



Be the change
you want to see
in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Region Gov Message | 1 |
| Communication | 1 |
| Volunteer Opportunities | 2 |
| Mentorship Program | 2 |
| Senate Update | 2 |
| Fundraising Corner | 3 |
| Region J Council | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |
| Region J Calendar | 5 |



Society of Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

Welcome!

Returning energized from two weekends of SWE planning meetings, I am ready to tackle the year ahead!

The Region Governors' Summit was held in Austin, TX last month at which the Society Goals were solidified into actionable items for each of the sections to achieve this year. Those goals include increasing recognition of our members' contributions via communication with their employers or

universities. It is important that you are recognized for the hard work that you do to keep SWE a vital force in your communities.

Several members of Region J kicked the fiscal year off by attending the ABJ Fall Meeting. The Orange County Section hosted attendees from the three regions for one day of workshops/sessions followed by a half-day region meeting.

The weekend was a great teambuilding experience for all who attended. There

were professional development opportunities including the DiSC Profile session by Lynda Grindstaff (Lynda Grindstaff Group) and a "Turning Heads" session by keynote Jana Samulski ([Facebook link](#)) which centered on making the right impression at work and other professional meetings.

Region J is set to host the ABJ Fall Meeting next year, so I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

- Wendy L. Obenauf
Region J Governor

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 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 that are posted throughout the year.

Region J Collegiate Blog –

The Region J Collegiate Communications Editor keeps this blog up-to-date with happenings from across Region J and the Society. Just as with the Senate Blog, you can subscribe ([link](#)) so you'll receive e-mail notifications when new items are posted. Items posted are relevant to all 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](#))!

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

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."
 - Anne Frank

Let your voice be heard! Contact your Region J Senators via their blog at

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Fund Development Committee – This committee, newly formed last year, 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 will need a volunteer to coordinate this effort for the team.

Newsletter Editor – Do you have excellent writing skills and enjoy seeing your work published each month? We are looking for a volunteer

to put together this Newsletter each month.

Celebrate SWE Slideshow Coordinator – Each region will be putting together a slide show for the event. We will need someone to coordinate this effort for Region J.

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

Mentorship Program

The Leadership Pipeline is alive and well in Region J!

Based on the survey responses collected at JCon11, we have begun matching up mentor pairs for the kick-off of our 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.

Several Professional members expressed an interest in mentoring Collegiate members. These mentors are excited for this opportunity—all they need are willing volunteers who are interested in forming a mentoring partnership.

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](#).

Senate Update

There are seven motions to be discussed during the Senate Meeting at the Society Conference in Chicago (WE11). Please contact your Senators for more information on these motions and to express your opinion. It is important that they know their constituents' opinions on these important matters.

S-1202 Revision to CRF Document: This motion seeks to establish a solid reserve fund strategy for SWE based on the

recommendations put forth by the CRF (Contingency Reserve Fund) Task Force.

S1203 Revision to Procedure for Member Conduct: Seeks to expand the eligibility for ethics committee members, which is defined in the procedure for review of member conduct.

S1208 International Member Rate Change: Proposes to change the rate structure for international members to be aligned with other professional organizations.

Other amendments:

S1204 Professional Section in Good Standing

S1205 Collegiate Section in Good Standing

S1206 Committee Charters

S1207 Deputy Director of Regions Vacancy

Details on each of these seven bylaws amendments can be found on the [SWE Bylaws Community](#).

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 also doing some 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 that you would like to share, please contact [Wendy Obenauf](#) and it will be posted in a future Fundraising Corner.

Fun Run – Organize a community fun run. Offer prizes for the top finishers and t-shirts for all (work toward getting these items donated, perhaps from a local running store).

Halloween Carnival – Partner with a local pumpkin patch to host a SWE Carnival Day. Offer free labor to the pumpkin patch for the day and ask for a percentage of the profits in return. Setting up a hot chocolate stand along with games and face painting for the kids would create fun for the whole family.

Domino's Pizza or Papa Murphy's Pizza Coupon Cards – Both of these businesses offer fundraising coupon cards that never expire and worth significantly more than \$10 in savings. Cards are generally purchased for \$1-\$2 and can be sold for \$10.

Ask, Ask, Ask – Ask your university or employer to sponsor your conference travel expenses. Ask local businesses to sponsor you. Ask your local SWE Section to sponsor you.



Region J Council Business

Region J Bylaws – An updated copy of the bylaws were delivered to the Region J Council members on August 7th. This new version is required in order to maintain compliance with Society bylaws updates that have occurred over the past two years. Changes will be discussed in the August and September Region J Council meetings, with a vote to be held in person at the WE11 Region J business meeting.

Please see your Section Representative for details on the bylaws changes that are being proposed.

Region J Procedures - Over the past year, a sub-team has been hard at work revising our Region J Policies and Procedures document. This document is intended to detail operational procedures and document decisions the region has made regarding those procedural items.

Updates have been made for changes in officer titles and other administrative details. The Region J Travel Policy was reworded to coincide with our long-standing budgeting strategy, which separates the Collegiate and the

Professional allocations. No large procedural changes are being proposed as a part of this update.

The Region J Council will vote on the adoption of this revised policy at the September Region J Council Meeting. Please see your Section Representative for details on the Region J procedure changes that are being proposed.

Due to lack of quorum at the August meeting, voting could not be done on the Region J Procedures, FY12 Budget and FY12 Travel Budget Allocation. These motions will instead be discussed at the September Region J Council Meeting on the 19th.

Upcoming Events

WE11 – October 13-15, Chicago, IL - Raise the heights of innovation with more than 5,000 women engineers and technologists at the WE11 Conference! Visit the career fair, experience keynote speakers, and participate in many

thought-provoking sessions while taking the opportunity to network with your SWE peers. For additional details and a link to register, please visit <http://we11.swe.org/>.

Region J events at WE11 – The Region J Meeting will

be held on Thursday, October 13th. The Professional Members will meet from 1-2, Collegiate from 3-4, and we will meet jointly from 2-3pm.

A social event is being planned for Region J, so stay tuned for more details!

SWE 2012 Western Regions Joint 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 further enhance professional development skills and examine local technical projects, as well as 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," which will provide a wonderful opportunity to showcase Hawaii as a model for innovation – particularly in "green" technology.

Visit the conference website for information as it becomes available: <http://www.swewestern2012.org/>

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 for everyone at the Region J meeting in Honolulu! Crazy...

Accommodations – Be sure to book your hotel room through the conference block by going to www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/swe2012.

Registration is now open!

February 29 – March 3
Honolulu, HI

Visit the conference website for a link to the online registration: <http://www.swewestern2012.org/>

Western Regions Joint Conference: Getting There

We can't have a successful conference without you!!!

Calling all Region J members and supporters:

We are excited to have you attend the Joint Conference hosted by Regions A, B, and J. While this is an exciting venue, we also anticipate that travel costs may be an issue for some. In order to help defray some of these costs, we will post helpful travel

tidbits in this Newsletter each month.

Tip #2: Be on the look-out for air fare specials. Some travel sites allow you set up alerts that will send you an e-mail when your destination drops below a particular price.

Check with Alaska Airlines (alaskaair.com) and Hawaiian Airlines (hawaiianairlines.com) on a

periodic basis as they run specials from the west coast to Hawaii on a fairly frequent basis. This can often lead to a savings of nearly \$200!

Don't forget those frequent flier miles! Alaska Airlines will let you purchase a half-price fare (up to \$200 off) for only 20,000 miles.

Region J Governor
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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 |

Other Important 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 | |