

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

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

Next newsletter deadline is **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please send articles to: Heather Bernardin  
hbernardin@fcg.com

## ***Bringing in the Millenium, SWE Style! Holiday Inn, Fort Washington September 15<sup>th</sup>!***

See Inside for direction, menu choices, and prize information.

**Cost is \$20.00 (Students \$10.00)  
RSVP to Carole Stowell  
(610) 531-5320  
by September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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Philadelphia, PA 19102**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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



# **Society of Women Engineers Philadelphia Section September 1999**

## ***Letter from the President Sue Sciarratta***

Hello, SWE Members and Friends of SWE!

Welcome back to another SWE year, FY'00 (or FY-not?), as we prepare to celebrate our entrance into the millenium as well as SWE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for both SWE National and SWE-Philadelphia.

Inside this "kickoff" newsletter, you will find a recap of this past year's activities, plus our goals and planned activities for the coming year. We have a lot of exciting programs and activities scheduled for the year, so we will need a team effort from each and every member of our Section to participate, to the extent possible.

In the coming months, you will see some exciting additions to the Newsletter. In honor of SWE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be publishing interviews or articles about some of our longest standing members, including charter members of SWE such as Alma Forman. We will also be updating you periodically on activities related to the planning of the 2004 National Conference in Philadelphia, by a team comprised of members of the Philadelphia, New Jersey, Lehigh Valley, and Delmar Peninsula Sections. As always, the Newsletter is available as a forum to *all* members to share announcements, activity updates, articles of interest to the Section, and even letters to the Editor.

All of this sounds great, except that no one has yet come forward to take on the responsibilities of Newsletter Editor. Our Secretary, Heather Bernardin, has graciously agreed to publish this edition. **However, no future Newsletters will be published until we get volunteers to take it over!** If you enjoy receiving and reading the Newsletter, please consider volunteering your time.

Also inside is a list of available positions for you to consider. Think about how much time you can offer on a monthly basis or at a given time of year, and please sign up for one of the vacancies. I especially invite our newest members to consider these positions; we are eager to have you contribute to the Section and meet other members!

Sincerely,  
Susan Sciarratta

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**September 1999**

## ***UPCOMING MEETINGS***

- **Bringing in the Millenium, SWE Style – FY 2000 Kick-off Meeting**

Where: Holiday Inn, 432 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington, PA

Speaker: Susan Sciaratta will speak on the plans for the year.

Meal Choices: Pasta Primavera or Baked Half Chicken with Sherry Glaze.

RSVP: By September 8<sup>th</sup> to Carole Stowell 610-531-5320.

Prizes: Bring A Friend you would like to introduce to SWE and you and your friend will be eligible entered into a drawing for a free dinner for herself and friend. The first 10 people (members and friends) to RSVP will receive a free SWE T-Shirt.

Directions: PA turnpike to exit number 26, PA-309 (Fort Washington/Philadelphia/Ambler). Keep left at the fork on the ramp. Merge onto W. Pennsylvania Avenue

- **Region E Student Conference**

The Region E Student Conference will be held at Drexel University November 5-7. On Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a network meeting in conjunction with the student conference. Information about the student conference may be obtained from Drexel SWE 215-895-2211 or swe@coe.drexel.edu. Information about the Network meeting may be obtained from Lisa Colosimo 610-989-7276 or lcolosimo@fcg.com.

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## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

- **Committee Chairs Needed**

Several chapter positions are vacant. The available positions are Newsletter Editor, Job Bank, Publicity, Scholarship, Subsection Meeting Coordinators, Certificate of Merit Coordinator, Programs Committee, Section Brochure, and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities. See the attached form for a full list and description of the available positions. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Susan Sciaratta at 609-273-0778 or susan\_sciaratta@golder.com.

- **Girl Scouts**

The Girl Scouts are seeking SWE members to provide workshops at the 1999 Junior Jamboree on Sat. 10/2 from 9-12. The theme is "Leap Through Time" - looking at the past, present, and future of sciences, culture, sports, etc. The Jamboree will be at Camp Tohikanee near Lake Nockamixon (Quakertown area). For further info and to volunteer, contact Maryann Jordan, Event Director, at 215-757-9628 and notify Vicki Brown of SWE Speakers Bureau if you plan to attend.

- **Future City - 2000**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the National Engineers Week Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition. See the attached form for more details or contact Jennifer Wetzel at 610-695-7432 or jennifer\_wetzel@mgind.com.

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## ***FY 2000 Plans***

There were many ideas at the planning meeting for the coming year. Some of the main focuses for the year will be to increase or involvement with the girl scouts, students (elementary through high school), and the local student SWE sections. In addition there are plans to provide interesting meetings which will include networking with other women's organizations. Some of the plans for the year include a Network meeting at the Drexel Region E Student Conference, participation in a Widner program for guidance counselors, a Saturday Seminar, a Saturday camp for high school girls, a speaker on personal wardrobe/shopping, and a golf tournament/lesson meeting. In addition the sub-section meetings will continue during the months when no meeting is planned.

# **SWE Philadelphia Section**

**September 1999**

## ***FY 99 HIGHLIGHTS***

- Full section meetings and topics:

September: Socially-Responsible Engineering: A Case Study - Developing Solar Energy in Nicaragua

Speaker: Barbara Atkinson

November: Electric Utility Deregulation

Speaker: Raymond V. Civatte

March: Demolition of the One Meridian Building in Center City

Speaker: Lynn Blahusch, co-owner of C.B. Development Services, the company responsible for coordinating the demolition effort

April: Awards Banquet to honor scholarship winners and corporate sponsors

Keynote Speaker: Ronna Robertson, SWE Region E Director

May: Travels in Africa

Speakers: SWE Member Stacy Dedin and Husband

- Other Highlights for the year:

Led a combined effort with Lehigh Valley and New Jersey Sections in a successful bid to host the 2004 SWE National Conference (Susan Best from Philadelphia). Transfer of Section President Janet Anderson to Beaumont, TX in December and subsequent seamless transition of VP Susan Sciaratta to capably take over the reins for the rest of the year. Provided SWE Counselors for six of the seven Student Sections in the local Philadelphia area (Drexel/ Susan Sciaratta, Penn/ Deb Grubbe, U of DE/ Lynn Srivastava, Villanova/ Julie Gadsby, Widener/ Maryann Skehan, Temple/ Danielle Williams). Conducted seven workshops in systems engineering and building a water distribution system at the Girl Scout Career Day held at Bucks County Community College on 13 March 1999. About 500 Girl Scouts and their leaders attended the Career Day; 10 to 15 participated in each workshop session (Presenters: Susan Sciaratta and Carole Stowell). Developed and split off the new DelMar Peninsula Section (Vicki Land, Pam Zucaro, Barb Zubenko, and others). NOTE: 28 former Philadelphia Section Members have been transferred to DelMar Peninsula Section.

Coordinated with Lehigh Valley Section to judge over 1600 applications received for the Freshman and Reentry Scholarships awarded by Headquarters (Phila team: Barb Faust, Maggie Schwartz, Susan Giacomponello, Carole Stowell, Valerie Bagnell, Maureen Foley). \$7000 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students at local engineering colleges (judging team: Danette Ernst, Susan Sciaratta, Julie Gadsby, Maggie Schwartz, Barb Faust). \$2000 in scholarships and other awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in Philadelphia. These are the first SWE Special Awards ever presented at the ISEF (Judges: Tammy Yost, Barb Faust). \$500 scholarship to a high school senior at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs; also six copies of the book *The Way Things Work* and five Honorable Mention Certificates at the DVSF (Judges: Tammy Yost, Carole Stowell, Barb Faust, Maggie Schwartz). \$6000 in Klesius Fund contributions transferred to DelMar Peninsula Section for award distribution. Awarded 257 Certificates of Merit to students from 87 high schools in the local area (Presenters: Heather Bernardin, Susan Sciaratta, Jennifer Matherly, Lisa Hutchings, Maryann Skehan, Barb Faust). Participated in the Philadelphia Regional Future Cities Competition: Members served as Judging Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and judges for student entries (Participants: Susan Best, Jennifer Wetzel, Susan Sciaratta, Barb Faust). Participated in the Girls, Inc Expo held at the University of DE on 1 May 1999; over 1000 girls attended; the Engineering Adventure CD-ROM was run to interest girls in engineering and SWE/Ford posters, T-shirts, cup holders, and scientific word games (Participants: Vicki Land and others from DE area).

Section/Member Recognition: Lucia Chan honored as one of two Young Engineers of the Year by the Delaware Valley Engineers' Week Council. Philadelphia Section received the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia Award for "establishing and maintaining an active liaison with local engineering schools". Philadelphia Section received the Large Section Membership Retention Award at the SWE National Conference held in Phoenix at the end of June. Susan Best served as Senior Vice Chair of the Delaware Valley Engineers' Week Council. Deb Grubbe was selected to participate in a national-level Women-in-Engineering type of forum.