

# Region J Newsletter



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

**April 2012**

Volume 1, Issue 6



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Hello Region J!

Punxsutawney Phil had it correct - winter is definitely still going strong. Gone are the warm Hawaiian days that many Region J members had the opportunity to enjoy during the Western Regions Joint Conference. The event was a tremendous success thanks to all of the hard work of the planning team and the enthusiastic participation of our SWE members and supporters.

If you attended the conference and have some great photos to share of your activities, the conference, or other highlights, I encourage you to post them on our SWE Region J Facebook site - <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/2212498850/>

Over the next few weeks, be on the look-out for voting information from SWE headquarters. Voting at the society level will be held during the month of April and will include SWE Board of Directors positions as well as Region J positions (Region Governor and Senate seats).

Let's 'rock the vote' Region J and see if we can significantly increase our voter turn-out relative to previous years.

This year, SWE will be 'rocking the vote' with many more members than last year. Society membership has grown 13.5% - 17,697 members in February, 2011 versus 20,084 members in February, 2012.

Region J has been a strong contributor to those numbers with 308 new members this year and a total of 821 members versus the 768 members we had last year. It is clear that all of the sections' hard work has been paying off in attracting new and retaining current members.

Keep up the great work!





## Upcoming Events and Due Dates

### 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:

#### AISES

American Indian Science and Engineering Society

#### C2C

Collegiate To Career

#### CRF

Contingency Reserve Fund

#### E-Week

Engineers Week

#### FY

fiscal year

#### HQ

Headquarters

#### IMT

International Member Team

#### LCC

Leadership Coaching Committee

#### LEED

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

#### MAL

Members-at Large

#### MI

Mega Issue

**Society/Region Elections**  
April 2012

**Travel Reimbursement Requests Due**

Monday, April 2nd

**RCT Teleconference**

Tuesday, April 10th  
6pm AK/7pm Pacific

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

**Region Teleconference**

Monday, April 16th  
5pm AK/6pm Pacific

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

**Region Newsletter Content Deadline**

Monday, April 16th

**All Together Newsletter Content Due**

Thursday, April 26th  
To [swenews@swe.org](mailto:swenews@swe.org)

**International Logo Contest Deadline**

Saturday, April 28th  
See page 3 for details.

**Collegiate Section Reports Due**

Tuesday, May 1st  
Send report to [Elaine](#).

**Prof. Section Reports Due**

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

**Section Vitality Assessment**

Thursday, May 10th  
To LCC Coaches and Region Governor  
**Section Elections**  
Completed by June 1st

**FY13 Leadership Roster**

June 1, 2012  
To SWE HQ and Region Governor

**Society Section Awards**

July 1, 2012  
To SWE HQ  
See Page 7 for details.

**FY13 Financial Report**

July 30th  
To SWE HQ and Region Governor

## Region Communications

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!](#)

### 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](#) 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](#) 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



## SWE's New Website

SWE has a new website!

[www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org)

Spend some time cruising around and see what you think!

The new *Join* tab along the left hand side is great! No more hunt and peck to frustrate potential new members trying to join!

Make sure your personal information is up-to-date. There is a membership link at the bottom of the home page!

## International Logo Competition

SWE desires to aide women and those who support the organization's initiative for its members to aspire, advance, and achieve. SWE is globalizing this desire by supporting over 180 members in countries around the world.

The International Member Team (IMT) currently supports pilot programs in India, Germany, Japan

and Nigeria. They need a logo that encompasses the vision of a global organization that ensures women worldwide reach their potential.

Visit the international website at <https://sites.google.com/site/internationalswe> and submit an idea!

All submissions are due by **April 28, 2012** in jpeg

format (and should not infringe upon any copyright laws). The IMT will review and submit 10 logos to be voted on by the SWE International Community.

Direct questions and submissions to [Enanga Fale](mailto:Enanga.Fale). Please include your SWE Member Number and Name with the submission. Only SWE members can submit!

## Reimbursement Requests Due April 2nd

The Region Conference 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 Sunday, April 1st to be considered - NO exceptions! You can [email](mailto:) or send to:

Maria Kampsen  
2411 Cleo Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

### From the 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

### And Still More Acronyms!

#### NSBE

National Society of Black Engineers

#### PDG

Professional Development Grant

#### RCT

Region Collegiate Team

#### RCR

Region Collegiate Representative

#### RCCE

Region Collegiate Communications Editor

#### RCS

Region Collegiate Senator

#### SHPE

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

#### SME

Subject Matter Expert

#### SPC

Strategic Planning Committee

#### SPS

South Puget Sound

#### STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

#### SWE

Society of Women Engineers

#### SWEFL

SWE Future Leader



## 2012 Western Regions Joint Conference

Thank you to all who attended the SWE Western Regions Joint Conference held February 29-March 3 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference was a tremendous success thanks to all the hard work of the planning team and enthusiastic participation of our SWE members and supporters.

### Conference Stats

- Overall attendance - 474
- Region J Attendance - 40
- Career Fair Companies - 21
- Luau/Chartering Event - 300 (sold out!)
- Tours - 130

### Favorite Moments

- Overhearing SWE Collegiate from Vegas talk about wanting to be successful to send parents on a much-deserved trip to Hawaii.
- Watching a SWEer ride a bike for the first time in 25 years.
- Skyping with the other SWE Region Conference at lunch.

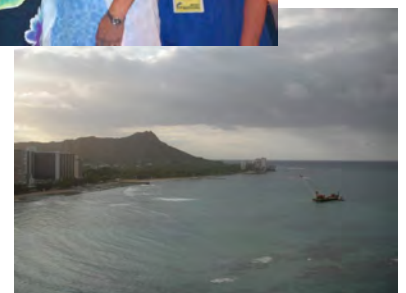
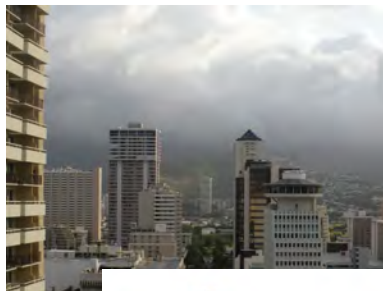


### A Hoot and Holler!

Linda Thomas (Director of Regions and Region J member-at-large) received a Nambe plate and poem from the three Region Governors:



Allison Goodman (Region A), Wendy Obenauf (Region J), and Kerry Greenfelder (Region B) at the luau!





## Membership

Not a SWE member yet?  
Join today at [www.swe.org/join](http://www.swe.org/join)



Did you let your membership lapse?  
You can renew easily at [www.swe.org/renew](http://www.swe.org/renew)

If you have problems during the renewal process, contact SWE directly for support at 1-312-596-5223.

If you have membership questions, you can contact [Dana Day](#). If she doesn't know the answers, she can point you in the right direction!

## By the Numbers (as of February 2012)

	Unpaid (Non-Renewals)	Total Paid	Growth from FY11
J001 - Eastern Washington	5	39	29%
J002 - Columbia River	38	85	19%
J003 - Pacific Northwest	84	227	26%
J005 - Greatland	8	33	9%
J006 - Southwest Idaho	11	16	8%
J007 - Willamette Valley	5	25	4%
J008 - Inland Northwest	8	12	6%
J009 - South Puget Sound	9	22	16%
J049 - Member-at-Large	9	24	24%
J050 - Alaska, Fairbanks, University of	0	11	120%
J051 - University of Idaho	10	23	57%
J052 - Montana Tech	20	43	54%
J053 - Montana State University	5	8	30%
J054 - Oregon State University	5	34	90%
J055 - Portland, University of	8	5	40%
J056 - Portland State University	11	18	131%
J057 - Saint Martin's University	21	21	50%
J058 - Seattle University	4	9	63%
J059 - Washington, University of	20	82	91%
J060 - Washington State University	5	24	250%
J061 - Oregon Institute of Technology	1	6	500%
J062 - Walla Walla College	1	1	0%
J063 - Idaho State University	7	4	17%
J065 - Gonzaga University	3	20	109%
J067 - Boise State University	0	15	400%
J068 - Alaska, University of (Anchorage)	3	14	42%
<b>Region J</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Grand Total (Society Level)</b>	<b>7,393</b>	<b>20,084</b>	<b>46%</b>

## Region and Member Shout Outs



The latest issue of SWE magazine is teeming with Region J goodness!

Check out page 55 about women engineering deans. Five are from Region J:  
Washington State University of Portland  
St. Martin's  
Boise State  
Seattle University

Learn about SWE's affinity groups – what they are and what purpose they serve (starts on page 20). Then check out Marcie Mathis' personal perspective in the piece on page 96.

You can read your hard copy or a mobile-friendly version. You can also share the magazine with potential new members.

Check it out at <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/swe/spring12/>





## 2012 Region J Awards

### Past Award Winners

#### 2010

Professional Development  
Eastern Washington Section

#### 2011

Distinguished  
Outreach Service  
Maria Kampsen  
Greatland Section

### Sensing a trend?

Submit for an award  
in FY13 to give these  
two sections a run for  
their money!

Suzi Jewett presented two awards at the 2012 Western Regions Joint Conference in Honolulu. Please congratulate the award winners when you next see or talk to them!

### Professional Development - Eastern Washington Section



The Eastern Washington section was awarded the Professional Development Award for their creation of the "Making an Impression" program. The professional workshop event included presentations from professionals about current hiring trends, provided insight into career services, and offered networking opportunities. Three hiring officials from local companies presented on the importance of networking, how to present a resume to best showcase yourself, and what an Operations manager is looking for when hiring. Topics also included the importance of social media networking. 22% of the section's membership attended the event.

"Making an Impression" supports SWE's developmental goals. Trends in hiring are changing constantly; knowing the trends empowers women to advance in their careers and gives them insight into what companies are looking for when retaining, recruiting and advancing women in engineering and technology careers.

Region J donated \$50 to the Eastern Washington Section to further this program in the next year.



### Distinguished Outreach Service - Melissa Branch, P.E. (Greatland Section)

Melissa currently serves as SWE Greatland Section President (since FY06) and as Region J Lieutenant Governor (since FY07). She has also participated in almost every SWE Greatland event in the past seven years, including significant involvement with the Girl Scout program and E-week. As President, Melissa set a goal to establish a scholarship program for girls pursuing engineering careers. Thanks to her leadership, the section is about to award its sixth year of scholarships.



Besides SWE, she volunteers with Junior Achievement, helping prepare young people for the real world by teaching them how to generate and manage wealth. Melissa also serves as co-chair of the United Way Emerging Leaders Advisory Council, helping cultivate the next generation of philanthropists, advocates, and volunteers in Anchorage through personal leadership development and community involvement. She was honored by the Alaska Chamber of Commerce as one of 2009's Top 40 Under 40.

Melissa received some yummy custom roasted nuts from Kauai and chocolate-covered macadamia nuts to help with her stress relief! :) (She's currently hiding the nuts from her husband so they are her treat alone!)



Have ideas for different  
region awards?  
Or how to improve the  
existing awards?  
Tell [Suzi](#) now!





## Society Section Awards

SWE Awards celebrate the lifelong contributions women engineers and technologists make to our society - and our world.

SWE offers a wide variety of awards for collegiate, professional and MALs that acknowledge outstanding contributions in the areas of Communications, Membership, Multicultural Activities, Outreach Programs, and Professional Development. Subcategories include newsletter, website, region membership, retention, recruitment, and outreach event.

All awards must be submitted by **July 1, 2012** to [awards@swe.org](mailto:awards@swe.org).

The packets for 2012 should be available on the SWE website by the time you are reading this. To access the awards info and download a packet, visit [http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/awards/region-section#activePanels\\_0,1,2,3,4](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/awards/region-section#activePanels_0,1,2,3,4).

Have questions? Ask the Awards Chair at [awards-chair@swe.org](mailto:awards-chair@swe.org).

Let's get our members recognized!



Join the '10 for 10' ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN, a multi-faceted effort intended to reach 10,000 10-year-old girls with positive engineering experiences. '10 for 10' runs for 10 weeks, February 24 through May 8, Mother's Day.

**[CLICK HERE to be counted.](#)**

For more info, visit:  
<http://www.eweek.org/EngineersWeek/Introduce.aspx?ContentID=143&Version=5>



**SWEeter Futures - Make Volunteering Count**  
SWEeter Futures is a volunteer rewards program that connects SWE members to volunteer outreach opportunities and tracks our impact on bringing more women into the engineering field.

Read more about the program at <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/component/content/article?layout=edit&id=3303>

## Outreach Resources

When it comes to outreach, you don't have to reinvent the wheel! There are a plethora of outreach resources available to help you plan your next event! Here are a few to check out:

**Aspire - SWE's K-12 Outreach Website** ([www.swe.org/aspire](http://www.swe.org/aspire)) The site has resources for four groups - girls, parents, educators, and engineers.

**WOW! That's Engineering!** is a one day workshop for middle school girls. The girls experience the creativity and innovation of engineering and technology through hands-on activities and interaction with SWE members. SWE provides grants for Wow! That's Engineering! outreach events each year. Grants cover all expenses, plus a team of SWE volunteers

and staff to guide event planning. The grant applications are reviewed in the fall. Program info, applications, and tools are available on the Aspire website under the "Engineers" resource tab.

**TEEMS: Together Exploring Engineering, Math and Science** A collaborative program between Girls Inc. and SWE. It provides the opportunity for SWE sections, MALs, or members to plan and execute a hands-on, interactive program for girls and young women within Girls Inc. The visits, which should include activities and/or site visits, should take place as part of a series occurring over a period of weeks or months. Each partnership will be granted \$2000 to offset program expenses. For application info contact [Randy Freedman](mailto:Randy.Freedman).

## Program Development Grants

**Need funding for an outreach event or idea?** Professional Development Grants (PDGs) are available through SWE thanks to generous funding from Exxon Mobil Foundation and The Ford Motor Company Foundation. PDGs are available to support activities of professional and collegiate sections,

members-at-large, and Society Committee pilot projects.

Learn more at the [www.swe.org/aspire](http://www.swe.org/aspire). Click on "Engineers", then select "Get Funding." Still have questions? Contact [Wendy Cocke](mailto:Wendy.Cocke), PDG Chair.



## FY13 Region Positions

Interested in board service but want to know what's really involved? Ask the current board!

### Region Governor

Wendy Obenauf  
[governor-j@swe.org](mailto:governor-j@swe.org)

### Lt. Governor

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

### Secretary

Kitty Nolen  
[kitty.l.nolen@intel.com](mailto:kitty.l.nolen@intel.com)

### Treasurer

Maria Kampsen  
[mkampsen@dowlhkm.com](mailto:mkampsen@dowlhkm.com)

### Senators

Jennifer Bly  
Barbara Donoghue  
Carla Todenhagen  
Amanda Dang  
See Senate Section for contact information

More officer information can be found at

<http://www.swe.org/regionj/NewSite2010/Officers.htm>



"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others."

~ DeAnn Hollis

Nominations are still open for the following positions:

- Lieutenant Governor (1-year term - FY13)
- Secretary (1-year term - FY13)
- Treasurer (1-year term - FY13)

We have interest in Lt. Governor and Treasurer. We are still in need of a secretarial candidate. Don't take someone else's interest as a reason not to throw your hat in the ring. If you're interested, say so!

### Fiscal Years

Fiscal year 2013 (FY13): July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

### Nominations

These leadership positions within the Region provide valuable experience within SWE and can be a step towards society leadership. All members are encouraged to nominate themselves and/or other eligible members. See below for eligibility requirements.

Send nominations to Wendy Obenauf by **Friday, March 30th**. The nomination packet includes the information below and a high resolution photo.

### Nomination Form

The following information is required on the form:

- Officer position you are applying for
- Name of nominee
- Contact information for nominee (including day/evening phone number, and email address)
- Section of nominee
- List of previous SWE positions held (if any)
- 200-word maximum candidate statement (why the candidate wants to be in the officer position and what they hope to accomplish)
- 150-word maximum candidate history (qualifications and previous SWE leadership experience).

### Elections

Elections will be held April 1-15, 2012.

## Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a voting member of SWE in good standing.
- Must be assigned to Region J as a member of one of the professional sections or as a professional member at large (MAL).
- **Lt. Governors** must have served at least two years in the aggregate as a professional member of the senate, professional section or members at large president, professional section or members at large representative, or as a region officer, except that one year as a collegiate senator or collegiate representative may be counted toward this requirement.
- **Lt. Governor** may not serve concurrently as a member of the SWE board of directors.





## Position Duties

### Lt. Governor

- The lieutenant governor shall assume the duties of the governor if the governor is unable to serve
- Lead the Region Collegiate Team
- Join one of the Region Committees
- Attend ABJ Meeting, WE12, WE13, FY13 and FY14 Region J Conferences (flexibility with this)
- Oversee Region Conference Planning Committee
- Perform other duties as assigned.



### Secretary

- Maintain the records of the region
- Records minutes at region meetings and conference calls
- Join one of the Region Committees
- Attend National SWE Conference
- Attend Regional SWE Conference
- Maintain Region Community
- Perform other duties as assigned.



### Treasurer

- Be responsible for the collection, distribution, and safekeeping of region funds;
- Prepare, maintain, and report as directed on the financial position of the region in relation to the approved budget;
- Submit a financial report to the Society in accordance with established procedures; and
- Join one of the Region Committees
- Attend National SWE Conference
- Attend Regional SWE Conference
- Perform other duties as assigned.

## Transition Meeting

Fear Not! You will not be stepping into a position with no guidance. The existing officers are available to help and a transition meeting is in the works!

### Melissa's Musing

I remember the day Linda Thomas called and asked me to consider serving as Lt. Governor of the Region.

As I listened to Linda's heartfelt confidence in me, my brain was screaming, "You can't do this! You're not qualified!" (Remember when I said we are our own worst roadblocks? I had barricades, flashing lights, and a flagger!) But Linda's positivity and encouragement trumped my insecurities.

As Section President, I was just learning about the Region and how my section fit into it. My first term as Lt. Governor was a crash course full of acronyms, requirements, and, most importantly, encouragement from members all over the region!

I accepted a second term because I finally felt like I was getting it enough to be of use to my Governor. I've taken on more responsibilities over the years, as I've grown my skills and understanding. I've stumbled more than once, but have always been encouraged and empowered by all of you. (And I thank you for it!)

I'm excited for someone new to get the opportunity to do the same in a region role.

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement.

You are here to enrich the world, and to impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

~ Woodrow Wilson



"There is no "I" in team but there is a "U" in volunteer! There is no "I" in team, but we sure are glad there is "u" in our volunteers!"

~ Unknown



"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

~ George Bernard Shaw



"When you are truly joined in spirit, another woman's good is your good too. You work for the good of each other."

~ Ruth Senter



## RCT Members

### Lt. Governor

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

### RCR

Elaine Wilcox  
[regionj@gmail.com](mailto:regionj@gmail.com)

### 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)



### Next RCT

#### Teleconference

Our next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10th at 6pm AK/ 7pm Pacific/8pm Mountain time. All collegiates are invited to participate in the call - just listen in or pipe up and share! Call-in info is listed in the *Upcoming Events* section on page 2.



### Best Practices

Several best practices (things that are working for your sections) were shared during the collegiate meeting at the Western Regions Joint Conference. Remember to put them in writing in your next section report due May 1st. And I'm sure our RCCE won't mind if you share them on the blog!

## RCT Corner

### Region Collegiate Awards

Three sections were awarded for staying on top of their reporting requirement efforts for FY12 at the Western Regions Joint Conference as part of the point system established by our RCR and RCCE:

- Gonzaga University
- Portland State University
- University of Portland

Congratulations, ladies! And good job with your record-keeping!

**Elections** are underway for Region Collegiate Positions. Please vote! Our candidates are:

#### RCR

Elaine Wilcox (OSU)

#### RCCE

Nicole Zimmerman (PSU)

#### RCS

Nicole Kissinger (Gonzaga)

Want to know more about the candidates? Check out their videos on the [Region J Blog](#).

### End of Year Items

The end of the SWE fiscal year and academic year is quickly approaching. There are several items your sections should have on their list of to-dos to complete before you rush out the door for travel, work, and internships:

- Elections
- Transition meeting
- Reports
  - Section
  - Leadership Roster
  - Annual/financial

You don't have to wait for the deadlines (listed on page 2) to complete and submit these items. Please don't leave these items to the start of the Fall semester and a new set of officers. As always, if you need help or have questions, the entire RCT team is here to help! Just ask!

### Upcoming Collegiate Competitions and Awards

SWE offers several collegiate awards and competitions:

Outstanding Collegiate Section/Outstanding New Collegiate Section (5/31)

Technical Poster Competition (6/15)

SME Bowl (10/15)

Visit <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/awards/collegiate-competitions#activePanels> for details and to download application packets.



## Collegiate to Career (C2C) Membership

SWE membership renewals are just around the corner. If you have two or more years (undergrad or grad) left, consider participating in the Collegiate to Career (C2C) membership program.

For a one time \$50 payment, you can secure a SWE membership for

your collegiate years through the first year you qualify for professional grade membership. Maximize your savings on membership dues by taking advantage of this opportunity!

*The program cannot be combined with any joint membership or other membership discount.*

What other types of collegiate membership does SWE offer?

- Collegiate
- Joint (NSBE, SHPE, or AISES)
- Country of Residence

For more info, visit [http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/membership/benefits-a-discounts#activePanels\\_1](http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/index.php/membership/benefits-a-discounts#activePanels_1)



## 2012 ABJ Meeting

The Region ABJ meeting is held before National Conference and consists of training and discussions on SWE strategic issues. The WE12 conference will be November 8-10, 2012 in Houston, Texas. Attendance at this meeting is about 40-50 people.

Another reason to put ABJ on your calendar is for networking and meeting SWE members from the three regions, plus meet with SWE Board of Directors (like the Society President and President-Elect) who attend because they are interested in hearing what you have to say:

The typical ABJ meeting schedule is

Friday Evening	Registration and informal social gathering
Saturday	Joint Regions A, B, and J Meeting
Sunday	Individual Region Meetings

The ABJ Meeting will be held in the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area. The region will be coordinating the meeting with the help of a planning team. The planning team will arrange for a hotel room block and reserve meeting space for the Saturday and Sunday meetings.

Stay tuned for more details in future newsletters!

## 2013 Region J Conference

The 2013 Region J Conference is the premier region event after the Society Conference, and is open to all SWE members and non-members.

The Region meeting starts with tours and other social activities. The conference provides both professional and collegiate development tracks. The conference also provides a career/job fair for participants. Professional and collegiate meetings wrap up the event. The typical Region Conference schedule is:

Friday	Registration, tours, and informal social gathering
Saturday	General Conference
Sunday	Region Meeting

South Puget Sound (SPS)/St. Martin's University's bid of intent was accepted during our Region meeting on Saturday, March 3, 2012. The conference will be held in Lacey, Washington from February 22-24, 2013.

Area highlights and potential tours/activities include St. Martin's new engineering building (supposed to receive LEED Platinum status), the Tacoma-Narrows Bridge, Naval Shipyard, Puyallup Art Walk, Point Defiance Zoo, and wine tasting (facilitated by the monks at St. Martin's).

SPS and St. Martin's are still working on a conference theme. **Do you have a great conference them idea?** Send it to [Danette Hilton!](#)



Experience three days of energy and a lifetime of opportunity at WE12, November 8-10 in Houston.

With more than 5,000 women engineers and technologists, the WE12 Conference is the perfect place for both experienced professionals and collegians just starting their careers to:

Participate in valuable professional development sessions

Network with other engineering professionals and students

Find your dream job at the Career Fair, featuring more than 200 companies, government agencies and universities

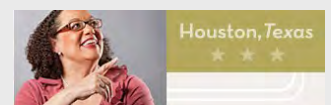
Experience Houston through numerous technical and sight-seeing tours

Enjoy exciting plenaries and awards banquets, including Celebrate SWE!

Relax in the Lava Lounge, where you can read inspiring stories of SWE women and share your own

Learn about the benefits of attending as a [professional](#) and as a [collegian](#).

For more information about Houston, go to [visithouston-texas.com](http://visithouston-texas.com).





## Senate Update

### Region J Senators

#### Professional Senators

Jennifer Bly  
Columbia River

Barbara Donoghue  
Pacific Northwest

#### Alt. Professional Senator

Carla Todenhagen  
Columbia River

#### Collegiate Senator

Amanda Dang  
University of Washington



Follow the [Region J Senators Blog](#) by e-mail!  
Go to the site and follow the directions on the right hand side of the Home page.



#### Did you know?

We use Robert's Rules of Order to run the SWE Senate meetings and receive training from our SWE Parliamentarian, [Collette Collier Trohan](#), on this topic.

Aloha!! Still feeling the sand between my toes from Hawaii and the great memories of catching up with folks from all three regions in attendance. Although I am back to reality in Portland, I can look out my window and see the trees and Spring flowers are budding out and blooming – a perfect venue to compose the SWE Senate update. Here we go. . .

#### February Senate Meeting

The SWE Senate met in Houston on Feb. 10-11. At our Friday afternoon gathering we participated in a discussion led by Cathy Pieronek, the current Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) chair. She led a review of the current SWE Vision, Vivid Descriptions, and Value Proposition that led to more rousing small and large group discussion (the background and summary is located here: [Vision & Vivid Description Presentation - 2-10-12](#)). As a result of the discussions, the Senate is in the process of kicking off two sub-teams to discuss and recommend revisions for each of these guiding statements.

In the Friday evening dinner discussion groups, we talked about the role of the Alternate Senator based on specific questions – the summary

was captured in the Senate meeting on Saturday and ranged anywhere from questioning the need for the position to how to engage more fully the individuals in the role. If you have any ideas or inputs, please let us know!

**Wondering about the motions reviewed this year?** You have come to the right place! A total of seven motions were on the docket. Five of the seven were very straightforward and approved with little discussion. Two led to significant discussion.

The first was the "Determination of the Number of RCRs". Ultimately, it was amended and approved that moving forward there would be, "One collegiate representative for each twenty active collegiate sections or fraction thereof, not to exceed two, of the region,...". In addition, the action was taken to create a Senate sub-team to do a deeper dive into the existing data to ensure the number by region and role of the individuals as RCRs is clear (in progress).

The second more "controversial" motion was related to the "[S-1214 Contingency Reserve Fund \(CRF\) Repayment](#)". After

significant discussion on the loan repayment that exceeded the allotted time in the meeting, the vote was postponed - you can review details in the motion documentation itself.

For more details on all the motions reviewed this year, see the [Senate FY12 Motions](#) sharepoint and/or a summary in the [Region J Senate update](#) in Honolulu.

#### Mega Issues (MIs)?!

Can't leave you without a quick summary of the great work going on here. There are two MIs that the Senate is responsible for this FY. Significant progress and data collection have been made on both and white-papers are expected before the end of this FY.

A quick summary: Karla Tankersley, alternate Region G governor, led "MI 00115 How can SWE inspire companies to provide creative opportunities for engineers who want to contribute in their industry and attend to family needs?". Christine Cabrera, Region H Senator, led "MI 00121 How do we change the conversations from what member value SWE provides to how engaged are our members?" One page summaries are also in the [Region J Senate update](#).



## Leadership Coaching Committee

Leadership Coaching Committee (LCC) Responsibilities include:

- Develop and maintain training material on SWE operations plus leadership and management skills necessary for SWE success.
- Provide consultation services and training to sections at the

local level, sections and regions through the region conferences, and all levels of SWE at the annual Society conference.

LCC has a variety of stock topics including: communication, conflict resolution, creative problem solving, finances, knowledge of SWE, leadership (and burnout),

strategic planning, tactical planning and more! They can also tailor training and coaches are available to help address issues and be a neutral consultant if needed.

Questions? Concerns? Want to request a presentation for your section? Contact one of our LCC coaches!

### LCC Coaches

Tamaira Ross  
[tamairaross@yahoo.com](mailto:tamairaross@yahoo.com)

Joan Young  
[joan.young@pnl.gov](mailto:joan.young@pnl.gov)



## Senate Update Continued

**Western Regions Joint Conference** The Region A, B, and J Senators present in Honolulu held a mini Town Hall and answered several questions and took input about Senate communication with the regions, Society goals and connecting earlier to feed into section annual planning processes, and the SWE logo/brand and colors on the new SWE site. Thanks for all those who participated and check out our picture and the beautiful flower leis! Barb and I are first and third from the left.

**Coming Up** See you in Houston at the next Senate Town Hall! Don't hesitate to contact us with questions, comments and/or interest in a future Senate position. We will be chatting more after our April Senate meeting coming up in a few short weeks.

Best Regards,  
[Jennifer Bly](#), Professional Senator (FY11-12)  
on behalf of  
[Barbara Donoghue](#), Prof. Senator FY12-13  
[Amanda Dang](#), Collegiate Senator, FY12  
[Carla Todenhagen](#), Alt. Prof. Senator, FY12

$\sqrt{-1}$  Love SWE!!

Key Links in the Region J Senators' blog area:

[SWE Senate Update to the Region J Meeting in Honolulu 3Mar2012](#)

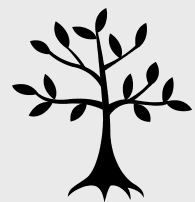
[S-1214 Contingency Reserve Fund \(CRF\) Repayment](#)

[Vision & Vivid Description Presentation - 2-10-12](#)



"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

~ Albert Einstein





## 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

Visit [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) for more information.



**Region J Newsletter Editor**

Melissa Branch

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