



# SWE-KC NEWSLETTER

Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers, P.O. Box 860363, Shawnee, KS 66286  
Email: [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com) Website: [swe-kc.org](http://swe-kc.org)

## SWE-KC President's Message

SWE membership is said to be about new beginnings, new perspectives and a lifetime of opportunity. As we begin 2013, take a moment to consider what SWE membership has meant to you. For me, 2013 marks my 20<sup>th</sup> year as a SWE member (yep, they let in 9 year olds back in those days). In the past few years, I have become more actively involved in the society after taking an extended career break to start a family. Throughout my recent journey to re-enter the workforce, the contacts I made in SWE helped me tremendously by offering advice, resume critiques, networking opportunities and loads of encouragement.

I just completed my registration for our upcoming Region i Conference - iCON13 in Omaha, NE, from March 1-2. This will not only be my first regional SWE conference but also my first time in Omaha so I am especially looking forward to the adventure. Conferences are wonderful opportunities to network, to attend professional development workshops, to take unique local tours and to gain firsthand knowledge about the Society. Do not forget to register at [www.swe-nebraska.org/iCON13](http://www.swe-nebraska.org/iCON13) before February 20<sup>th</sup> to avoid the late pricing increase. Hope to see you there!

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Our SWE-KC 2013 calendar is shaping up to be the start of another busy year. Take a look at our upcoming events on the last page and make a commitment to attend something new. Better yet, check out our Section and Region leadership opportunities and apply for one.

Happy New Year!

Stephanie DeCaro, SWE-KC President  
[stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com)

*Have you ever wondered exactly what SWE-KC does? What we are involved in? And how you can get involved?*

If you have, we invite you to come out to a  
**MEET & GREET!**

Our group gathers on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** each month to meet new faces, catch up with friends and stay in tune with the many opportunities to get involved in the community. For the convenience of our members, each month the Meet & Greets are held in a different location.

In February, we will meet in Lawrence to include our KU Collegiate Section.

Meet & Greet invites that can be added to Outlook are sent to our email list at the beginning of each month. Please contact [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com) if you are not receiving the invites.

Date	Location	Hostess
1/9	<a href="#">Tavern</a> , Mission Farms	Holly Lamar
2/13	<a href="#">Free State Brewery</a> , Lawrence	Susan Enneking / Jennifer Glotz
3/13	<a href="#">Barley's Brewhaus</a> , Overland Park	Amy Nelson / Erika Thompson
4/10	<a href="#">La Bodega</a> , Town Center	Stephanie DeCaro



## SWE-KC Officers

### **President**

Stephanie DeCaro  
stephanie.decaro@yahoo.com

### **Past President**

Susan Enneking  
susanenneking@sbcglobal.net

### **Vice President**

Amanda Wages  
amandawages@gmail.com

### **Secretary**

Sunita Gupta  
sunita.sgupta@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Shelly Wolff  
swolff@hntb.com

### **Section Representative**

Jenna Walsh Harpole  
WalshJennaG@JohnDeere.com

### **JEC Representative**

Karen Gilbertson  
karen.gilbertson@dot.gov

### **Outreach Chair**

Kristin Ehlers  
kristin.ehlers@swe.org

### **Open Positions**

- **Events Chair**
- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Membership Chair**
- **Awards Chair**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Official Section Name: “SWE-KC”

We'd like to clear up any confusion from the past. The official name of our section is the “Kansas City Section of the Society of Women Engineers.” Since that's a mouthful to say, we abbreviate it to “SWE-KC”. “SWE-KC” shows that we are part of a larger organization, while still pointing out that we're in KC. We've even changed our website to reflect this: [swe-kc.org](http://swe-kc.org) If you find another abbreviation on any documents, emails or meeting notices in 2013, please let us know and you'll be entered in a raffle to win a prize!

### Executive Council Meeting Schedule

Executive council meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month, excluding December, from 7:30–8:30pm at Panera (15108 W 119th St, Olathe KS 66062 – between I-35 and Blackbob, N side of 119th). All members are welcome to attend.

### Outreach Committee

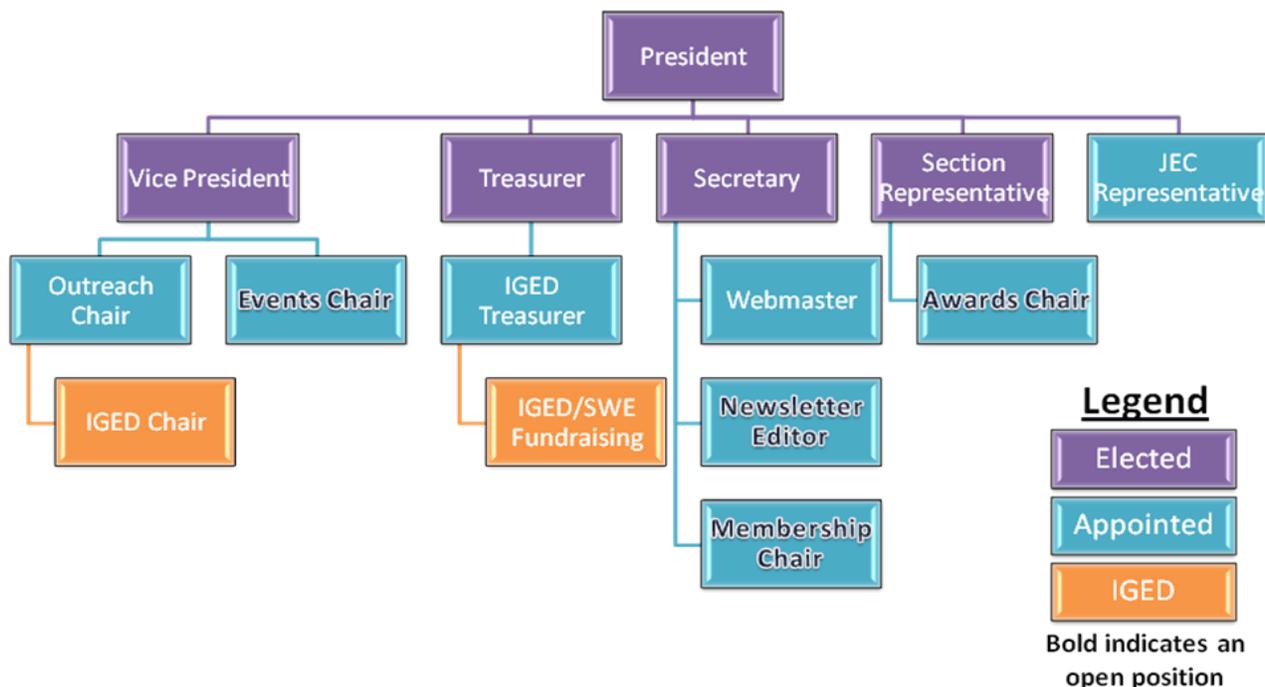
We want to thank Kasie Holle, Kelli Deuth, Priya Mishra and Kristin Ehlers for working hard on the Outreach Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristin Ehlers at [kristin.ehlers@swe.org](mailto:kristin.ehlers@swe.org).

### Membership Committee

We want to thank Adriana Aguilar, Ramya Venugopalan, Suzie Carpenter and Sunita Gupta for joining the newly created Membership Committee. The committee is meeting this Sunday, January 13 from 4pm-5pm at Barnes & Noble (11323 W 95th Street, Oak Park Mall, Overland Park, KS 66214). All members are welcome to attend!

### Organizational Structure

We still have open positions for committee chairs and a Newsletter Editor. If you would like to get involved, please email [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com) with your name and which positions you are interested in. Responsibilities for the positions were listed in the previous



## Upcoming Region / Conference on March 1-2 in Omaha

by Hope Piuck

Please consider attending the SWE Region / Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, on March 1st and 2nd, 2013!

You will get to meet professional engineers in all disciplines from Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wyoming who work in different industries, academia, and Government. You will also get to meet, mentor and interact with collegiates from all over Region /.

Drive a short 3 hours Friday afternoon to check-in at the conference. Friday evening there will be an Icebreaker event call "Anchors Away with SWE". There will be continuing education sessions, SWE Region / business meetings, and a career fair Saturday. There will be closing ceremonies Saturday night with networking, dinner, and Dueling Pianos.

The Conference is offering a Professional Development Workshop Friday March 1 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for an additional cost of \$249.00. The subject of the workshop is "build a powerful professional portfolio." But if seeing Omaha is more interesting to you, an optional Gritty City tour is available Friday from 1-3 pm for an additional \$20.00. Or you can go to the Henry Doorly Zoo; one of the top 10 zoos in the country. It has quite a few indoor exhibits including the huge Tropical Rainforest and the Aquarium, so you can still enjoy it in the winter.

While the official events are over Saturday night, there is usually a group of Professional engineers from all over the Region who gather to chat at breakfast before we leave for home.

Email Hope Piuck at [hpiuck@smpcorp.com](mailto:hpiuck@smpcorp.com) if you'd like to carpool and/or share rooms to make this a more fun and affordable experience.

See [www.swe-nebraska.org/iCON13.html](http://www.swe-nebraska.org/iCON13.html) for more details. The registration page has costs and timelines for regular and late registration. The regular registration ends **February 20<sup>th</sup>**. You can book accommodations at Courtyard by Marriott Aksarben Village now using links from the site.



Omaha Skyline



Photos from Omaha's  
Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium



Old Market in downtown Omaha

### Volunteer for IGED!

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) is coming up on Friday, February 22, and we already have more than 100 young women signed up to participate! Please consider being a mentor this year, and encourage your friends and co-workers to sign up as well. Our goal is to have at least 50 mentors, as we are expecting a large number of high school participants.

Here is the link to the Mentor registration survey: <http://tinyurl.com/IGED2013>

We also need a couple volunteers to run the SWE booth during the Industry Fair. This would be just a couple hour commitment (8:30am - 10:30am) instead of all day.

Additional information can be found at <http://kcsweiged.blogspot.com/>

Please contact Kim Bartak at [kbartak@burnsmcd.com](mailto:kbartak@burnsmcd.com) with any questions.

## "Women as Leaders: What's Going On?" Webinar

by Sunita Gupta

We had a good turnout for the group viewing of "Women as Leaders: What's Going On" webinar. The webinar discussed the latest trends in leadership by women, women's comfort in the workplace and using natural female strengths to be a good leader. At the end of the webinar, they discussed important traits for male and female leaders.

One advantage of watching the webinar with a group is that we were able to pause it, and have a small group discussion amongst ourselves. It was very interesting to see all of the different perspectives on topics. For example, one statistic that was presented in the webinar was that even though the percentage of women in the workforce has increased significantly, the percentage of women employed as managers or executives has not increased more than 1%. The webinar speakers suggested this is because of

1. A glass ceiling created by organizations that are male-dominated
2. The lack of female role models
3. Women leaving the workforce in the middle of their careers to have a family

In our discussion, it came up that maybe women prefer to avoid the conflicts that managers in larger corporations have to deal with. In order to avoid those while still being productive, some might opt to create their own small business.

The webinar was informative, and I really enjoyed our discussions. For some information about win|win, a campaign to increase the number of women on Boards of Directors and in Executive Positions in Kansas City, visit <http://www.winwinkc.com/>.



**Editor's Note:** Dianna Meyers, a new member of SWE-KC, told us about this new engineering toy/storybook for young girls. We asked her to put together her thoughts on it. SWE-KC's Outreach committee coordinates volunteers for several activities throughout the year, ranging from lunches with high school girls to judging competitions. If you are interested in participating in Outreach, please contact the Outreach Chair Kristin Ehlers at [kristin.ehlers@swe.org](mailto:kristin.ehlers@swe.org).

## Goldie Blox

by Dianna Meyers



If you haven't heard of Goldie Blox yet, stop what you are doing and click [HERE!](#) Debbie Sterling, a female engineer from Stanford University, came up with a wonderful idea:

Instead of just taking toys that have been typically deemed for boys, i.e. LEGOs, Lincoln logs and K'nex, and making them pink, why not tap into what interests girls (reading stories and characters) and create a new toy that builds on the two concepts.

She has created a storybook that engages the reader to create something using materials provided! The result – Goldie Blox.

I love this idea, and have already ordered 4 of them for my cousin's kids, my engineering friend's kids and an extra one to have on hand as a perfect gift for any young girl. We have a wonderful opportunity here to keep girls engaged in building and engineering type activities as a child and hopefully spark their interest in STEM fields.

For more information about Goldie Blox, please visit: <http://www.goldieblox.com/>.

## We're on Facebook!

Thank you to Deepthi Abbireddy and Susan Enneking for setting up the Facebook group! To see it, log into Facebook, search for "SWE-KC", and join our group. It's that easy! All event pictures are posted on Facebook so it's easier to look through them.

If you have additional things you'd like to see on the SWE-KC Facebook group page, please email them to [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com).

## Seeking Candidates for Region / Officer & Senator Positions

Region / is now accepting nominations for Region Senator (2 year term), Region Governor (2 year term), Lt. Governor (1 year term), Region Secretary (1 year term), Region Treasurer (1 year term), and the Region Nominating Committee (1 year term). All terms begin July 1, 2013.

All members are encouraged to nominate themselves and/or other eligible members.

Nominations must contain the following information and should be submitted to Suzanne Dodson at [Suzanne.Dodson@magellanlp.com](mailto:Suzanne.Dodson@magellanlp.com): (DEADLINE: Jan. 20, 2013)

- Nominee's name and Position for which she is nominated
- Verification of eligibility, according to requirements indicated below (SWE member number)
- Her consent and desire to serve in that position
- Qualifications, work experiences and SWE involvement
- Contact information (address, phone number, email)
- A paragraph summarizing her plans for SWE if the position is obtained, what is her vision and operating agenda, if available.

Eligibility Requirements for all positions:

- Candidate must be a voting member of SWE in good standing.
- Candidate must be assigned to Region / as a member of one of the professional sections or as a professional member-at-large (MAL)

Additionally, candidates for Region Governor and Region Lt. Governor 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 region officer except that one year as either a collegiate senator or collegiate representative may be counted toward this requirement.

Region Governor responsibilities include:

- Coordinating communications within the region
- Promoting and facilitating section vitality, identifying needs within the region and being a resource to the sections and members
- Leading the Region Council
- Participating in monthly meetings with the Region Governance Team led by the Director of Regions and
- Preparing and submitting reports of activities within the region as requested by the director of regions or the senate
- Attending the Region Governor Summit (in August, in conjunction with BOD installation), Annual Conference (Fall) and Region Conference (Spring)

Senator responsibilities include:

- Charting the strategic direction of SWE by developing and adopting long-range goals for SWE.
- Developing statements of external policy on issues or positions that have broad implications for the professional environment and the Society as an organization.
- Conducting essential dialogue on long-term trends and issues of common interest.
- Timely voting upon recommendations from the membership presented as motions.
- Establishing policies on the use and restrictions of contingency funds.
- Approving changes to bylaws.
- Attending Senate and Region meetings.
- Being the voice of their constituents.
- Logging into SWE Senate Community and review postings.

Region Lt. Governor responsibilities include:

- Leading the Region Collegiate Team (RCRs, RCCE, RCS, SWE-FLs, CLCC)
- Serving as the Point of Contact for the Region Conference Committee
- Assuming the duties of Governor if necessary

Region Secretary responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the records of the region including minutes and action items
- Having an up-to-date roll of the representatives at all meetings of the region council

Region Treasurer responsibilities include:

- 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 and necessary documents to the IRS (e-postcard or form 990 as appropriate)
- Experience as a section treasurer or on the Finance committee is desired, but not required.

## Preferences Survey Results & New Website

*by Sunita Gupta*

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Event and Communication Preferences Survey! The most popular times to meet were Mondays, Wednesdays and weekends. So far this year we've stayed in line with the most popular days by holding Meet & Greets on Wednesdays and a webinar on a Saturday morning.

Using your feedback, and some brainstorming at Meet and Greets, we were able to design a new website. A BIG thank you to Susan Enneking for updating the website. Our new website is <http://www.swe-kc.org/>. She's given it a new look, which hopefully makes it easier for you to find what is important to you. There are tabs along the top, and if you hover over them, some of them display a dropdown menu.

If you have suggestions as you are looking around the website, please email them to [swe.kc.mail@gmail.com](mailto:swe.kc.mail@gmail.com).

### 2013 Upcoming Events

Date(s)	Event	Type
January 9	Meet & Greet hosted by Holly Lamar <a href="#">Tavern</a> in Mission Farms, KS	●
January 25	Expanding Your Horizons Science City at Union Station, Kansas City, MO	●
January 26	Great Plains Regional Future City Competition K-State Campus, Manhattan, KS	●
January 31	Luncheon with Ruskin High School Girls Kansas City, MO	●
February 13	Meet & Greet hosted by Susan Enneking and Jennifer Glotz <a href="#">Free State Brewery</a> in Lawrence, KS	●
February 22	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) UMKC Campus, Kansas City, MO	● SWE-KC hosts this event!
March 1-2	Region / Conference Omaha, NE	● ●
March 13	Meet & Greet hosted by Amy Nelson and Erika Thompson <a href="#">Barley's Brewhaus</a> in Overland Park, KS	●
March 14-16	FIRST Robotics Kansas and Western Missouri Regional Competition Hale Arena, Kansas City, MO	●
April 10	Meet & Greet hosted by Stephanie DeCaro <a href="#">La Bodega</a> in Leawood, KS	●
TBD in April	Officer Elections	
May 8	Meet & Greet hosted by Sahar Chapuk TBD	●
June 7 (Tentative)	Annual Picnic TBD	●

#### Legend of Event Types

- Volunteering
- Networking
- Professional Development