

PARTNERING AGREEMENT

between

**The Surety Association of America
(SAA)**

and

**The National Association of Women in Construction
(NAWIC)**

Whereas, The Surety Association of America (SAA) is a duly-authorized, non-profit, trade association representing companies involved in the underwriting of surety and fidelity bonds; and

Whereas, SAA would like to increase access to surety bonding by small, minority and women contractors; and

Whereas, SAA would like to increase the number of women in the underwriter and management ranks of the surety industry; and

Whereas, SAA recognizes that one of the approaches to achieving these objectives would be to increase awareness of, and participation in, the surety industry by highly motivated women already involved in some aspect of construction; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of SAA has agreed to explore, through its Development and Diversity Advisory Committee, the establishment of partnering agreements between SAA and organizations representing common interests and goals;

and

Whereas, the development of women-owned business enterprises will benefit the entire construction industry through the creation of productive jobs and through increasing the availability of competitive women-owned businesses; and

Whereas, one of the goals of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is to enhance the role of women's business enterprises in the construction industry, as well as the business community as a whole; and

Whereas, NAWIC acknowledges the role of surety bonding in the development and growth of women-owned businesses in the construction industry, as well as the importance of increasing the number of women surety bond producers and underwriters; and

Whereas, NAWIC has an excellent track record of supporting women in business and industry through its educational programs, information dissemination efforts and networking opportunities nationwide; and

Whereas, NAWIC seeks to achieve partnerships that mutually promote the construction industry, and the role of women in the construction industry;

therefore, be it resolved

That SAA and NAWIC will establish and maintain on-going communications, ensuring a continuing dialogue between the two organizations, informing each other of activities that would prove beneficial, as well as sharing publications, including providing reciprocal links on their web sites; and

That SAA and NAWIC jointly will develop and support programs and activities which will have a significant impact on the integration of women into the construction industry and which will provide women entrepreneurs with the skills and access to bonding and finance necessary to enhance their opportunity for success in the marketplace; and

That SAA and NAWIC will encourage member attendance and provide speaking opportunities at their respective workshops, conferences and seminars, wherever practicable; and

That SAA and NAWIC will promote joint meetings of the organizations, as needed, to address issues of common interest; and

That SAA will encourage member companies to join NAWIC and involve their female employees in order to have a better understanding of the value of women in the construction and surety bonding workforce.

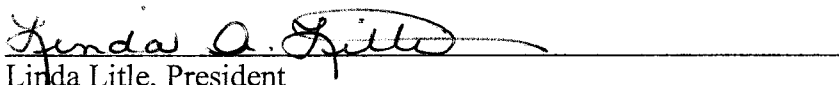
Signed, this 15th day of May, 2003.



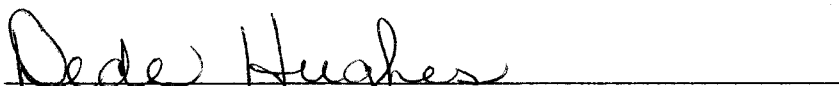
Mark C. Vonnahme, Chair, Board of Directors
THE SURETY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Lynn M. Schubert, President
THE SURETY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Linda Litle, President
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION, INC.



Dede Hughes, Executive Vice President
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION, INC.