



The
Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

SWE-CRS President's Letter – October 2009

Cathy Pieronek, SWE-CRS FY10 President

Email: swecrs-president@swe.org

Well, October is upon us and for SWE members that means one thing: the WE09 conference in Long Beach! A number of CRS members will be attending, and learning great things to bring back to our section to make our programs for you even stronger.

I hope that those of you who attended Get to Know SWE Night on Tuesday, October 6, learned a lot more about the section and ways to get involved. We had a great event planned by our Membership Committee chair, Danielle Folkerts, and hosted by Burns & McDonnell out in Downer's Grove. For me, the 225-mile round trip drive from South Bend was well worth it, to meet some new people and get excited again about SWE. It also turned out to be a kid-friendly event, as one of our members brought her adorable little daughter ... a future engineer, we hope! Thank you to all for making this a success. If you couldn't make it, watch the newsflash for information about a similar event this spring.

As I listened to the committee chairs at GTSKN talk about the activities they work on and the skills required to lead the events, I was reminded of how valuable SWE experience can be for developing leadership skills that can benefit you in your work life. So I hope that you view SWE not as something that simply takes up more of your time, but rather, as something that can enhance your resume or skills portfolio to make you more valuable to your employer and provide you with opportunities to advance professionally. I think SWE activities of whatever nature truly help to develop professional skills and, as such, are time well spent.

So, we are off and running in our programs and activities. However, we still do need a chair for our signature event in the spring, the Professional Development Conference. If you're interested, please contact our Vice President for Professional Development, Karen Bireta.

Please let us know how we can continue to be a strong resource for you in your professional life. Enjoy the autumn!

Cathy Pieronek

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Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company hosted the Fall 2009 “Get To Know SWE Night (GTKSN)” at their Downers Grove office on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

The night was well attended and representatives from companies such as Burns & McDonnell, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Elkay Manufacturing, Northrop Grumman, R.E. Hamilton Consulting and Argonne National Laboratories participated. Collegiate and recent graduate representatives were also in attendance. The attendees met the FY2010 SWE President, Ms. Cathy Pieronek.

The night began with basic networking and then a structured, yet rambunctious, round of GTKSN bingo ensued. The guests enjoyed a delicious meal of wrap sandwiches, salads and scrumptious desserts while they listened to Committee Chairs explain what each committee does and their current volunteer needs. SWE CRS would like to thank Burns & McDonnell for generously sponsoring this program.

The following representatives, which can each be contacted at swe-crs@swe.org, spoke:

Awards:

Karen Bireta spoke for Diane LaFortune on behalf of the awards committee. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the nomination of CRS members for the national SWE awards and other applicable awards from other societies. The committee also coordinates and awards the section awards.

Banquet:

Cathy Pieronek spoke on behalf of the banquet section, which currently needs a chair. The purpose of the committee is to plan the section’s annual Awards Banquet. Planning the banquet involves finding a relevant and interesting key note speaker, sending invitations to members and planning the logistics of the event.

Collegiate Liason:

Jessica Chouinard spoke on behalf of this committee. The purpose of the committee is to connect and support the SWE collegiate sections, while encouraging them to maintain their SWE membership after graduating.

Finance:

Diane Graziano spoke on behalf of this committee. The purpose of this committee is to find local companies to support SWE events. This committee also helps members solicit support from their companies.

Membership:

Danielle Folkerts spoke on behalf of this committee. The purpose of this committee is to encourage and recruit new members, while retaining current members.

Outreach:

Dayna Johnson spoke for Krystal Nagle on behalf of this committee. The purpose of this committee is to inspire girls to choose engineering as a career. This committee is also the educational resource for SWE-CRS, for the educational community (teachers, parents and guidance counselors).

Submitted by Rebekah Schulenberg

Resume Workshop



On September 23, 2009, SWE CRS offered a Resume Workshop to a group of approximately 15 people. The event was hosted at CTL Group's office in Skokie.

It's been said that your resume is your ticket to standing out from the rest of the crowd and getting an interview. At the resume workshop, a panel discussion was moderated with four human resource managers who provided their resume insights. The workshop was geared towards working professionals with 1-30+ years of engineering experience. The panelists were Pamela Coley from US Cellular, Angelica Stilling from GE, Paula Copple from Northrop Grumman, and Julie Burke from CTL Group. When the panel discussion concluded, the human resource managers offered to review resumes one-on-one with those in attendance.

The panelists provided fantastic advice for updating your resume. The major take away points were that you need to research and tailor your resume to each company you apply for. You need to make sure your resume is organized to highlight your strengths. Bullet points with measurable accomplishments are always a plus, such as you managed 12 people while increasing department sales by 56%. Also, most human resource managers do not read your cover letter, so focus on putting as much content as possible in your resume work.

Overall, the resume workshop was an extremely informative event thanks to the human resource managers. SWE CRS would like to thank CTL Group for generously sponsoring this program.



Submitted by Karen Bireta

"Working mothers are guinea pigs in a scientific experiment to show that sleep is not necessary to human life."

— **Anonymous**

All Kidding aside, we love our kiddos! Here are some hints into the life of a Woman Engineer and Mother:



"Sweet Kaela running around the house" Kaela LaFortune, daughter of Diane LaFortune.



"Talia Gallas on the lake in Mercer", daughter of Ilona Gallas



"I have the need for speed!"
Joshua Schulenberg, son of
Rebekah Schulenberg. If
Joshua isn't climbing or going
fast, he isn't having fun.

My husband and I both are engineers and are, unexpectedly, raising a very girly girl that is more interested in princesses and dresses than anything else. Talia is a four year old girly girl. One of Talia's best friends is the exact opposite. At age 4, she is obsessed with nature and can name specific species of certain animals. This summer, I was driving them home from the park. As usual, this amazing kid was wowing me with what she knows. She told me about the fungi she saw at the park, then told me that a female peacock is called a peahen, and finally showed me what sound whales make. As I am sitting there amazed at what this little kid is telling me, I look over at my sweet, smiley daughter in the backseat and she says to me "A pig says 'oink oink' ".

Submitted by Rebekah Schulenberg

www.sciencechicago.com

Science Chicago is a great resource to keep on top of events related to science in Chicago!

In August of 2009 Science Chicago ended its year-long push to celebrate science in Chicago and the surrounding areas, and www.sciencechicago.com is staying on as a great place to learn about new events and about science in general!

From www.sciencechicago.com:

OUR VISION

To awaken Chicagoans to the wonders of our region's scientific resources and the importance of science to our future.

OUR MISSION

To create a strategic framework connecting people, organizations, and opportunities to Chicago's wealth of science and technology resources.

OUR GOALS

Science Chicago will accomplish this mission by creating an organizational and programmatic framework to achieve five overarching goals:

Engage young people in the fun, excitement and awe of science and inspire them to consider careers in science and technology fields.

Raise awareness of the importance of science in everyday life in the minds of students, their parents and teachers—and thereby, the public at large.

Enlighten Chicagoans to the region's vast science and technology assets.

Encourage partnership and collaboration between and among the science and technology community and our target audience.

Raise Chicago's profile as a national leader in science and technology, and promote the message that our city and region can and will continue to prosper because we are committed to supporting science and technology.

Trunk or Treat!

Volunteers are needed to hand out candy and information about Engineering to children 3 – 10 years old at the Arlington Heights Public Works Building, 222 N. Ridge Ave., Arlington Heights, IL, on October 23rd from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Volunteers are welcome to dress up (engineering or science related costumes preferred but not necessary). Come early to help decorate our vehicle with the Halloween theme. If you would like to volunteer your vehicle to be decorated and used as the storage for our goodies we hand out, we would greatly appreciate it. <http://www.ahpd.org/WhatsHapp/SpecialEvents/trunktreat/treat.htm>

When: **Friday, October 23rd, 2009 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Where: 222 N. Ridge Ave., Arlington Heights, IL

What: Volunteer to hand out candy and information

RSVP: To Jennifer Sciuillo jennifer.sciuillo@swe.org by Wednesday, October 21st.

Engineers Expo at Des Plaines Library Structural Engineers to explore engineering with students

The Des Plaines Public Library has scheduled an Open House for **Saturday, October 17, 2009 [11:00 A.M. –3:00 P.M.]** at 1501 Ellinwood Street, Des Plaines IL. This program includes activities that are free and open to the public. The target audience is 3-8 grades, though high school students and parents will come away with and appreciation and understanding of engineering. You are invited to explore engineering with members of the Chicagoland engineering community. This event promises to be something very special and marks the inauguration of what hopes becomes a yearly event.

The Expo will feature interactive displays and presentations that are fun and educational, designed to enhance children's interest in math, science, and of course engineering.

The science/tech and engineering program is a joint effort among professional engineering and scientific societies, area national laboratories and businesses..

The event is open to the public and free of charge.

This 'EXPO' is the extraordinary opportunity to introduce students of all ages and their parents to the current state of technology and advances being made throughout engineering industry. For more information, please visit <http://www.dppl.org/home/index.shtml> or call: (847) 827-5551



SWE-CRS Programs Committee Meeting

The Programs Committee plans and organizes events of interest to section members. If you would like to join the committee or would just like to join us for dinner and share your ideas, please mark your calendar!

When: Tuesday, October 27th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Claim Jumper, 92 Yorktown Center Mall, Lombard, IL (<http://www.claimjumper.com/locations/illinois.aspx>)

What: Dinner and discussion

Cost: Your dinner

RSVP: Please RSVP to Shelly Gould, sgould@CRAworld.com by Friday, October 23rd

847 Member Circle Events

Do you live or work in the NW suburbs? Would you like to enjoy the company of some fellow SWE members? If so, please join us

When: Thursday October 29th, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Where: Ram, 1901 McConnor Parkway, Schaumburg, IL 60173, Phone 847-517-8791

What: Have a bite and some conversation.

Cost: Your dinner.

RSVP: To Katie Amelio at kamelio@CTLGroup.com by Monday October 26th.

847 Member Circle Mark Your Calendars!

Potential upcoming dates for 847 Members Circle events:

Monday November 16th, 2009 - location TBD

Tuesday December 8th, 2009 - location TBD

815 Member Circle Event

Dinner and a chat with the 815 Member Circle

Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 5:45 pm

Location: Niko's in Huntley

RSVP: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 by 12:30pm
to Chris Cladarella at ccaldarella@secgroupinc.com

Social Networking
SWE-CRS is now on Facebook & LinkedIn!

Find the Facebook Group at
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=137290544183>

and the LinkedIn Group at
<http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/2367850/>

SWE Community
SWE-CRS encourages you to check out our community, the community can be accessed through the SWE National website (www.swe.org). Please note that your user id should be reflective of you, this will be tagged on any information you post in the communities.

You can update your user identification by going to the SWE member services database.

Want to submit an article?

Your submissions are welcome and encouraged!

Kate Jakubas, the newsletter editor for FY10, can be reached at kate.jakubas@gmail.com

