



The

Windy City Wire

Society of Women Engineers Chicago Regional Section

First FY 03 Issue

SWE-CRS FY03 Goals

Leadership and Professional Competency

Objective: Increase and maintain opportunities for members' technical and leadership growth

- Solicit members to write technical articles for the newsletter (Newsletter)
- Invite other technical societies to submit information on their programs for publication in our newsletter and to be sent over the e-mail network (Publicity)
- Hold joint programs with other organizations (EC)
- Establish web site links to the Chicago sections of other technical societies (Webmaster)
- Include technical content in our Professional Development conference and other Society Programs (PD, Programs)
- Identify members who may be interested in future leadership opportunities and ensure that they are encouraged in their ambitions (EC)

Membership and Participation

Objective: Increase membership and encourage professional/student participation in SWE activities

- Increase membership by 15% or more
- Continue development of and circulate a section flier giving definite examples of how members have benefited from membership and participation in SWE
- Hold programs in different parts of the section throughout the year, to attract the less active members in the edges of the section

Education and Outreach

Objective: Increase the number of girls who are exposed to math, science, and engineering as career choices

- Work with other sections in Region H to publicize to their teacher contact lists
- Continue development and promotion of the CG web site
- Increase support of student outreach activities by participation in Student Section Activities
- Ask members who have participated in non-SWE outreach programs to write about them for the newsletter
- Work with WEPAN on 2003 Conference
- Increase visibility with other organizations supporting SWE educational outreach goals

Walk for a Parkinson's Cure

The Family Issues committee of the Chicago Regional Section of SWE will be participating in a "Walking Together for a Cure," Parkinson Disease Association Walkathon this year. The purpose of the walk is to help fund research for the cure of Parkinson's disease.

The walk includes a drawing for children's entrees of either a poem, paintings, short story or a creative message about Parkinson's victims. Each participating entry will have a chance to win a prize. The Parkinson Association is looking forward to meeting future authors and artists. We are also working on recognition in an article to the Chicago Tribune.

If your family would like to participate in the Parkinson's walkathon, please contact Karen Preston-Wozniak at karen.preston@sbt.siemens.com or (847) 452-2989 for more information. The event is on September 7th at 9:00 AM in Naperville's beautiful Riverwalk. The address is 325 W. Jackson Street, Naperville, IL. Take I-88 to Naperville Rd. heading south to Ogden Ave. Go west on Ogden to Washington St. Take Washington Street going south to Jackson and turn left. Our SWE group will meet by the bunch of green balloons. No requirements are necessary – just arrive with a SWE smile!

Resources

Objective: Ensure that SWE-CRS has adequate resources to effectively support SWE's mission

- Identify and contact area companies that may be willing to provide support to SWE-CRS
- Continue to recognize corporate sponsors at the Awards Banquet
- Communicate benefits of SWE to current and potential corporate supporters
- Produce one or more items to sell at next year's National Conference in Detroit

Increase Member Satisfaction/Member Needs

Objective: Address member needs to support SWE's mission and to support the society

- Identify areas of need/want early in the fiscal year
- Determine appropriate evaluation methods to assess success
- Address membership needs/wants to achieve goal

president's letter

Anne Lucietto, SWE-CRS President

Welcome to a new fiscal year with the Chicago Regional Section. As you probably know, we have completed our annual planning meeting in July. We discussed some great new ideas, and it appears that there will be a great deal of change this year as we follow Rachel McQuillen's (our SWE national president) edict of "Have Fun!"

As I was pondering a good topic for this column, it occurred to me that many people need a refresher in online etiquette. We all see plenty of violations of this in our in-boxes on a frequent basis; often, they cause a useful tool to become a burden. Hopefully, none of us are frequent email offenders, but sometimes people do send before they think.

HOW MANY EMAILS DO YOU GET THAT LOOK LIKE THIS? Did you know that sending an e-mail in all capitals is shouting. How rude – and hard to read, as well. People may also perceive the sender as a very lazy person who can't find the caps lock key and turn it off. You also shouldn't send in funky fonts or colored text. Even if the recipient's software can handle the font and color, they may find it distracting or offensive.

Have you ever received an email that was meant for someone else because the sender did a reply all or they sent to a bulk list? That fills our email systems with unnecessary email and irritates the recipients who really didn't need to see that message. If someone does this often,

they may become known as a spammer and find that their messages get ignored. If you are sending a message to a large group, but want responses to come only to you, you can use a BCC (blind copy) to prevent responses from being sent to everyone. When replying to a message, consider carefully whether to hit "Reply All" or just "Reply"... is the response genuinely relevant to everyone? Is the sender asking for responses to be sent only to him or her, or to everyone? People are more likely to read a single message, summarizing everyone's points of view, than a long series of brief messages.

A large number of us have to sort through over 100 emails per day. Trust me, that is a huge amount of email. Some of it is work-related, some of it is SWE-related, and some of it is simply garbage. If it's SWE related there is a move on to encourage us to place SWE in front of the names of our fellow SWE Members in our address books to inform the recipient that this is not a bogus or commercial email. It's going to take me awhile, but I will be changing the set ups so that if you get an email from me you will know that it is a SWE email.

Another item that some do not think of... check the information that goes along with your e-mail. Do you really intend to give your phone, fax, and address to the person receiving this message? Is there other personal information, perhaps in your auto signature? Can you

imagine the problems you could run into if your personal information got into the wrong hands? At the least, you could find your phone number distributed to telemarketers. You also may want to look over messages that you're forwarding; not only can multiple forwards get very long and hard to read, but there might be information lurking in them that should be edited out before sending, to protect the privacy of others.

Finally, if you receive a nasty, critical or otherwise offensive email, DO NOT respond immediately. Generally, people are very bold and overly critical on the other side of this screen. Most of the time your response will be taken out of the context in which you expect, especially since you don't have the non-verbal cues that let you know what a person's attitude really is. In this and issues that appear to be controversial, you may want to wait until you've had time to think, and get over any initial irritation, and answer later to the sender without hitting "reply all". I've found that this is an effective way to inform the sender that I am listening to them without creating a tornado of email. Periodically, we have such situations and they can become quite irritating at best, as the replies to replies fill up everyone's in-box.

Hopefully you have found this basic refresher helpful. Happy emailing to you!

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committee news

Greetings! The **programs committee** is responsible for organizing the SWE-CRS monthly programs. Our goal is to present the section with a variety of programs, including social/networking events, factory tours, technical presentations, and professional development opportunities. The committee occasionally meets for dinner to brainstorm and to plan these events, and also to sit back, relax, and chat. Come and join the fun. We are always looking for new members to help us out.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available, such as helping to plan events, coordinating the facility or the speaker, handling the publicity announcements, or tracking RSVP's. There are also other volunteer opportunities that you can take advantage of while attending the event, such as greeting and signing in the attendees, taking pictures, or writing up a brief summary of the event for the Windy City Wire newsletter.

For more information, please contact the programs committee co-chairs Susan Mui (smui2@yahoo.com) and Michelle Brown (michelle.brown@motorola.com).

The **membership committee** is often the first contact that new and potential members have with SWE. The committee is responsible for sending out information on SWE to prospective members, maintaining the membership database for the section, and carrying out recruitment activities. The main recruitment activity typically held is the annual Get to Know SWE program, which is coming up in September.

The committee is also planning other recruitment activities, as well as a survey of the membership to determine what we need to do to satisfy the section members and retain them.

How can you get involved in the committee? There are a lot of great volunteer opportunities. First of all, we want to develop new recruitment materials, to do a better job of marketing SWE to potential members and let them know why they should join. Second, we need to reach more potential members and distribute SWE information to them. Everyone can help with this effort, just by passing SWE information on to the women engineers you know.

If you want to be more involved in recruitment, you can help research section demographics, to locate where recruitment efforts would make an impact. And last but definitely not least, we will need help with a membership survey. It's been several years since the Chicago section surveyed the membership, so we want to find out what people are happy with, and more important, what needs to change.

As always, new ideas are always welcome. If you have ideas for recruiting new members, or for how we can better retain our existing members, please feel free to suggest them. Send your ideas to diane.peters@swe.org

Nov. elder care panel discussion

Written by Karen Preston

The **family issues committee** of the Chicago Regional Section of SWE will be hosting an elder care panel discussion on November 7 that will start between 6:00 and 6:30 P.M.. The purpose of the discussion is to educate us on the type of information necessary to ease the transition from parent to elderly parent. Some panel professionals at the event will be experts in the area of hospice care, dealing with hospital physicians, human resources programs and some common elderly diseases. The panel professionals are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss the essentials of easing the transition.

The discussion will also include a child facilitator for your children, should you be so inclined to bring them along. Children will have the privileges of either building a bridge, write a poem, create a drawing or to be challenge on some math type contest. Each participating entry will have a chance to win a small prize.

If you would like to participate your family in the Panel discussion please contact Karen Preston at karen.preston@sbt.siemens.com or (847) 452-2989 for more information. Please read next month issue of the Windy City Wire for directions. One important question is apparent before the discussion— what is name of your parent/parent's doctor? Do you know his or her phone number? Join in the panel discussion to find out how to better deal with the changes that occur as parent's age.

The **EI / PE exam program** is in the development stage and is oriented to support the members who are interested in getting their Professional Engineering License. Our goal is to create a library of materials (books, tapes) that members can use in studying for the PE exam. We would also like to form study groups to share ideas and solve problems in different areas of expertise: mechanical, electrical, civil, and structural. We are looking to acquire materials from members or nonmembers who already passed their PE exam and who would like to donate their books to SWE.

Please check our Web site for more information on this program. If you are interested in participating in the EI and PE Program, and/or have some materials to make available for SWE, please email me at pruteanu@prodigy.net

Thank you
Cecilia Pruteanu

college news

Purdue Calumet student section researches for homeland defense

Written by Kim Stanton

The effects of RF radiation and ELF fields, produced by cell phones and electric power, on human health has been a controversial and inconclusive topic. Researchers from Purdue University Calumet, the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University are coordinating efforts to solve the mystery. Through a research grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Defense, the "RF Bioeffects for Homeland Defense" project will attempt to provide the first collection of conclusive data in this long running debate.

The Purdue University Calumet SWE student section is involved with the design and implementation of the test set-up. Faculty advisor for the student section, Professor Chenn Zhou, will be responsible for temperature control requirements of the cell culture. Student section members, April Krueger and Kim Stanton, will be assisting Professor Howard Gerber in the design and construction of the RF/ELF exposure apparatus.

RF/ELF exposure is under suspicion for promoting cancer development and compromising the performance of the nervous and immune systems. This study will approach the issue at the genetic level, detecting and identifying mutations or abnormalities resulting from the RF/ELF exposure. Analysis of the exposed gene expressions will lead to identification of RF response genes. This group of genes will then be used as a kind of biological radiation sensor, laying the groundwork for the advanced stages of analysis, and propelling researchers closer to the answer.

Notre Dame section seeking counselor

The University of Notre Dame's College of Engineering has named SWE-CRS member Cathy Pieronek the Director of Women's Engineering Programs. In that role, Pieronek will engage in a variety of efforts to recruit and retain more women students in the college's undergraduate and graduate programs. She will also work with the SWE student chapter at Notre Dame on their projects.

The Notre Dame student chapter has been without a SWE counselor for a number of years. If you would like to volunteer to be considered by the student chapter for this position, or if you would be interested in participating in other SWE student chapter activities at Notre Dame, please contact Pieronek by phone at (574) 631-4385, by fax at (574) 631-8007 or by e-mail at pieronek.1@nd.edu or engwomen@nd.edu.

Purdue Calumet helps children with holiday programs

Written by Nova Carden

Annually, the SWE student section of Purdue University Calumet embarks on their holiday program, which consists of three activities. These activities include a coat, hat, and glove drive, a clothing drive, and a Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party. The group receives tremendous support both on campus and throughout the community. This outreach program, which place throughout the holiday season, achieves the goal of giving back to the community.

The coat, hat, and glove drive will begin this year on Monday, October, 21st and end on Friday, November 15th. PUCSWE members strategically place boxes throughout the campus to collect donations from students and faculty. Support from fellow students on campus is both vital and present. The proceeds of this activity benefit children in Harvey, IL.

The clothing drive takes place the day after the coat, hat, and glove drive ends. This year's date is Saturday, November 16th. This activity takes place in the north parking lot of Purdue Calumet on 169th St. The community has proved to be very generous in past years. Last year, everything imaginable, including furniture, was donated. The proceeds of this activity benefit the residents of a women's shelter in Gary, IN. This particular shelter is one that assists women in getting back on their feet and reentering the workforce.

The final activity of this program is The Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party that takes place at the Boys and Girls Club on Calumet Ave. in Hammond, IN. This date has yet to be announced. Children from other Boys and Girls Clubs in the area are bussed in to enjoy pizza, games, art workshops, and, of course, Santa Claus. For many of these children, this may be the only Christmas they will have. SWE members, along with other student organizations on campus, are more than happy to join together to do this every year.

This program has always been a great success and grows every year. The success is a result of wonderful volunteerism and support. To donate or participate this year, you can e-mail PUCSWE at pucswe2003@yahoo.com. To see what else pucswe is up to this year; check out their agenda on their website at www.geocities.com/pucswe.



Women engineers meet at ICWES 12 conference

Written by Kathryn Cunningham

ICWES12 (International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists) was held in Ottawa, Canada, July 27-31. Prior to the opening of the conference, SWE members gathered to install the FY03 Board of Directors. The banquet was held in the lovely Chateau Laurier Hotel. Chicago Section's Marcia Lampela was installed as national treasurer. President Rachel McQuillen outlined her priorities for the year and thanked us for our support.

ICWES12 began Saturday evening with a reception featuring great food and diverse entertainment, including native North American performers and Irish/ Scottish dancers. Then there were three days of seminars and panels. Over 600 women from 46 countries attended the conference. It was very interesting to hear about the challenges that women in different countries face. Dr. Anna Szemik-Hojniak from Poland talked about the effects of an unemployment rate over 20%. Stella Erinoshon from Nigeria talked about the challenge of educating their children in the face of great poverty. Several SWE mem-

bers participated in panels. I received a copy of the proceedings on CD, so please contact me if you would like more information.

I also took a very interesting tour of the area around Parliament, given by an engineer who works on the restoration of the buildings and statues. We learned about the "Famous Five", five women who worked to give women the right to vote, and saw the memorial to them. The banquet Tuesday evening featured Canadian astronaut Julie Payette.

ICWES is governed by a council of delegates. This council meets only during ICWES, so there is little continuity. SWE and the Women's Engineering Society (England) have been strong supporters of ICWES since its inception. The ICWES delegates voted to establish an International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) to ensure the continuity of ICWES, establish a web site and develop an international base of financial support. SWE will be an organizational member, so we will all have access to INWES. The next ICWES will be held in 2005 in Seoul, Korea.

Get to Know SWE Night coming September 17

Written by Diane Peters

Are you a new member of SWE? Have you just transferred from another SWE section? Have you been a member for a while, but just never got involved? Do you know someone who might be interested in SWE?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you should attend "Get to Know SWE Night." This is an opportunity to find out everything you ever wanted to know about SWE.

The evening will begin with sandwiches, snacks, and refreshments and an opportunity to informally meet and talk to representatives of the Chicago Regional Section (CRS) committees. The evening then continues with a program covering specifics - the benefits of SWE membership, information on the CRS and National SWE organization, committee activities, involvement opportunities, and much more.

Come enjoy an evening of good food, good company, and a chance to win door prizes, while learning more about the Chicago Regional Section of SWE. Bring yourself. Bring a friend. Bring a co-worker.

Help us to broadcast this event and forward this announcement within your company or post someplace where other women engineers and future engineers will see.

For more information, visit the SWE website at www.iit.edu/~swe-chi, or call the SWE voice mail at (312) 409-1978.

DATE: Tuesday, September 17

TIME: 6:30 pm Networking and Dinner
7:00pm - 8:30 pm Program

LOCATION: Lucent Technologies
1960 Lucent Lane
Naperville, IL
IL Room number 8B-201

COST: FREE

RSVP: REQUIRED by Thursday, September 12th.

Please RSVP by going to the SWE Chicago website at www.iit.edu/~swe-chi and click on the 'RSVP for Events' link. If you don't have internet access, then RSVP by calling the SWE Chicago voicemail at 312-409-1978.

ACCESS: The facilities are wheelchair accessible.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-88 to Naperville Rd. Exit. You can exit east or westbound. Turn north (left) on Naperville Rd. to first stop light - Warrenville Rd. Turn west (left) on Warrenville Rd. and take a right at the first stop light. This is the Lucent Technologies entrance. Take first right again and park in front of the building. Enter under the large awning in the center of the building. The building is located at the Northwest corner of Naperville and Warrenville Roads one block north of I-88.

Vitality!

*Everything
you wanted to
know about SWE -- but
were afraid to ask*

“So, what is SWE?” I asked, “Why should I join? What’s in it for me?” “Well, thank you for asking,” answered the SWE Wise Woman, “SWE was started to fill a need, our need to find friendship, to network, to find support in dark times, and to celebrate successes in good ones. It is a story of like-minded women coming together over 50 years ago to share with each other, their experiences of what it was like to be an engineer in a time when women were teachers or typists – but never engineers. It is a story of shared hopes, common fears, and celebrated successes. It was a small beginning, a small gathering in the beginning. But, now it has grown. Now it is our turn to help each other. It is our mission.” The SWE Wise Woman slowly turned to look at me, first in appraisal, then squarely in the eye. “But first you must know,” she continued, “First you must understand. Then, you may share and teach.”

SWE Wise Woman rose and moved to the book cabinet in the corner of the room. With a deft, practiced hand, she opened the doors and reached toward one of the books therein. As she moved, she

spoke, “These books contain the knowledge we share, the knowledge of our foundation. This is what you must know. This is what you must teach.” I looked where SWE Wise Woman pointed, her finger brushing each book briefly with a tender affection. And with each touch, I read where she pointed:

*Knowledge of SWE
Membership
Finances
Fund Development
Strategic Planning
Administration and Operations
Communications
Meetings
Leadership
Team Building
Tactical Planning
Conflict Resolution*

“These books,” repeated SWE Wise Woman, “are the foundation of our wisdom. The time of our next visit, we shall look more deeply into one of them. But for now, it is enough for you to know that they exist. It is enough for you to know they have been gathered to give you a beginning.” And with that, SWE Wise Woman carefully closed the cabinet doors and slowly returned to her seat by the fire. As she returned, I realized that I had forgotten to breathe. As I inhaled with deep anticipation, I wondered, “Which book shall she choose? Which would I choose? What will our next meeting be like?”

A peek into SWE Vitality Modules brought to you by the SWE Section Vitality Task Force: *Fire the Passion!*

Help! My address has changed!

Has your address or phone number changed? If your membership information in our database isn’t correct, please let us know! Contact the Membership Chair, Diane Peters, at diane.peters@swe.org to get our section database updated. (She can also forward the updated information to National, at your request, so that they can update the roster.)

Note that when the new membership database, GoMembers, is fully functional, you will be able to update your own records anytime. Watch for more information from National SWE on this.

NCSEA Holds National Conference in October

On October 17th, structural engineers from around the country will congregate in Chicago to celebrate and improve the profession of structural engineering. The occasion will mark the Tenth Annual Conference of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA), which has the theme, "From Tunnels to Towers, Bridging the Centuries." The conference will be held October 17-19, 2002 at the Knickerbocker Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

The program features presentations from prominent industry professionals, focused on the structural innovations of the Chicago cityscape. Other provocative industry programs will include: a report from the World Trade Center building performance study team, a review of the NIST proposed building and fire safety investigation of the World Trade Center, a report on developments in infrastructure security, and a discus-

sion of structural engineering emergency response plans. A preliminary program is available at the NCSEA website.

The evening events will include a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan and awards presentations at the conference closing banquet. Both of these events – and the technical programs – will provide participants an opportunity to collaborate with peers throughout the industry.

To register, or for more information, please visit the NCSEA website at www.ncsea.com

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) advances the standard of practice of structural engineering in the United States, thereby serving the structural engineering profession, its clientele, allied professions and the general public.



June Planning Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2002
Time: 9:00 - 11:30 am
Place: Karen Preston's place in Palatine
RSVP: Required by Thursday, September 19th. RSVP directly to Karen via e-mail (karen.preston@sbt.siemens.com) to receive directions.

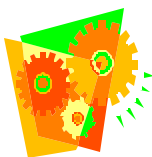
During the planning meeting, we'll discuss the Chicago Regional Section's financial status, upcoming events, committee activities, etc.. All officers, representatives and committee chairs are encouraged to attend, and all members are welcome.

All members are encouraged to submit articles or announcements that may be of interest to our membership. The next article deadline is

September 20th

Send articles to:

Diane.Carlson@northropgrumman.com
SWE CRS Newsletter Editor



Calendar of Events

September 7

Parkinson's Walk-a-Thon

September 17

Get to Know SWE Night

September 21

Planning Meeting

October 9 - 12

SWE National Conference

November 7

Elder Care Panel

Discussion



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