WE17 in Austin, TX

Article by: Ashley Koeplin

How much do you know about SWE? Did you know that SWE goes way beyond the SCMI Section? Many of us were involved in SWE in college, but even that’s not all there is to SWE. Every year thousands of female engineers descend on a city for several days of professional development, Society meetings (like the BOD and Senate meetings), career fair, and social events. I enjoyed Annual Conference as a collegiate because it was a chance to take a trip with some of my friends and get away from campus for a while. As a professional member, I look forward to SWE Conference every year as a chance to meet up with my engineering friends who are now scattered all across the country.

Annual Conference for me is a chance to renew my enthusiasm for SWE on a yearly basis. For those of us who work at small sites, it can be tiring to be the only female in every meeting. SWE Conference gives you the chance to meet other female engineers experiencing the same things. The conference organizers work to provide exciting and useful sessions on anything from how to manage change to work life balance. You’re guaranteed to find something you’re interested in, and hopefully you’ll be able to learn something new.

Annual Conference happens in October every year. Registrations usually open toward the end of the summer on the SWE website. SWE has a tool on the website to estimate the cost of conference and a template for a letter requesting time off and funding from your boss. Both are great tools; I’ve been lucky enough to have employers that have allowed me to take time off for conference without using vacation days, and sometimes I get part or all of my conference fees paid for. You may not get that lucky, but it certainly doesn’t hurt to ask!

WE’18 will be held in Minneapolis on October 18-20, 2018. This year’s theme is “Let’s Break Boundaries.” If you’re interested in attending Annual Conference, or if you have any questions, let me know! My e-mail is ashleykoeplinswe@gmail.com.
**SWE SCMI Food Bank Philanthropy**

Article by: Ben Meikle

Giving back to the community is an important activity for organizations to remember and frankly something a lot of us should try to do on a more regular basis. A high impact avenue for the SWE SCMI group lately has been to assemble and spend time with the South Central MI Food Bank. Would you believe that 1 in 7 Americans deal with hunger or not knowing where their next meal will come from? The rate is even higher for children, and is right here in our own/ neighboring communities. The SCMI food bank located at the Western tip of Battle Creek is one of only 7 in the state. It reaches over 189,300 people each year through a hunger-relief network of more than 285 partner agencies operating in eight counties (Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee and St. Joseph) in South Central Michigan. At past events we have repackaged potatoes from 40lb bags to a distributable size of ~ 5lbs. and assembled weekend packages for children to stay nourished over the weekends when school provided meals are not available. On Dec 6th we had the opportunity to help stuff envelopes for their yearly fund drive. It truly was a great time, catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, and laughter was abound, accompanied by Christmas music playing in the background. We got over half way through the work for this crucial yearly event for the organization!

Thanks to those who attended!

If you would like to volunteer or set up an event with co-workers or another organization, I’m certain Niaomi Curtis would love to hear from you @ 269-441-4438 – ncurtis@foodbankofscm.org.
Ceramic Painting Social at Art Bayou

Article by: Ashley Koeplin

Members of SCMI SWE met at Art Bayou in November for the November Social Event. We all got a chance to show off our skills. It was fun to see what people came up with, and some of us obviously had more skills than others. I, personally, tend to go with polka dots and stripes, but there were a couple people who had far greater command of the paint brush. It’s always fun to get a group of engineers together to do something that very few of us are good at. The event allowed all of us to get out of our comfort zone and channel our creativity for the evening. The great thing about painting is that you get the chance to get to know the people around you, with the added benefit of taking home a piece that you’ve made (which in my case was a Christmas present for my mom because she has to like anything I make). A great time was had by all!

Holiday Dinner at Kellogg Manor

Article by: Megan James

In December members and guests of SWE – SCMI celebrated the holidays with a dinner at the Kellogg Manor on Gull Lake. The manor was a summer home of WK Kellogg and had many interesting features designed by Mr Kellogg. The manor was beautifully decorated for the holidays and a snowstorm made the outside look incredible. The upstairs of the manor had crafts for sale by a variety of local artists - many of us picked up a few holiday gifts! The staff treated us to a wonderful dinner next to a warm fire. It was a great experience and wonderful company.
SWE SCMI Book Club: Wild

Article by: Tonya Killick

The January book club got a little “Wild”! Eight ladies enjoyed sharing and listening to Kate ‘Ansel’ Jonkman compare her 6-month Appalachian Trail hike to the one Cheryl Strayed shared in the book “Wild” while enjoying dinner at Mangia Mangia.

Each of us were captivated by Kate’s story and had tons of questions. Kate brought her shoes, backpack and wore the shirts that she hiked in. Kate did a great job highlighting her experience to that of Cheryl’s in the book. Kate’s book was flagged with some notes regarding similar experiences that they both shared on their hikes.

Kate and Cheryl’s store inspired each of us to seek and try new things. One of the girls was even going to go on her own hiking trip, while others admired the determination that Kate and Cheryl each had to meet their goals... but not to hike at the extent both of them did.

One thing that I took away from the book and Kate’s message was to enjoy the small things and that nothing is impossible.

Even if you weren’t able to attend the January Book Club you can check out Kate’s hiking blog http://www.thedivert.com/blog/.

SWE SCMI Hockey Night with the K-Wings

Article by: Nancy Marks

It was a fun night at K-Wings Stadium (K-Wings vs Ft. Wayne Komets) for our SWE Family Hockey Night on 1/27/18. The weather was cold outside! However, inside we shook off the chill by noshing on $2 Beers and Hotdogs, and enjoying a rowdy hockey event. It was an excellent way to shake off the January blahs. Our seats were great but a bit spread out. But no worries, we found each other! The game was close until the third period, when the K-Wings came on strong and scored 3 additional goals, to win 7 to 4!

SWE members, from left to right, are Sarah Mangas, Maggie Scow, Sally Zimmerman, Michelle Scott, and Nancy Marks
Registration is OPEN for WeLocal in Milwaukee!!

Article by: Maggie Scow

Registration is OPEN for WE Local in Milwaukee! March 9-11

https://welocal.swe.org/milwaukee/

As a part of the new structure for The Society, WE Local conferences are replacing the Regional conferences. Milwaukee is closer to us than the Mackinaw Bridge!!

If you haven’t attended a Society Conference, it should absolutely be on your bucket list. It’s an amazing couple days with smart, inspiring sessions, outstanding networking opportunities, and a great group of interesting, fun women (and men). The opening Keynote speaker this year is Tessa Meyers, VP of Rockwell Automation. The closing keynote speaker is Eliz Green, who has an amazing story and will be helping us recognize and reduce stress in our lives. Find more about the Keynote speakers here: https://welocal.swe.org/milwaukee/schedule/keynote/

I chose to volunteer at the Annual Conference and got a significant discount on registration. For me, it was a great way to feel involved in the conference right away. It was a fun, low-pressure experience and I recommend it. I’m planning to volunteer again in Milwaukee.

If you are interested in attending and have questions or would like to coordinate travel, please email me at maggie.scow@perfval.com I’d love to have a group of members from South Central Michigan attend!!
Letter from the President

This weekend is the big AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge!

I’m sending a HUUUUUGE shout out and thank you to the team who has spent almost a year organizing this amazing outreach day! It’s going to be awesome! Also, sending a big thank you to the corporations who have donated time and funds to help make this day successful year after year. If you’re not already planning to be there, grab your families and come check out the event! It’s worth it!

There are many more opportunities to get involved this year. If you’re interested in organizing or co-organizing to get your feet wet, please reach out. We have fun events planned this spring that will only happen if we get some help setting them up. It’s not painful! I promise! The full schedule of events is on the back page of this newsletter—check it out and email scmi.swe@gmail.com if you are interested in organizing!

Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement:

- Sign up for any volunteer experience on the SignUp Genius:
  http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eacf23a7fd0-smi

- Throw a membership drive at your company! Pfizer just did one, and it was a great success!

- Volunteer for the Women’s Panel

- Be an AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge Volunteer

- Join the SCMI Facebook Group (http://www.facebook.com/scmi.swe) to keep up to date with what’s happening with SWE SCMI

Also, nominations for the SCMI Section Executive Board will be coming up before we know it. If you’re interested in any of the positions, please reach out! We’d love to have your help, whatever experience you may or may not have. SWE is a great opportunity to get great leadership and organization experience early in your career – it’s helped me in my career path!

Think Spring!

- Maggie
FY18 Planning Calendar

Mark your calendars with the tentative schedule for FY18—there are a lot of fun events lined up!

We are always looking for volunteers to help organize these events! If you are interested, please go to the SignUp Genius link below to sign up to volunteer! http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eacaf23a7fd0-scmi

February - AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge, Kalamazoo - 2/17

March - WeLocal - Milwaukee - 3/9-3/11
Youth Symposium - Kalamazoo
Webinar - TBD

April - Miller Auditorium Tour and Lion King, Kalamazoo
Facility Tour (Denso Bid assembly line), Battle Creek

May - Women's Panel, Kalamazoo

June - Zingerman’s Deli, Ann Arbor

The AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge is this weekend!! Even if you aren’t volunteering, come out to the AirZoo on Saturday to see the awesome booths and activities!