

# Region J Newsletter



## Wendy's Welcome (A Note from the Region Governor)

November 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3



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Chicago was a welcoming host city for WE11 with an unexpected dose of warm weather and sunshine. If you were able to attend, I hope that you took full advantage of the networking and professional development opportunities. I enjoyed meeting several members at the Region J meeting and look forward to meeting many more of you at the Western Regions Joint Conference in Honolulu.

As the year moves forward, I encourage you to get more involved with SWE on some level.

Perhaps you're interested in Outreach.

If so, consider volunteering at an upcoming event or perhaps leading a group to host an event.

Are you passionate about professional development?

Organize an event for your section where you can learn a new skill together or expand on everyone's existing knowledge.

Are you ready to take on a leadership role at the Section, Region or Society level?

Define your SWE success on your own terms and take the next step.

## Region Communication

To keep members up to date with Region J information and events, there are several communication channels that will be utilized this year. Take advantage of each of these so that you'll always be "in the know"!



**Region J Newsletter** This monthly publication will be sent via e-mail to all Region J members.

**Region J Website** Looking for links to each of the Section's websites or Region Officer e-mail addresses? Look no further than the Region J Website ([link](#))!

### Region J Senate Blog

Our Senators use this venue to communicate information regarding Society-level business that they conduct on your behalf. Let your voice be heard! Subscribe to the blog ([link](#)) and participate in surveys posted throughout the year.

### Region J Collegiate Blog

The Region J Collegiate Communications Editor (RCCE) keeps this blog up-to-date with happenings from across Region J and the Society. Subscribe ([link](#)) and receive e-mail notifications when new items are posted. Items posted are relevant to all members.

**Dropbox** A Dropbox folder has been set up on which we will store documents related to Region J business, such as motions, agendas and minutes, reports, etc. If you are a region leader and have not yet received an e-mail invite to this site, please contact [Wendy Obenauf](#).

**Facebook** Like Region J on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/2212498850/>

**Snail Mail** You can also send Wendy mail through the US Postal Service at:

P.O. Box 219102  
Portland, OR 97225-9102



## Upcoming Events and Due Dates

### Conference Bound . . .

#### Early Bird

#### Registration Deadline

December 1, 2011

[www.swewestern2012.org/register.php](http://www.swewestern2012.org/register.php)

#### Tour Update

Interested in the Maui tour?

The price has been changed to \$172 to accommodate: air, ground transportation and lunch.

A sponsorship from the Maui Economic Development Board/ Women in Technology (MEDB/WIT) waived the admission fee. (Air fair is \$148 round trip so it's a good deal!)

#### Tour Registration Deadline

December 1, 2011

[www.swewestern2012.org/tours.php](http://www.swewestern2012.org/tours.php)

#### Tip of the Month

Check out Hawaiian Air. Flights from Portland and Seattle direct to Honolulu are ranging between 418-480 right now. It's a good time for your region to start looking into fares :) if you wait a few more weeks it may go down to the high 300's.



### Collegiate Section Reports Due

Due Tuesday, November 1st  
Send report to [Elaine](#).  
Report template is on the [collegiate blog](#).

### WOW! That's Engineering Grant Applications Due

Tuesday, November 1st  
To SWE HQ

### All Together Newsletter Content Due

Tuesday, November 1st  
To SWE HQ

### RCT Teleconference

Tuesday, November 8th  
6pm AK/7pm Pacific  
See RCT Corner for details

### Prof. Section Reports Due

Thursday, November 10th  
Send report to [Wendy](#).

### Reimbursement Requests Due

Monday, November 14th  
See Reimbursement Request section for more information. Need the travel expense form? Email [Maria](#).

### Work-Life Balance Survey Due

Tuesday, November 15th  
See Senate Update section for survey link.

### IRS Filing Due

Tuesday, November 15th  
E-postcards < \$25,000  
Return > \$25,000

### Region J Teleconference

Monday, November 21st  
6pm AK/7pm Pacific

Conference Dial-in No.:  
(218) 339-4300  
Participant Access Code:  
797789#

### 2012 SWE Western Regions Conference February 29 – March 3, Honolulu, HI

We are proud to announce the SWE University of Hawaii at Manoa Collegiate section and the SWE Hawaiian Islands Proposed Professional section will be co-hosting the 2012 SWE Western Regions Joint Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The conference will allow professional attendees to enhance professional development skills and examine local technical

projects. It will cater to the collegiate attendees with a career fair and presentations related to their next steps after college. Our theme is "Ride the Wave of Innovation," showcasing Hawaii as a model for innovation – particularly in "green" technology.

Visit the conference website for information:  
[www.swewestern2012.org](http://www.swewestern2012.org)

**Accommodations** Be sure to book your hotel room through the conference block by going to [www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/swe2012](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/swe2012).

**Registration** Wendy Obenauf (Region J Governor) and Linda Thomas (Director of Regions) will buy a drink for the first 10 people from Region J to register. That's right - a drink of your choice for the first 10 full conference registrants.

If we reach our goal of at least 60 full conference registrants from Region J, Wendy Obenauf will do a hula dance at the Region J meeting in Honolulu!



## Business Items

**Bylaws** Region J officially voted to approve the bylaws updates at the WE11 Region Meeting - a quorum was present and they passed unanimously.

**Region Procedures and Annual & Travel Budgets** were all approved during our September teleconference. You can review these documents in our Dropbox folder.

**Upcoming** We need some good Region-wide fundraising ideas! So, put on your thinking caps and be ready to share ideas during our November teleconference!



## Senate Update

Here's a recap of the Senate Meeting at WE11:

Several items on the consent agenda were voted on without discussion, by definition and approved:

**Motion S-1203** Update to Procedure for Review of Member Conduct

**Motion S-1204** Professional Section Standing Criteria

**Motion S-1206** Committee Charters/Procedures

**Motion S-1207** Vacancy in Deputy Director of Regions. Insertion of Previously Adopted Dues Policies into Senate Procedure

The motions which garnered discussion included the following – the first two passed and S-1208

did not require a vote, however the Senate voted to endorse the motion:

**Motion S-1205** Collegiate Section Standing Criteria

**Motion S-1202** Change to Contingency Reserve Fund (CRF) Procedure

**Motion S-1208** International Member Rate Change

There are two Mega Issues being addressed and led by the Senate: [MI 116 – Creative Opportunities for Engineers](#) led by Karla Tankersley (Region G) and [MI 121 – Member Value](#) led by Christine Cabrera (the links will take you into the SWE community and the presentation seen at the Senate Meeting. You will need to log in.). Fully

detailed Senate Meeting Minutes are [here](#).

Upcoming Senate meetings and deadlines:

- All Bylaws Motions due **by November 11** (before the next face to face Senate meeting.) Contact your Senators with questions on how to initiate the process and/or ideas to discuss.
- November Senate Telecom: Date TBD – topic of discussion: Member Volunteerism
- Next Face-to-Face Senate meeting in Houston: Feb 12-13, 2012.
- Senate Meeting at next Society Conference is set for Nov. 10, 2012.

## Region J Senators

### Professional Senators

Barbara Donoghue  
Pacific Northwest

Jennifer Bly  
Columbia River

### Alt. Professional Senator

Carla Todenhagen  
Columbia River

### Collegiate Senator

Amanda Dang  
University of Washington

Contact your Region J Senators via their blog:

<http://regionjsenators.wordpress.com/contact-us/>

### Work Life Balance Survey Due November 15th

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZRLZGQG](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZRLZGQG)



## RCT Members

### Lt. Governor

Melissa Branch  
[greatlandgirl@gmail.com](mailto:greatlandgirl@gmail.com)

### RCR

Elaine Wilcox  
[wilcoxel@onid.orst.edu](mailto:wilcoxel@onid.orst.edu)

### RCCE

Jenelle Parson  
[parsonje@onid.orst.edu](mailto:parsonje@onid.orst.edu)

### RCR

Amanda Dang  
[amanda.t.dang@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.t.dang@gmail.com)

### SWEFL

Mary Peterson  
[mypeterson03@yahoo.com](mailto:mypeterson03@yahoo.com)

## RCT Corner

Did you know that you have a Region Collegiate Team (RCT) to help your section aspire, advance, and achieve? Well, you do!

Your RCT is both a resource and a clearing house for you.

Your required reports and information all go through your RCT:

- Leadership roster
- Financial report
- EIN information
- Section reports

The RCT meets monthly via telephone to discuss action items, challenges the collegiate sections are facing, how to help,

and just to touch base.

The RCT is expanding these regular teleconferences to all collegiate members - listen in AND participate! Ask questions, share ideas, provide feedback.

Our next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8 at 6pm AK time/7pm Pacific.

Conference Dial-in No.:  
(218) 339-4300  
Participant Access Code:  
797789#

We will be sending an invite to collegiate section presidents, counselors, and faculty

advisors. Please share with the rest of your section membership as well!

### Outstanding Items

If you haven't been contacted by an RCT member already, you will be soon. We are following up on all EINs and missing FY11 year end reports. So, if you haven't submitted this information already, here's your chance to get it done before we call!

Check out the Region Collegiate Blog - <http://regionj.wordpress.com> for info, ideas, and more!



## Volunteer Opportunities

"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

~ Lily Tomlin

### Fund Development Committee Chair and Members

This newly formed committee is in need of members and a chair. This committee is responsible for fundraising for the region travel budget and region scholarship fund.

### Mentor Program Coordinator

With the mentorship/leadership pipeline program coming to fruition this fiscal year, we need a volunteer to coordinate this effort for the team.

**Mentee or Mentor** We have begun matching up mentor pairs for the kick-off of our mentor program this fiscal year.

Here are a few details of the program: monthly communication between mentor/mentee with suggested conversation starters provided, goal setting by the mentee to focus on a desired outcome, and commitment by the mentor to remain in the program through the end of FY12.

The program is open to all SWE members. This is an opportunity for us to

prepare tomorrow's SWE leaders for excellence!

If you are interested in having a SWE mentor or being a SWE mentor, please complete the survey found at this [link](#).

**Note:** If you are a Civil Engineer who responded to the survey on 8/13, please contact [Wendy Obenauf](#).



If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact [Wendy Obenauf](#).

## Member Spotlight - Maria Kampsen



Maria Kampsen, our Region J Treasurer, was awarded the 2011 Region J Distinguished Outreach Service Award at JCon 11 in Corvallis in April. She began her engineering career with DOWL HKM (then DOWL Engineers) as a staff engineer, growing into the Geotechnical Department Manager, a respected shareholder, and now the Region Materials Manager.

launched with the grant got SWE Greatland involved in a large variety of outreach events and opportunities across the state of Alaska.

Maria dedicated a significant amount of her time mentoring girls for the FIRST LEGO League Tournaments in 2008 and 2010. Maria participated in the Dimond HS Engineering Academy Speed Mentoring event in February 2011, helping introduce 50 high school girls to engineering.

last decade. She served as section Vice-President in FY 2004. She assumed section Treasurer duties in fiscal year FY 2005. She was responsible for registration/accounting for the Region J Conference SWE Greatland hosted in 2006. In FY09, she again stepped up to serve as Treasurer for Region J.

Congratulations, again, Maria!

Know someone worthy of the 2012 Distinguished Outreach Service Award? Be on the lookout for the awards package and nominate her!

In 2000, Maria planted the seeds for the Greatland section's outreach program by applying for one of the Ford grants available through SWE. The Girl Scout workshops she

In addition to her outreach activities, Maria has served in several SWE board positions over the





## Fundraising Corner

Fundraising comes in many forms. If your Section has time, a large event can be a fun venue for raising travel or scholarship funds while team building. Smaller fundraising plans also have the potential to earn big dollars without taking a lot of time and initial investment.

Each month, several fundraising ideas will be posted here to help you get those creative fundraising juices flowing. If you have an idea to share, contact [Wendy Obenauf](#) and it will be posted in a future Fundraising Corner.

**Pancake Breakfast or Spaghetti Feed** Find a location for the event and request a donation from local restaurant. The Old Spaghetti Factory has donated food for past events for other organizations. Some Applebees locations have donated space for holding pancake breakfast events since this is outside their normal operating hours.

**Poker Tournament** Host a poker tournament with a set donation amount to "buy-in". Contact local businesses for donations to offer to the winners as prizes. Offer snacks and non-alcoholic beverages

or perhaps hold as a potluck event. A silent auction can be coupled with this type of event, which will increase the amount of money that can be made in one evening.

**Bingo Night** Purchase Bingo cards and paint-type card markers that are sold in multi-packs at the Dollar Tree. Gather prize donations from local businesses to give for winners of each round of Bingo. Sell snack/drinks during the event for an additional profit. Hold approximately 10 games of Bingo and have a lively MC to lead the event.

### What's That Mean?

SWE uses a lot of acronyms. Do you know what they all mean?

Here's a quick guide to the acronyms used in this newsletter:

**EIN**

Employer Identification Number

**FY**

fiscal year

**JCon**

Region J Annual Conference

**MAL**

Members-at-large

**RCT**

Region Collegiate Team

**RCR**

Region Collegiate Representative

**RCCE**

Region Collegiate Communications Editor

**RCS**

Region Collegiate Senator

**SWE**

Society of Women Engineers

**SWEFL**

SWE future leader

## Reimbursement Requests Due Nov 14th

WE11 is over and the 30 day countdown has begun. You may be able to be reimbursed for some or all of your expenses. The FY12 budget has been approved and the travel fund is available.

Money is available for both collegiate and professional members in the order of priority as shown at right. Based on Motion FY12-001, the amount available is capped per event and per person.

In accordance with Region J procedures, if you elect to submit expenses, please fill out

the travel expense form, send a copy of your receipts, and a short letter detailing your efforts to secure funding (ie. employers, advisors, your own section, etc. and how much) The Region bylaws state some effort must be made and evidence provided that other funding sources have been pursued.

Paperwork and receipts must be received by November 14th to be considered. You can [email](#) or send to:

Maria Kampsen  
2411 Cleo Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

### From the newly adopted Region J Procedures:

The travel fund may be used by the following in order of priority to attend the National Conference or Regional Conference:

**Collegiate**

- RCR
- RCCE
- RCS

Region members on a national committee

**Professional**

- Region Senators
- Alt. Region Senator
- Section/MAL Rep
- Alt. Section/MAL Rep
- Current Region Officer
- Region members on a national committee



## About Our Organization

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a non-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women.

SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and receive the recognition and credit for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.



## Region J Council Meeting Schedule

	Dates	Activity
2011	25-Jul	Region J Orientation - Teleconference
	28-Aug	Region Meeting at ABJ Fall Meeting (Orange Cty, CA)
	19-Sep	Region J Teleconference
	13-Oct	Region Meeting at WE11 (Chicago, IL)
	21-Nov	Region J Teleconference
	19-Dec	Region J Teleconference
2012	16-Jan	Region J Teleconference
	3-Mar	Region Meeting at Joint Region Conference (Honolulu, HI)
	16-Apr	Region J Teleconference
	21-May	Region J Teleconference
	18-Jun	Region J Teleconference

## Important Region J Dates

	Dates	Activity
2011	30-Jul	FY11 Financial Reports Due (Section and Region)
	27-28 Aug	Region ABJ Fall Meeting (Orange County, CA)
	10-Sep	Section Report Due
	12-15 Oct	Society Conference (Chicago, IL)
	10-Nov	Section Report Due
	15-Nov	IRS Filing Due (E-postcard if < \$25k)
2012	10-Jan	Section Report Due
	15-Feb	Region J Award Submission Due (Tentative)
	29-Feb - 3-Mar	2012 Western Regions Joint Conference (Honolulu, HI)
	10-Mar	Section Report Due
	31-Mar	Society Individual Award Applications Due
	1-Apr	Region J Elections Start
	10-May	Section Report Due
	1-Jul	Society Section Award Applications Due



**Region J Newsletter Editor**  
Melissa Branch  
[greatlandgirl@gmail.com](mailto:greatlandgirl@gmail.com)

Please send ideas and info for future newsletters to Melissa. Comments and feedback are also appreciated.