

## 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* agreed to list the category of “professional organizers” in the telephone directory.
- NAPO’s first conference is held 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

- NAPO launches Golden Circle 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.
- NAPO establishes the Associate Member category for companies involved in the manufacture, distribution or sale of organizing products and services. Lillian Vernon Corporation was one of the original Associate members.

1991

- NAPO 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

- Held 10<sup>th</sup> NAPO Conference and Organizing Exposition in June, in Portland, Oregon

2000

- NAPO creates the Quantum Leap<sup>®</sup> Community Service Program to provide free organizations skills training to people in life transitions who critically need professional guidance, but cannot afford it.

2003

- NAPO launches an online membership directory.
- “The Organizing Authority” tag line is approved.
- The “Get Organized Week<sup>SM</sup>” Community Service Project Program is established. Across the country, our members hold community organizing events.

2004

- NAPO creates an online Associate Member directory.

2005

- January is proclaimed as “Get Organized Month<sup>SM</sup>” and developed a national public awareness campaign about organizing and productivity.
- NAPO certification program for professional organizers is approved for

launch in 2007.

- NAPO 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

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

2007

- NAPO 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).
- NAPO 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.
- NAPO developed 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

- NAPO 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

- NAPO forms affiliation with Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD).
- NAPO 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.
- NAPO establishes Virtual Chapter to create a platform so any NAPO member in the world could be a part of a chapter.

## 2012

- NAPO 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

- Developed Ethics for Organizing and Productivity Specialists – a class included as a benefit of membership.
- Mobilized NAPO News on a video-friendly web platform.
- Established the Barry Izsak/Gloria Schklair scholarship fund to help NAPO members attend our annual conference.
- Integrated a mobile app for NAPO conference attendees.
- Initiated Spanish translation and development of Introduction to Professional Organizing course.
- Converted teleclasses into webinars.
- Launched NAPO POINT to members to increase member engagement.

## 2014

- Launched on-demand education classes.
- Launched POINT Marketplace.
- Introduced a new quarterly Town Hall Call with NAPO Volunteer Leaders.

## 2015

- Updated NAPO 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.
- Implemented Golden Circle membership change to recognize long-term NAPO membership commitment and provide Web Badges honoring each 5 years of membership.
- Enhanced Membership benefits with Orientation Webinars, Onboarding email series, two complimentary SIG memberships and Ask the Organizer Webinars.
- Approved research initiative – New Information and Research Committee.
- Created NAPOCares committee and initiative to facilitate NAPO led Community Outreach programs.
- Develops and implements a new website and member database.
- Creates a volunteer engagement strategy and process for cultivating volunteer leaders.
- Streamlines the Board nominations and election process.

## 2016

- Enhances membership benefits by creating and implementing free educational opportunities – Accelerated Learning Series, Building Business Blocks and open SIG calls.
- Develops and rolls out two Specialist Certificates – Residential and Workplace Productivity.
- Continues implementation of electronic badges.
- Enhances member engagement by creating and rolling out education bundles – Going Pro, Passion for Learning and All Access.
- Forms a Productivity Task Force to make recommendation to the Board on the further integration of productivity into NAPO.
- Develops a 5-year Productivity Plan; Approves implementation of Year 1 of Productivity Plan.