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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have had some great recent activities and have many more planned for the year. Our Fall and Winter activities support SWE's strategic goal to "develop women engineers at all stages of their personal and professional lives." Last month, we co-hosted a panel of leaders with the Association of Women in the Metal Industries about Conquering Your Fears in the Workplace. We chose this topic from SWE's recent E-book "Be That Engineer: Inspiration and Insight from Accomplished Women Engineers." If you haven't had a chance, you can download a copy of the book for free from SWE's website. It is filled with inspirational stories of women engineers in many industries.

Our next event is our second Technical Lightning Talk. We are really excited for this event and think you will find the speakers engaging and interesting as they discuss local environmental and sustainability topics. I met one of our speakers at our kick off this year and found her work so fascinating that I knew she needed to share it and the event only grew from there. We hope this is a great opportunity for some of our members to develop skills in technical presentations while providing other members opportunities to learn about different engineering topics.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our members at these events; some who are new first time members, some who have returned after not being active for a while, and some who are regulars at every event. I'm always excited someone new or who has not been involved finds a reason to keep coming back and become a regular. In my opinion, we've had more people become regular attendees than ever before. We are gathering statistics on attendance this year, so I'm sure we'll find out soon. We'll be using this statistics to better understand our section activity and plan next year. We'll also be sponsoring one year of societal membership for our most

active member. For more information, see our website <http://philadelphia.swe.org/member-incentive-program.html>. I encourage you to ask someone why they keep coming back to SWE at our next event. I have always found the answers to be as varied and diverse as our membership, and I'm proud we can meet the needs of so many amazing women in so many stages of their careers.

One more thing I'd like to mention, while you are shopping for the holidays, if you purchase items from Amazon, a portion of your purchase can be donated to Philadelphia SWE using Amazon Smile, see our website for details on how to set it up <http://philadelphia.swe.org/get-involved.html>. Thank you for helping us keep costs low at our events!

Have a safe and happy holiday season! I hope to see you on December 9th at our Technical Lightning Talk at Urban Engineers in Philadelphia.

Amanda Weissman



## **SOCIETY NEWS**

### **Call for WE16 Local Host Committee Members**

WE16, the annual conference of the Society of Women Engineers, will be held in Philadelphia on October 27-29, 2016. We are looking to add a few committee members from Philadelphia SWE.

If you are interested, please send an email to Alexis Wasserman at [ajwallen@gmail.com](mailto:ajwallen@gmail.com) by November 14 with a brief note describing your previous SWE experience and interest in the role (a couple of sentences is fine!).

At a high level, committee responsibilities will include local volunteer organization and providing input/contact for local companies and local attractions. There will be an in-person meeting with SWE HQ personnel in Philadelphia on either late November or December to discuss the roles/responsibilities in more detail.

## SECTION NEWS

### Philadelphia SWE Member Incentive Program

**Purpose:** To encourage Philadelphia SWE members to increase participation

**Goal:** Reward most active Philadelphia SWE member with a paid membership (or prize of equivalent value for Life Members or those who have membership paid for by employer)

**Structure:** Each event type is associated with a point value (social=5 points, professional development=10, outreach=15). When a Philadelphia SWE member attends an event, he or she is awarded the appropriate point value; these points will be recorded by a Section Representative (Cassie Zook for FY16). On 04/15/16, the points will be summed; the member with the most points will have his or her SWE membership renewed by the Section.

A Philadelphia SWE member who plans an event will receive double the point value listed on the schedule.

Bonus Communications Points: 1 point for each post on social media (up to 10 points) – must include hashtag #PhilaSWE

#### **First FY16 Events:**

Kickoff Social, 9/17/15, 5 points

WE15, 10/22-10/25/15, 10 points

SWE/AWMI Lean In Meeting, 11/5/15, 10 points

### Call for Help - Volunteers & Ideas Needed!

#### **Important information regarding volunteering:**

If you are planning on volunteering for one of SWE's outreach events this year, there is a new requirement that ALL volunteers must get clearance by the state to work with minors. This means YOU! It is an easy process but must be completed before the event. Please visit the Keep Kids Safe website: [keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov).

#### **Event Coordinators - Help plan an event with Philadelphia SWE!**

Are you interested in helping to plan a tour, technical talk or social for SWE Philadelphia in the upcoming months?

- Upcoming SWE Philly events include: "Engineering In and Around Philadelphia" (A night of member spotlight tech talks and dinner with NSBE), Cooking Demo and Social with AWIS in January, Ice Skating in February & more!!
- We are looking for 1 volunteer for each event to finalize event dates & details and to act as the SWE lead working with event partners (i.e. meeting location and other partner groups participating in the event, if applicable).
- Responsibilities include: working under the direction of the VP Professional Development (Elisha Rios) to communicate with partners to set up event, finalize event logistics with the

meeting coordinator (Erica Green) and to attend the event & provide a copy of the attendance list to SWE officers.

- Time estimated to plan an event is ~1-2 hours total.

If interested, please email Elisha (VP Professional Development) at: [phila\\_profdev@swe.org](mailto:phila_profdev@swe.org)

### **Bensalem High School FIRST Robotics Competition - Volunteers Needed!**

Bensalem High School FIRST Robotics team is looking for volunteer coaches and mentors in the areas of programming engineering and marketing. More information is available on SWE's website at: <http://philadelphia.swe.org/get-involved.html>

## **Open Positions – Philadelphia SWE**

Part of what makes the Philadelphia SWE section so great is the amazing participating of our members who keep it running like a well oiled machine. Read the open positions available for our section to see how you can get involved in FY16!

### **Collegiate Liaison**

Facilitates communication between section and local collegiate section presidents and counselors including flowing information to collegiate sections or requests for support from the collegiate sections. Assists collegiate MALs in the Philadelphia Section with any questions they may have.

### **Awards Banquet Chair**

Plans and organizes the SWE Philadelphia End of Year Banquet.

If you're interested in any of these positions, please send an e-mail to Amanda Weissman at [phila\\_president@swe.org](mailto:phila_president@swe.org).

## Philadelphia SWE Member Spotlight – Amelia Zellander

Check out the answers to these interview questions below to get to know your fellow SWE members better!



- 1) **Where do you work and what do you do?** I work as a scientist in the Cell Therapy group at Janssen R&D.
- 2) **What is the favorite part of your job?** I most enjoy exchanging ideas with the talented scientists and engineers in my group. I am a better bioengineer because of them.
- 3) **What is your favorite SWE event that you attended in the past year?** Judging the Science Fair [held last spring].
- 4) **What do you think is the biggest benefit of being a SWE member?** Career networking.
- 5) **What is your life motto?** I live by a number of proverbs and wise sayings, but this is one of my favorite: You get what you give.

## SWE Member Technical Spotlight – Janelle Johnson

Learn more about where your fellow SWE members work in the Greater Philadelphia area!



- 1) **What company do you work for and what do you do?** I work at Philadelphia Gas Works as LNG Project Manager. LNG stands for liquefied natural gas, which we store in tanks at our two Plants and vaporize on cold days for our customers' end use. Currently, I'm involved in studying and planning an expansion of our existing liquefaction capabilities.
- 2) **Can you describe some of the projects you've worked on?** When I was an Operations Engineer working in the Plant, I was involved in several capital projects to upgrade equipment onsite including the odorant injection system (gas leaving the plant has to be re-odorized). I was also heavily involved in waste management on the Plant premises for various improvement projects: coordinating sampling, hazardous waste characterization, and disposal.

- 3) If you could give advice to an undergraduate engineer studying in your field, what would it be?** If you're a chemical engineering student, it's obvious to say you've got your work cut out for you! But the main pieces of advice I would give students are to get to know your TA's, work with your classmates as much as possible, and make sure you have another outlet on campus.

### **Seeking Corporate Contacts**

If you know someone in your company who is in charge of or interested in making donations to a philanthropic organization, please let the Society of Women Engineers Philadelphia Section know so that we may get in touch!

The Society of Women Engineers is the world's largest advocate and catalyst for change for women in engineering and technology. We help members reach their full potential as engineers and leaders through networking, professional development and the shaping of public policy. And, we inspire young girls to become engineers and support them with scholarships. To that end, the Philadelphia section solicits donations and allocates the funds to scholarships and programs geared towards professional development and outreach.

### **Do you shop on Amazon? You could be missing an opportunity to help SWE!**

Amazon has a feature called Amazon smile. All you have to do is use a specified link when signing in to Amazon to shop like always and Amazon donates money to the organization you specify. If you shop on Amazon but use the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2604522> to log in 0.5% of the price of your purchase will be donated to Philly SWE! It only takes one click and then Philly SWE gets extra money to host events for you!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SWE/NSBE Lightning Talks and Networking Dinner

**Date-Time:** Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Urban Engineers, Inc., 530 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Join the Philadelphia professional sections of SWE (Society of Women Engineers) and NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) at Urban Engineers for a networking dinner and series of "lightning style" technical talks given by our SWE and NSBE members on the following topics:

- Environmental and sustainability projects in the Philly area
- STEM initiatives being developed and implemented in Philly schools
- Operation of the largest municipally owned gas utility in the country here in Philly

Our presenters will each give a 20 minute presentation followed by Q&A. There will be time after the presentations for networking. See the attached PDF for the biographies of the three speakers.

RSVPs are needed by Thursday, December 3, and can be submitted [here](#). Space is limited to 40 people, so be sure to reply early if you'd like to attend.

We hope to see you in December!

## Save the Date – 2016 Region E Conference

The 2016 Region E Conference, "Under the SWE," will be held in Newport News, Virginia, February 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Please visit the Region E Conference website for conference and registration details: <http://www.sweregionconference.org/>.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend! We will look into having a Philly SWE get together at conference; we are also putting together carpools and helping find hotel roommates if you are interested. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZ69FMC>

## Bensalem High School FIRST Robotics Competition Team – Mentors and Coaches

Bensalem High School FIRST Robotics team is looking for volunteer coaches and mentors in the areas of programming, engineering, and marketing. FIRST is a national competition where high school students design, build, and compete a robot in a game that changes every year. The team meets regularly Tuesdays after school at Bensalem HS, with competitions in the spring. Contact Kevin McKay [kmckay@bensalemsd.org](mailto:kmckay@bensalemsd.org).

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### SWE Philadelphia FY16 Fall Kickoff Social

The Philadelphia SWE FY16 kickoff social was held on September 17th at the Great American Pub in Conshohocken. New and returning members of the section were able to mix and mingle over hors d'oeuvres to make new connections and rekindle old ones. Additionally, members of the Philly SWE leadership team introduced themselves and told attendees about upcoming events and programs for the year. This year, the section is trying to increase focus on membership recruitment and retention. The new membership points program was introduced and new and old members alike were encouraged to use the #PhilaSWE hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram while at events.

### Manatawny Creek Winery Tour



October 4th was a beautiful fall day for Philadelphia SWE members and guests to visit the Manatawny Creek Winery, a 13 year old vineyard in Douglasville, PA. The Manatawny Creek Winery is family owned and operated by the Levengood family; Darvin Levengood, the patriarch of the family (and also a chemical engineer!), took SWE attendees on a tour of the facilities where we got to see how clusters of grapes were crushed, boiled, mixed, and fermented into the wine we put on our dinner tables. Darvin's daughter, Joanne, started school as an environmental engineer, but then caught the "wine bug" and went to study at the University of California at Davis, where she acquired all the skills needed to return to the family farm and turn it into a sweet family business. All of the wines are made at the winery, and about half of the grapes are grown there as well, which produce about 12,000 gallons of wine every year!

After the tour, the SWE attendees made themselves at home in the tasting room, where each guest could select 8 wines to sample from the extensive tasting menu, which includes white wines, red wines, pink wines, sparkling wines, and dessert wines. Attendees had a great time tasting, talking, and of course buying the delicious vino! The Manatawny Creek Winery is open year round, and is a great way to spend a relaxing afternoon.

## Philadelphia Local Section ACS Meeting

The local Philadelphia Chapter of the American Chemical Society held their monthly meeting at the Collegetown site including dinner, a facility tour and a talk on the "*Development of a New Solid Biocide*". Dow scientists discussed the development and commercialization of a new biocide for industrial water treatment through their personal experiences and gave facility tours. There were approximately 70 people in attendance.

## Conquering Your Fears in the Workplace: A SWE/AWMI Panel Event



Members of the Philadelphia sections of SWE and AWMI (Association of Women in the Metal Industries) co-hosted an inspiring panel event on November 5th. The event was held at Quaker Chemical in Conshohocken and allowed attendees to network and enjoy dinner before listening to five panelists discuss how to conquer your fears at work by taking risks, learning from mistakes, and being creative to create change under the direction of moderator Celia Holmes. The panelists were: Colette Ranucci (Merck & Co), Paul Handel (Boeing), Nilesh Shah (Dow), Janice Johnson (Quaker Chemical), and Sian Marcone (Alcoa).

The event was well attended by members of SWE and AWMI. All panelists told inspiring stories through their responses to questions pre-submitted by AWMI and SWE members and gave thoughtful answers to all that was asked of them during the Q&A portions of the discussion. Below are some memorable quotes from the evening:

- "...relationships pay off; build relationships with people that are intelligent and have confidence in you...pays dividends - Paul Handel
- "If you know what you want to do, pursue it thoughtfully" - Nilesh Shah (NS)
- "Risk to stay can be a greater risk than the change" on changing jobs – Janice Johnson

- "people are measuring you on your emotional intelligence all the time" – Paul Handel
- "critical to find confidants, supporters & stay in touch with them" – Sian Marcone
- "On opening a conversation about feedback ask, 'What can I do better to make us more successful?'" – Janice Johnson
- "pay attention to the next growth opportunity" - Colette Ranucci

Since this has become an annual event with SWE and AWMI, both sections look forward to next year's panel.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Congratulations on Diana Russella's Engagement!



***Do you have exciting news to share? It could be anything from graduations to birthdays, engagements to professional accomplishments. Email the [SWE Newsletter Editor](#) with your exciting news!***

# OFFICER CONTACT LISTING

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 9	SWE/NSBE Technical Talks and Dinner, Urban Engineers
February 19-21	SWE Region E Conference, Newport News, Virginia



Search SWE Philadelphia



*Mission: Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, demonstrating the value of diversity*

*The Philadelphia Section was one of the original chartering sections of SWE, chartered on May 27, 1950*