

# SWE Philadelphia Section

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## ***Editor's Note:***

Next newsletter deadline is **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please send articles to: Heather Bernardin  
habernardin@juno.com

## ***Utility De-Regulation***

### ***Gaslight Restaurant***

***November 18<sup>th</sup>!***

Exit 8 off I-95  
Turn onto Stewart Ave  
(Right from I-95S, Left from I-95N)  
Right onto Rt. 13 (Chester Pike)  
Left onto Sellers Ave.  
Right Turn just after stop sign

**Cost is \$25.00 (Students \$10.00)  
RSVP to Carole Stowell  
(610) 531-5320  
by November 16<sup>th</sup>.**

This newsletter's mailing is funded through a grant from Lockheed Martin Management and Data Systems. *Thank you!*

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**SWE Philadelphia Section  
C/O Engineer's Club  
Suite 36  
215 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Visit our webpage at: <http://www.libertynet.org/~sweps>**



# **Society of Women Engineers Philadelphia Section November 1998**

## ***Letter from the President***

Wow! The leaves have changed. We've had to change our clocks (but that extra hour of sleep was great!).

The SWE year is progressing as well. We will have an interesting and informative talk about Utility Deregulation at the November meeting -- something that everyone will have to deal with, sooner or later. In December, we'll have our Holiday Party on December 5th (a pot luck dinner at Ronna Robertson's). This is intended as a section event. If the travel distance is too far, feel free to suggest something in each sub-section. Some folks are also planning a group outing to Longwood Gardens to see the Christmas lights.

We will soon know whether we are planning a section conference for ourselves or a regional conference for Region E in the spring. Either way, we need your help to make this a success. Susan Sciarratta is coordinating this effort. We need folks who can meet with us. We need folks who rather work on their own. We need folks who have only a few hours and folks who have days and days. We need YOU!!

Ronna Robertson is working with me to develop a timeline for a Delaware Section. We will need 10 SWE members to say they will be in the new section. And we will need to hold officer elections in March so we can apply for a charter at the April SWE Board Meeting. The charter would take effect on July 1. So, for ALL Philadelphia Section members, we will be looking for more folks to get involved. Most of our offices and chairs have flexible hours. In the simplest form, most of these positions take only a few hours a month. They can get as elaborate and time-intense as you want them to be....

Hope all your holiday travels are safe and enjoyable!

Janet

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**November 1998**

## ***SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS***

The speaker at this meeting was Barbara Atkinson and her topic was : Socially Responsible Engineering: A Case Study - Developing Solar Energy in Nicaragua. Since the mid-1980's she has been traveling to Nicaragua and working from North America on a volunteer technical aid project, Terrasol, that promotes solar energy. Terrasol provides system designs, materials and training for Nicaraguans in installation and maintenance of solar energy. Along with her discussion we were able to see a number of slides depicting the areas in which the group has been working, the systems that have been installed, and most importantly how valuable the electricity is to these people.

Here are some publications and contacts for work in developing countries that Barbara has provided to us.

### **BOOKS:**

#### **From Global Exchange, 800-497-1994**

The Peace Corps and More: 175 Ways to Work Study and Travel at Home and Abroad  
by Medea Benjamin and Miya Rodolfo-Sioson

How you can spend enjoyable, productive time at home and overseas. Contains more than 150 suggestions of organizations that allow you to get experience while promoting social justice and sustainable development. (96 pp., \$8.95)

Bridging the Global Gap: A Handbook to Linking First and Third World Citizens (1989 -- some groups may be defunct)

by Medea Benjamin and Andrea Freedman

Provides a detailed analysis of each variety of grassroots internationalism: fair trade, responsible tourism, material aid, partnerships and how to get involved. Includes a directory of organizations. (320 pp., \$11.95)

#### **From Institute for Food and Development Policy, 510-654-4400**

Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Directory of Third World & U.S. Volunteer Opportunities (7th Edition) (1996)

edited by Phil Lowenthal, Stephanie Tarnoff and Lisa David

How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas (coming in 1999)

by Joe Collins, Stefano DeZeraga and Joan Hecksher

### **ORGANIZATIONS:**

Overseas Development Network matches volunteers with opportunities (it seems to be a student-run organization): 415-431-4204

[odn@igc.apc.org](mailto:odn@igc.apc.org)

[www.igc.org/odn](http://www.igc.org/odn)

International Development Exchange (IDEX) is primarily a funding source for projects; their web site has other links (internship opportunities: "internships outside of IDEX"): 415-824-8384

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

[idx@igc.apc.org](mailto:idx@igc.apc.org)

### **News from Vicki & Mike Land**

Birth of Laura Caitlyn Land on September 1, 1998. See the pictures at  
<http://www.delanet.com/~mland/laura.htm>

# SWE Philadelphia Section

November 1998

## MEETINGS

- **Joint Dinner Meeting With American Society of Civil Engineers, Women's Transportation Seminar, and Society of Women Engineers**

*Date:* Thursday, November 12 - Dinner: 6:30 P.M.; Meeting: 7:30 P.M.

*Location:* Williamson's GSB Building, City Line Avenue, Philadelphia

*Topic:* A panel discussion on the effects of recent federal transportation legislation, such as TEA-21, on metropolitan areas. The *speakers* will be: **Denise Goren**, Deputy Mayor of Transportation, City of Philadelphia, **Karen Martynick**, Commissioner, Chester County; and **Happy Fernandez**, former Councilperson at Large, City of Philadelphia, and current candidate for Mayor.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1998.** Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$25 per member or guest, payable to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19103-8186. If you mail your check after Friday, October 30, 1998, please call the **electronic Message Center: (215) 934-3639**, open 24 hours/day, to make your reservation.

- **Holiday Pot Luck Dinner**

Ronna Robertson is holding a Holiday Pot Luck Dinner on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Ronna at work:(302)-761-2104 or home:(302)369-6417 for more information.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Region E Spring 1998 Conference**

Our section has put in a bid for the Region E Spring 1999 Conference. The Phila. section will either be holding the Conference or a Saturday Seminar in the spring. Please offer suggestions on programs and/or logistics. Volunteers are also needed for this event. Contact Susan Sciarratta Work:(609)273-1110, Home:(215)579-1377, E-mail: susan\_sciarratta@golder.com

- **2004 Convention Bid**

The intent to bid has been submitted to Headquarters and we were the only section to meet the September 1 date. However they are allowing two additional Sections, Salt Lake City and Saint Louis, to submit bids in order to have a true competition. Susan Best is working on a concise and detailed bid and is looking to have a draft completed shortly. Volunteers are still being sought for the committees. Members from the Lehigh Valley & New Jersey Sections are invited to participate.

- **Still in need of filling KEY POSITION in the section**

The section still needs a chair for Career Guidance. This position can simply be one of coordination, relaying requests to the appropriate section program Chair, and take only a few hours a month. Or, if you are so inclined, you can make it as big as you like and develop new programs and activities! This position makes it easier for the "public" to access our pre-college programs -- they call one person to connect with any of our various activities. If you have questions, feel free to contact Janet Anderson (w: 609-540-2995) or Barbara Zubenko (302-234-2050), our previous Career Guidance Chair.

- **ACS in November (National Chemistry Week)**

During National Chemistry Week a fair is going to be held to expose children to Chemistry. We were asked if we would be interested in setting up an exhibit. If you are interested contact Janet Anderson (w: 609-540-2995).

- **1999 PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL FUTURE CITY COMPETITION**

For the fourth year in a row, the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council will host the **National Engineers Week**<sup>TM</sup> Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition. This program offers 7th and 8th grade students an excellent learning opportunity to work with a practicing engineer in the design of a city of the future. The regional competition date is Saturday, January 30, 1999. Volunteers are needed to assist with all aspects of the competition process. Contact Jennifer Wetzel 610-695-7432 (Phone) [Jennifer.Wetzel@mgind.com](mailto:Jennifer.Wetzel@mgind.com) (e-mail).

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**November 1998**

## **BID FOR SWE REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SPRING 1999**

### PURPOSE:

The Society of Women Engineers, Philadelphia Section (SWE – Philadelphia) proposes to host the Annual SWE Spring Region E Conference and Region Council Meeting for 1999. SWE – Philadelphia hosted the Spring Regional Conference about four years ago in Wilmington, Delaware. This summer, the Section had decided to host a one-day conference for Section members. By that time, a number of topics related to career and personal development had been proposed by several members, which the Section realized could not be adequately covered during our monthly or bimonthly meetings. Since that time, the Section's Board members have decided to expand upon the one-day conference concept and instead propose to host the Regional Conference and Region Council Meeting.

### DATES:

The Spring Conference is typically held in March or April of each year. In order to accommodate the majority of students in the Philadelphia area, whose school year typically ends in mid- to late April, SWE - Philadelphia proposes to host the Conference during the weekend of March 26, 1999. The Conference would begin on Friday evening, March 26, and would end around noon on Sunday, March 28. However, SWE – Philadelphia is flexible in this schedule.

### LOCATION:

Since the Region's members are widely distributed in a north-south direction, we propose to hold the Conference in South Philadelphia, in the area of the Philadelphia International Airport. This location should be close to the geographic center of the Region. There are a number of hotels in the vicinity of the Airport that are equipped with adequate guest rooms and meeting space. Examples of hotels in this area that SWE would pursue include: Marriott, Radisson, Hilton, Guest Quarters, and Embassy Suites. For those members that are traveling by airplane, this proposed location is ideal. For those members traveling by rail, the Airport itself is accessible from Philadelphia's 30<sup>th</sup> Street Train Station by the SEPTA Airport Line (local commuter rail), or is about fifteen minutes away by taxi.

### AGENDA:

The Agenda for Friday would include Conference registration and a networking or social activity. Possibilities include: a networking night in the hotel function room or local university, a trip to Longwood Gardens, wine-tasting at the Chadds Ford Winery, a night at the Franklin Institute Science Museum or Camden Aquarium, or tours of the DuPont estate in Delaware.

The Agenda for Saturday would include seminars and workshops that will be interesting for both students and professional members. Potential topics for workshops include: public speaking and presentation skills, graduate school, professional licensing, international travel, relocation, financial planning or economics, nontechnical career paths, and balancing work and family issues. Because of our Section's sincere interest in working with the students in the area, we are proposing several ideas in order to encourage student involvement in the Regional Conference. For example, we would invite students to present their current research projects in a seminar and/or poster format. We would also like to host a longer seminar with university students, that would include discussions on composing a resume, interviewing skills, how to "shop" for and select a potential employer, as well as provide an opportunity for the students to informally network with SWE professionals. Due to our concerns about the declining enrollment of women and minorities in engineering, we would like to spend time during the conference to discuss how to encourage young women to pursue technical career fields, present sample workshops that can be given at schools by either university students or professionals (a train-the-trainer concept), and discuss student upgrades for SWE membership after college.

Also, on Saturday morning, we will offer an alternative to the workshop schedule. This alternative may be a half-day seminar or short-course on a particular technical or personal topic, or a local technical tour. Possible ideas for local tours include Amtrak Operations at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station, Flight Simulation, the U.S. Post Office's automated mail system, Tinicum/Heinz Nature Preserve, a local wastewater treatment plant, or behind the scenes at Philadelphia Airport.

The proposed Agenda for Sunday will include the Regional meeting and student meeting, followed by lunch.

Given the high activity of other technical groups in the area, SWE – Philadelphia will extend an invitation to non-SWE members for the Regional Conference. In this way, SWE will strengthen its ties and build coalitions with other engineering or women's groups in the area, as well as potentially boost its own membership. Other groups that will be contacted include: PSPE, ASCE, ASHRAE, AIChE, ASME, IEEE, Philadelphia Engineers Club, the NJ and PA chapters of Society of Women Environmental Professionals, Association for Women in Science, and Association for Women in Construction.

### BID CONTACT:

Please contact Susan Sciaratta, Vice President of SWE – Philadelphia, with any questions or suggestions:

Home: 215-579-1377

Work: 609-273-1110, x327

Email: susan\_sciarratta@golder.com