPO member for at least one year.
- Establishes the Associate Member category for companies involved in the manufacturing, distribution or sale of organizing products and services. Lillian Vernon Corporation was one of the original Associate members.

1991

- Institutes “Get Organized Week” as an annual event to help individuals, businesses and schools bring time management, organization, storage solutions and productivity into their lives.

1998

- Holds 10th Conference and Organizing Exposition in Portland, Oregon during month of June.

2000

- Creates the Quantum Leap® Community Service Program to provide free organization skills training to people in life transitions who critically need professional guidance, but cannot afford it.

2003

- Launches an online membership directory.
- “The Organizing Authority” tag line is approved.
- The “Get Organized WeekSM” Community Service Project Program is established. Our members hold community organizing events across the country.

2004

- Creates an online Associate Member directory.



2005

- January is proclaimed as “Get Organized MonthSM”. Develops a national public awareness campaign about organizing and productivity.
- Approves certification program for professional organizers for launch in 2007.
- Becomes a national coalition member in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's annual National Preparedness Month, a nationwide event. Through individual member and chapter informational events held during September, NAPO strives to educate the public on how organization goes hand-in-hand with emergency preparedness.

2006

- Forms affiliations with National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization (NSGCD) and Professional Organizers in Canada (POC).

2007

- Signs a collaboration agreement creating the International Federation of Professional Organizing Associations (IFPOA) with the Professional Organizers in Canada (POC) and the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization (NSGCD).
- Establishes the Board of Certified Professional Organizers (BCPO) a voluntary, industry-led certification program benefiting the members of the organizing profession, as well as the general public, by recognizing and raising industry standards, practices and ethics.
- The inaugural exam to certify professional organizers is held on April 25.
- Develops the “NAPO in the Schools” program to foster organizing and productivity skills in students.

2008

- The Australasian Association of Professional Organizers (AAPO) joins the IFPOA.



2009

- Launches Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to focus on specialized services, skills, topic areas, or markets to help professional organizers further develop their knowledge and skills in their areas of expertise.
- The Nederlandse Beroepsvereniging van Professional Organizers (NBPO) joins the IFPOA.

2010

- Forms affiliation with Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD).
- Establishes presence in social media outlets, including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube.
- Wikipedia entries are created for the National Association of Professional Organizers® (NAPO), BCPO® and Certified Professional Organizers.

2011

- The Japan Association of Life Organizers (JALO) joins IFPOA.
- Establishes the Virtual Chapter to create a platform so any NAPO member in the world could be a part of a chapter.

2012

- Teams with Soles4Souls®, and challenges NAPO members to collect unneeded shoes from clients to donate to third-world countries. Members collect over 160,000 pairs of shoes for donation to people in Haiti.

2013

- Develops Ethics for Organizing and Productivity Specialists – a class included as a benefit of membership.
- Mobilizes News on a video-friendly web platform.
- Establishes the Barry Izsak/Gloria Schklair scholarship fund to help NAPO members attend our annual conference.
- Integrates a mobile app for NAPO conference attendees.
- Initiates Spanish translation and development of Introduction to Professional Organizing course.
- Converts teleclasses into webinars.
- POINT launches to members to increase member engagement.



2014

- Launches On-demand education classes, POINT Marketplace and New quarterly Town Hall Call with Volunteer Leaders.

2015

- Updates Mission Statement: NAPO's mission is to be the leading source for organizing and productivity professionals by providing exceptional education, enhancing business connections, advancing industry research, and increasing public relations.
- Implements Golden Circle membership change to recognize long-term NAPO membership commitment and provide Web Badges honoring each 5 years of membership.
- Enhances Membership benefits with Orientation Webinars, Onboarding email series, two complimentary SIG memberships and Ask the Organizer Webinars.
- Approves research initiative – New Information and Research Committee.
- Creates NAPOCares committee and initiative to facilitate NAPO led Community Outreach programs.
- UK-APDO Association of Professional Declutterers and Organizers joins IFPOA.