

## SWE Officers

2010-2011

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## Season's Greetings All!

I hope everyone is staying warm, or trying to anyway! We just had our November craft meeting at Your Design Ltd and it was fun! We all enjoyed picking out a bunch of beads and then putting them together into a necklace, bracelet, or earrings. Thanks to Julie Millhollin for setting up the meeting.

There are a couple of upcoming opportunities to consider. Volunteers are still needed for this Saturday's First Lego League qualifier in Davenport. The SWE Region H conference in February at Ann Arbor has registration openings, but registration closes December 15<sup>th</sup>. See the following pages for more information.

We are taking December off for meetings and will meet again in January. There are plenty of other family activities to keep us very busy through this month.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone that was able to help with the Festival of Trees.

Have a great holiday season,

*Megan*

Megan Mathias  
President

## ***Mentors Needed!***

**Do you have an engineering, science and/or IT background and interested in mentoring middle school FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams in Davenport or Rock Island for a few hours/week during the next month?** If so, please **get back to me ASAP** and I can provide you further details to see if there is a match.

Several of these teams are new and could really use your help as they prepare for their first competition which will be held Saturday, December 11. Some teams have been meeting for a month or more while others have only been meeting for a few weeks. Your role would be as a mentor and you don't need to have any previous experience with FIRST LEGO League (FLL) or robotics although if you do, it would be helpful.

### **Volunteers Needed:**

In addition to mentors for the teams, we are also seeking 50+ volunteers to support the FIRST LEGO League State Qualifier event being held on Saturday, December 11 at the Putnam Museum from approximately 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM with 24 teams scheduled to participate. Volunteers are needed for the following positions: time keeper, referee, judge, judging assistant, registration/information desk, photographer, setup/teardown, food support, runner, and MC/announcer. Training will be provided for the judges and referees. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering or have further questions.

If you would like to volunteer to work at the regional, please fill out the on-line form per the link directly below.

### **Link to On-Line Form To Volunteer**

Thanks in advance for your support of the students in our local community.

### **Pat Barnes**

#### **QC FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament Director**

Phone: (309) 765-3629

E-mail: [BarnesPatrickO@JohnDeere.com](mailto:BarnesPatrickO@JohnDeere.com)

Website: [www.qcesc.org](http://www.qcesc.org)

### **Schools Needing Mentors:**

#### **Rock Island Schools**

- Edison (2:30 – 3:30 PM during the week and some Saturdays)
- Washington (Tuesday & Thursdays after school – verifying times)

#### **Davenport Schools:**

- Sudlow (Friday's from 4:00-5:30 PM)
- Smart (Monday's 4:00-5:30 PM)
- Williams (day/time – yet to be provided)
- Walcott (Tuesday and Thursday 3:45 – 5:30 PM)
- Wood (Monday 4:00-5:30 PM)

### **Time Commitment:**

Will vary by team and would be worked out with the team coach. You don't necessarily have to attend every team meeting although once/week for the next month would probably be the minimum. The key is being available to provide the teams help and guidance regularly to allow them to be successful and reach their goals. As they get closer to the competition, they will meet more often.

### **What is a Mentor and What Do They Do for FIRST LEGO League Teams:**

Each team has a coach which typically is a teacher and one or more mentors. The mentor is a person who works with the team at team meetings. They provide valuable insights, interaction, and serve as technical resources for the team. They don't do the work but instead guide and mentor the students.

The most likely area teams will need assistance with right now is with programming their robot and problem solving with each of the missions they decide to target. **The most important skills sets needed by mentors are: a strong desire to work with kids, patience, eagerness, enthusiasm, problem-solving skills, and encouragement.**

**What is FIRST:**

FIRST is a non-profit organization originally founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway. FIRST has four different yearly after school programs serving kids in K-12 (Jr. FIRST LEGO League, FIRST LEGO League, FIRST Tech Challenge, and FIRST Robotics Competition).

**<http://usfirst.org/default.aspx>**

**FIRST Mission:**

To inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

**Impact of FIRST:**

Service 212K students on 19K teams from 56 countries with 90K volunteers with 3,500 sponsors with \$12M in annual scholarships.

**What is FIRST LEGO League (FLL):**

FIRST LEGO League is the middle school program available for students age 9-14 with teams of up to 10 students. FLL introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface along with a project that will explore an actual problem that today's scientists and engineers are trying to solve, develop and present an innovative solution to that problem.

This year's FLL challenge is Body Forward™, which explores the cutting-edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize the body's potential, with the intended purpose of leading happier and healthier lives.

**<http://firstlegoleague.org/media/twocol.aspx?id=247>**

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**Festival of Trees Follow-up** - 6 volunteers wrapped 315 Isabel Bloom figurines for the Gift Shop on November 9, 2010. The Gift Shop had about 1200 figurines total donated by Isabel Bloom. Our efforts were greatly appreciated by Ms. Stephanie Witt, co-chairman of the Gift Shop. Thanks to all that helped.

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**Project Lead the Way** - A Trivia Night will be held on March 12, 2011, at the Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose College. The purpose is to raise funds for the Davenport West students that won 2nd Place in the Vex Robotics Competition in DC to attend the World Competition in Orlando, FL this Spring. More details will be provided soon.

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**SWE Regional Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan will be held February 4-6, 2011. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the registration deadline.**

**Visit: <http://swe.engin.umich.edu/regionals2011/> to register.**

## Membership info:

You can join SWE on the web. Go to <http://www.swe.org/membership>. Follow the easy instructions from there to join or renew your membership. Forms can either be printed or you can join online. The Online Application for new members will take you approximately 20 minutes to fill out. Keep in mind that many companies will pay dues for professional organizations, so be sure to ask!

Once you are a SWE member, you will then be able to log into the member directory to update your registration and search for other SWE member contact information. You will be helping not only yourself, the regional organization and the national organization, but you will also be helping our section. Twenty percent of the funds comes back to our section.

## SWE Portfolios for Sale:



Cost is \$10 each; they are available at meetings and through Angel Jacobs [ajacobs@jacobandhefner.com](mailto:ajacobs@jacobandhefner.com)

## SWE 2010-2011 Meeting Schedule\*

Date	Topic	Planner	Location
Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011	MUSCO Lighting Tour	Brenda & Jonathan Frye	Muscatine
Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011	Leadership Speaker- Ginny Wilson Peters	Sunny Hubner	Quad Cities
Wednesday, March 23, 2011	LEED Speaker-Andrew Price	Nancy Shell	Muscatine
Tuesday, April 26, 2011	Genesis Robotics Tour	Donna Jones	Davenport
TBD Date near end of May	Family Night @ QC River Bandits	Renee Mance	Davenport

\*Depending on facility availability meeting topics may change.

## Help Plan a Meeting!

Know of a great meeting place? Want to help plan a meeting? Please consider volunteering to help plan a meeting. There are several meetings that are in need of a meeting place and someone to coordinate them. If interested in being involved, contact Megan Mathias at [MathiasMeganC@JohnDeere.com](mailto:MathiasMeganC@JohnDeere.com). Thanks!!