

SWE-SCMI

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March 2017

Volume FY17, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge	1-2
Youth Symposium	3
Region H Conference	4
E-Week Dinner	5
January Social and Member Drive	5
January Book Club	6
March Social	6
June Book Club	7
Letter from President	7
FY17 Calendar	8

AirZoo/SWE Corporate Engineering Challenge

Article by: Robyn Cornish

We had a fantastic and successful 2017 Corporate Engineering Challenge! Our challenge this year was a NASA-originated concept titled "Let it Glide". We were excited to include Susan Johnson, an Engineering Project Manager from NASA. The CEC teams all designed inventive ways to propel/glide standard-size boxes. Their task was to design a "light sport" and a "cargo" aircraft.



We were delighted to have 15 corporate sponsor tables along with tables for our SWE section, NASA and the AirZoo. Our attendance this year was 130 girls, divided up into 16 teams. The energy and enthusiasm that the girls had for their project and teams was a key reason why this event is so important and successful every year!

Quick Notes:

- ◆ Make sure to add our admin email to your safe senders' list so you don't miss out on any new/activities!
scmi.swe@gmail.com
- ◆ Get more out of your SWE membership by volunteering for one of the many opportunities to get involved!



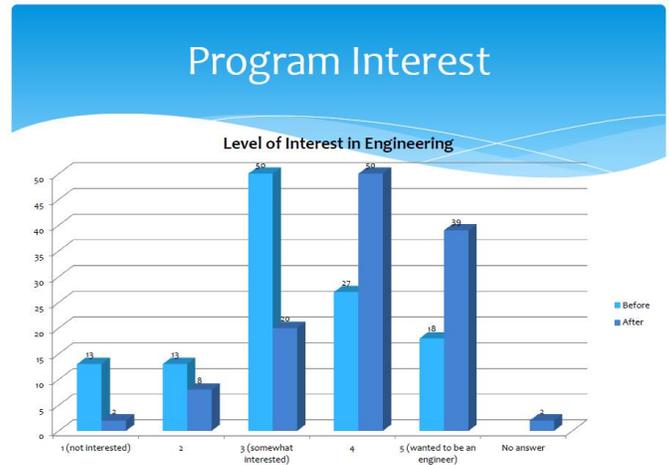
AirZoo Corporate Engineering Challenge, cont.

We were excited to have 220 volunteers (including 25 SWE SCMI chapter members) for tables, mentors, panelists and general help. As a new element this year, we included high school girls as co-mentors and volunteers. They were very effective and eager to participate.



The public attendance for the day was more than 1500 people! Our passport survey responses from the girls and public indicate fun was had by all, and most of the attendees are anxious for next year. One of the goals of our SCMI section is to increase the level of interest in the STEM fields, and the survey results showed a

big increase in engineering interest for the girls! Seeing the girls' exuberance during the event and excitement to participate again helps to propel the planning committee for next year! Thank you to the planning team and volunteers for a fantastic event!



Youth Symposium

Article by: Tonya Killick

The 2017 Youth Symposium was held on March 11th at the WMU Engineering College. SCMI partnered with Sigma Gamma Rho to educate girls in 1st to 6th grade on STEM. The 20 young girls learned about the engineering careers of two SWE members and had the opportunity to build a boat and a tower.



The girls were broke up into groups of three where they collaborated, designed, and tested their experiments. Each team was given a bag of supplies to create a boat that floats out of 4 rubber bands, 6 popsicle sticks, a stick of clay, and a 6x12 inch sheet of tin foil. Each boat had a unique design. The teams shared with the other girls their designs and why they thought their design would work. One boat even held 21 marbles before it started to take on water!

The 2nd challenge was to build a structure that could hold two cups as high and as far apart as possible, out of specific supplies provided. This challenge was definitely harder and did not go as well as the boats, but allowed the girls to see that



planning, communication, and patience all play a part in being successful.



The girls also received a goody bag to try a challenge at home. It was a great day mentoring young girls on STEM!

Region H Conference Update

Article by: Nicole Remily

The SWE Region H Conference took place in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan March 10-12.

I was able to attend the full day sessions on Saturday, March 11. This included the keynote speaker CEO CMS Energy and Consumer Energy Patricia Poppe and an assortment of breakout sessions. Patti Poppe spoke about her own career path and the choices she has made in that journey. One thought-provoking moment was her description of 2 career path categories that she has witnessed: her career path identified by end goals in mind, and the career path of interesting assignments. Both can be fulfilling and rewarding. Understanding which one you want to take early in your career can lead to full and abundant living. The watch-out is self-selecting out of opportunities because of fear it might not work.

Engineering Through the Ages
SWE Region H Conference 2017



Other noteworthy breakouts that I attended were:

- Caitlin Breen on Fast Innovation - The key take-away here was to fail fast and often. Size can give you scale but for innovation, speed is more critical. The changes in technology and the changes in consumer preference are very, very quick. Getting it almost done and launching is more successful than all done and late.

- Joan Greve, PhD on "Creating a Vision Statement for your Life" - Wow, I had always strived for a clear vision statement for my family or my work department/company, but the thought of an individual vision statement was powerful. Clearly I spend too much energy on caregiving and not on myself.

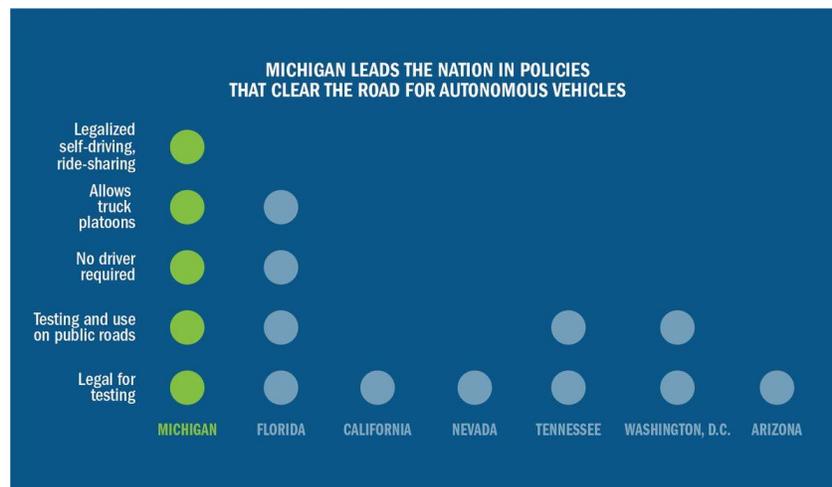
According to one of the other attendees, Lizz Rusin, who attended a day session: "It was an energetic day filled with great speakers and making connections across the Midwest Region. One presentation by Rachel Beck on how to run successful meetings gave great take-aways on keeping minutes, keeping attendees engaged, and keeping everyone on topic. It reached a broad audience, from first-time meeting hosts to international conference calls."

I could go on, but I will leave with a big thanks to U of M for sponsoring the event! The conference was a great opportunity for attendees to network with other professionals and gain key opportunities for professional growth.

E-Week Dinner at Western Michigan University

Article by: Tonya Killick

Four SWE members attended the 38th Annual Engineers Week Dinner held at the Fetzer Center on the campus of WMU. A lovely dinner and conversation were enjoyed. Following the dinner, scholarship recipients were acknowledged for their hard work, dedication, and passion for engineering. The guest speaker was Kirk T. Steudle, MDOT State Transportation Director. Kirk spoke about how Michigan is leading the way for autonomous vehicles. The governor recently passed four bills that opened the doors for Michigan as the leader in testing.



 /MDOT

Mr. Steudle alluded to the fact that autonomous vehicles will be here in the next 15-20 years. Can you imagine calling for a car and having it drive you to your destination? We could get so much more accomplished! It was definitely an exciting topic that allowed us to be excited for the future of vehicles!

Beer, Board Games and Membership Drive at One Well!

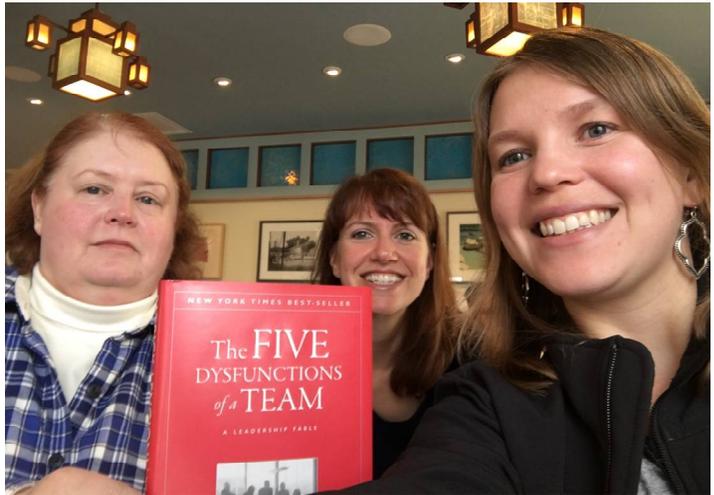
We met at One Well in January for some friendship, fun, networking and drinks! SWE SCMI members got one drink for free on SWE, and we had a great time getting to know one another better! It was a great time had by all, and a great opportunity to meet some new potential members.



January Book Club

Article by: Cheryl Fritz

In January, a small group of us met to discuss the book for the SWE SCMI Book Club, which was "The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable" by Patrick Lencioni. The five dysfunctions listed in the book were: 1) Absence of Trust 2) Fear of Conflict 3) Lack of Commitment 4) Avoidance of Accountability and 5) Inattention to Results. Lencioni does a fantastic job of portraying these dysfunctions in a realistic scenario involving a corporate team that is both engaging and thought-provoking to readers. We met at Water Street Coffee in Kalamazoo, and even though we were a small group, we had a wonderful discussion about the five dysfunctions and how they might be impacting teams that we are currently a part of (either personally or professionally).



March Networking Event —Hockey with the K Wings!!

Article by: Nancy Marks

March 24th was a family-friendly SWE SCMI networking event at the K-Wings stadium. We watched the K-Wings win vs the Norfolk Admirals, with a final score of 5-3. We didn't get a huge turnout because we were competing with the beautiful spring weather.



However, it was 'Pop Up' Friday and the surprise promotion was \$2 drinks and hotdogs to nosh while cheering the Wings and getting to know each other better! The stadium website makes coordinating events really simple so perhaps we will schedule another event there in the future.

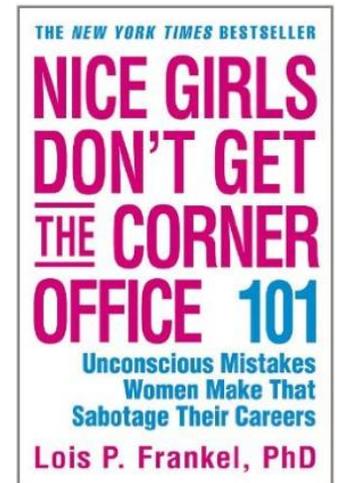
One last bit of good news is that Friday's win clinched a Kelly Cup play-off spot. Go K-Wings!



June Book Club

Get excited for our next book to read for SCMI Book Club: "Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office: 101 Unconscious Mistakes Women Make That Sabotage Their Careers" by Lois P Frankel. According to Amazon, "Dr. Lois Frankel reveals why some women roar ahead in their careers while others stagnate. She's spotted a unique set of behaviors--101 in all --that women learn in girlhood that sabotage them as adults. Now, in this ground-breaking guide, she helps you eliminate these unconscious mistakes that could be holding you back--and offers invaluable coaching tips you can easily incorporate into your social and business skills."

We will be meeting at Black Owl Café in Kalamazoo at 1 pm on Saturday, June 17th. Hope you can join us!



Letter from the President

First, I'd like to congratulate Ben Meikle on becoming the Vice President. Ben has been an active member of the Section for several years and we're looking forward to having him on the executive board!



We had another outstanding event at the Air Zoo last month. It's one of my favorite events our Section hosts and I look forward to it every year. I love the opportunity to share what we do with young girls. Plus, I learn something every time!! Thank you to Robyn and the team for the hours and hours of organization, brainstorming, and work to make it successful. It's a TON of work and you guys made it look easy!

We have a couple more great events in April. Fashion Etiquette in the Workplace will be a great conversation for new and seasoned professionals. We, as women, have a LOT more choices than men when it comes to "business casual" and I can't wait to talk about what works, what's "acceptable," and what's fashionable.

Later in the month, we're partnering with the Grand Rapids and Benton Harbor sections to host our Women's Panel Discussion. I'm really looking forward to meeting more SWE members in the area and listening to the great discussion. I hope to see many new faces!

Think Spring!!

– Maggie



SWE-SCMI



Society of Women Engineers
South Central Michigan Section
<http://southcentralmichigan.swe.org/>
Headquarters: <http://swe.org>



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FY17 OFFICERS

Maggie Scow, President

Ben Meikle, Vice President

Megan James, Treasurer

Michelle Scott, Secretary

Tonya Killick, Section Rep

Leslie Romanowski, Alternate Section Rep

If you would like to contact any of the FY17 officers, please reach out to scmi.swe@gmail.com!



Upcoming Events and Schedule!

We still have some pretty exciting events coming up for the rest of FY17!!

April

- Speaker w/ WMU chapter: How to Dress for Work (5:30 pm @ Stryker Instruments on April 4th)
- Women's Panel (5:30 pm @ Four Roses Café in Plainwell on April 20th)



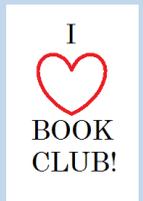
May

- Social



June

- Winery Tour
- Facility Tour - Consumers Energy Marshall Training Center (June 6th)
- Book Club (1 pm @ Black Owl Café in Kalamazoo on June 17th)



**Please note that all of these events (with the exception of those that have dates already specified) do not yet have dates and are subject to change. Keep an eye out for emails and calendar invites for final event dates, times and details!