

AIAA Sits Down at One Table

by
Ken Philippart
Images by Lisa Philippart



The Greater Huntsville Section participated in Huntsville's first One Table Thanksgiving lunch on November 21. The gathering was planned by Causeway, a nonprofit group that connects those in need with local resources. Causeway's press release stated the purpose of the event was to "bring people from across Huntsville together to get to know each other and build understanding and friendship. Whether one is an engineer, a downtown professional, a homeless veteran or a foreign exchange student, all Huntsvillians are beckoned to come to the table."

On a chilly but beautiful and sunny fall day, tables were lined up end-to-end to span the entire west side of the Courthouse Square in downtown Huntsville, seating 250 people at a time. Causeway and other sponsors provided the turkey. Guests were asked to bring a dish to share if able. AIAA and other community organizations were encouraged to attend.



Kat Crowe and Lisa Philippart enjoy lunch.

The Greater Huntsville Section answered the call. Members Kathryn Crowe, Mark and Eric Becnel, Eric Best, Erin Gish, Brittany Searcy, Melissa Martin and Ken and Lisa Philippart attended the lunch, representing AIAA to the Huntsville community while sharing good food and camaraderie. Local bands entertained the crowd as people from all walks of life broke bread together in a symbol of city-wide unity. Guests shared their blessings by inscribing greetings on the table coverings for all to see. Thank you, Kathryn, for your remarks on the section's behalf.

Approximately 1,000 people sat down at One Table, more than doubling the number that attended a similar event in Chattanooga, TN. One Table is expected to become an annual Huntsville event.

The Greater Huntsville Section is thankful and humbled to be part of such a caring, supportive, and diverse community.



Part of the AIAA delegation: Melissa Martin, Brittany Searcy, Ken Philippart and Kathryn Crowe