



SouthWest

The Southwest Michigan SWE Professional Section Newsletter



Happy May! May's flowers are truly beautiful! Hopefully you will have a chance to head up to Holland for the Tulip Time Festival or will be able to see some flowers downtown St. Joe at the Blossomtime Festival or enjoy the flowers in your own yard!

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, mother's-to-be, and the fur baby mothers!

Upcoming Events

- **FY17 Elections** - Online voting will be taking place soon. Be sure to watch your e-mail for the ballots!
- **End of the FY16 Banquet** - As we wrap up FY16 and look toward FY17, the SWE Exec would like to take the opportunity to bring section members together to say "Thanks!" and have a fun luncheon together! Come to Silver Beach Pizza on June 22nd for lunch and to celebrate a great year! More details to come!
- **Volunteer with Girls on the Run!**- This year marks the 7th annual United Way of Southwest Michigan Girls on the Run 5K presented by United Federal Credit Union. 930+ Berrien County girls (grades 3rd - 8th) will be celebrating their achievements by crossing a 5K finish line and they will be counting on the help and support of volunteers like you to make this a safe and inspiring event. There are a variety of volunteer roles and times available. Please follow the link below to sign up! The 5k is Thursday May 19 from 3:00-8:30pm at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds.
<https://www.raceplanner.com/registrationinfo/event/5K-spring-volunteer-2016>

Ongoing Events

- Networking Lunches – **Next Lunch is May 4th (today!) at Plank's!** Next up for June is the EoY lunch at Silver Beach Pizza! Monthly the SWMI SWE Exec has been hosting lunches in the Twin Cities area on the first Wednesday of the month. Join us for lunch and great company! Some of the places we have visited so far have been Memories of India, Broad Street Café, Charlie's Pigg'n' N' Grinnin'. If you have other ideas, please let us know!
- Section Meetings – Our section meetings have been scheduled on a recurring basis to the fourth Wednesday of the month! **The next meeting is May 25th!!**
- The next **LEAD with SWE Professional Development** event is May 11th from 3:30-4:30 at Whirlpool Corp. St. Joseph Technology Center. This event will have a focus around Body Language and feature Christopher Kelson (Project Manager, Connectivity and Toastmasters VP of Membership) as our guest speaker. Christopher will have some great tips on presentations, public speaking, and poise.

If anyone has ideas of possible events they would like to see from our section for professional development or socials, please let us know! We are open for suggestions!

Events Recap!

- **Section Meeting Notes** from April are on the Facebook page!
- **Vintage Signs @ Lazy Ballerina** - Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the vintage sign making event at the Lazy Ballerina. There was a great turnout, and we hope to do more events like this in the future!! There was a request at the section meeting to have another event like this for the people who were a part of the waiting list and wanting to do it again. We would love to do it again! Please let us know if you would like to help with the Social committee to take part in helping to plan this and other fun events!
- **Discover the World of Science and Engineering through Magic - Girl Scout Day** - Thank you to Rachel Maghas and Andrea Mckenzie for co-leading the very successful event! We appreciate your hard work and hours volunteered putting everything together. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped make the event successful! Over 50 girls enjoyed the day! It was great to see girls who have come to the event for multiple years and are still excited to learn more about STEM. Check out our Facebook page to see pictures from the day of the event!

Professional Development – Check out the following professional development articles.

- **Science in Fashion?!** - Check out this [article](#) about IBM teaming up with designers to “design a “cognitive dress” that will be worn by a yet-to-be-named model. The dress is a data-driven garment whose embedded LED lights will change colors in real time, shifting with the social media mood of users who are commenting on the gala through Twitter.”
- **Mid-Michigan SWE** is holding a networking event to help with resume writing, interviewing, and networking. Check out the event [here](#).
- Being a SWE member, you can either be paid with the international society or just be involved! We hope to see you at the events to benefit your professional development, networking, or just to have fun at our socials. If you are uncertain about becoming a paid member, here are some of the benefits:
 - Joint membership to NSBE and SHPE
 - Community of support
 - Scholarship opportunities
 - SWE Magazine
 - Webinars/podcasts
 - Online Career center
 - Outreach programs
 - Leadership Skills

Email Michele Wilcox, Membership Chair, for more information on becoming a paid member!

SWMI SWE Exec

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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. SWE's mission: Stimulate women to achieve their 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, and demonstrate the value of diversity.