



# Society of Women Engineers

## Proposed Quad Cities/Muscatine Section

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## Letter from the President

Hello Ladies!

I hope you are all having wonderful summers! I want to take a little time and reflect on what we have accomplished this year. We started with a list of 8 paid SWE members. From that we have developed a list of 105 women engineers in the Quad City/Muscatine Area, produced 7 newsletters, held 7 meetings, elected a cabinet, and had a lot of fun in the process. This could not have happened without all of you. Thank you to everyone who has attended a meeting, added to the contact list, planned a meeting, and provided your input. Your enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer is outstanding!

Now on to the future! The cabinet is in the process of planning a great slate of meetings for next year. One of our goals is to have a complete list of meeting topics available in September. We are taking the surveys you completed at the last two meetings and compiling the most popular ideas into a schedule. We will be keeping a balance between three general topics: social activities, personal development, and tours. Be ready to help organize and plan some meetings because we will be asking for volunteers again next year.

Cabinet is also focusing on several goals which include: starting a career guidance program, finding more women engineers in the Quad City Area, producing a web site, increasing meeting attendance, and becoming an official SWE Section. More details will come on that next year.

See you September 24th at our Potluck Kick-off Picnic!

Tami Wilcox

## September Meeting

No meetings are scheduled for the months of June, July, and August, so the next SWE meeting will be on September 24, 2002 at 6:30 pm. The September meeting will be a relaxed potluck picnic. More details will be provided closer to the date. Have a great summer! See you next fall!

## Webmaster Needed

Do you have experience (or want to get experience) creating web sites? Do you want to get involved with a great group of people? If so, this is a great opportunity for you! Our chapter of SWE would like to develop a web site to post information about our group. We are looking for someone(s) to help us. If you are interested, please contact Heather Bishop or any of the officers at the phone numbers or email addresses provided on the preceding page. Thanks!

## May Meeting

The May SWE meeting was held at the Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant in Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Dick Kleine was our guest speaker. Mr. Kleine, who worked at John Deere for over 30 years, spoke about leadership. We had a great turnout at this meeting. It was great to see lots of familiar faces and some new ones too.

Before dinner we “broke the ice” by introducing ourselves and sharing any communication problems we have faced at work. It was really interesting to listen to the different problems people had faced.

After dinner Mr. Kleine gave a presentation on leadership, which focused on identifying the characteristic of good leaders. Mr. Kleine’s presentation was very interesting and thought provoking.

A big thanks goes out to Donna Jones and Tami Wilcox for planning this great meeting!



Mr. Kleine held everyone’s attention while he talked about the qualities of a good leader.

## Benefits of Membership – Your **Benefits** in SWE

**B**uilding skills useful in your career: There are opportunities to plan meetings, organize career guidance events, hone your public speaking skills, and even plan a National Conference. If you present a paper at the National Conference, you will gain visibility for yourself and your company. Being active in a professional organization can show your manager that you have the initiative to take on more responsibility.

**E**xperience of other members: Meeting women from other companies and even reading about the careers of successful members in *SWE*, the magazine of the Society, can provide you with role-models and possibly mentors. Within your local Section, you can receive advice and even first-hand testimony on issues like getting promoted, sexual harassment, and balancing work and family.

**N**etworking: SWE offers many opportunities to make contacts at large and small companies. Members often contact other SWE members at potential employers before interviewing to get inside information about the company. When you consider all the mergers, spin-offs, and divestitures that are occurring, a network is a necessity.

**E**ffect on your career: SWE can be of benefit when you need to make a career change. In addition to your local Section, there are nationwide resources to help you with your job search. Send in your information to the SWE Resume Database, or use the job-hunting service from the SWE web page. The annual Career Fair, held during the National Conference is another great place to find a job.

**F**un: It's fun to get together with SWE friends. Some meetings are technical and some are planned simply for socializing. Some Sections have judged Mr. Engineering Pageants and even brewed beer.

**I**nformation: You can add to your business knowledge with seminars like "Conflict Management" and "Professional Presence". Members can supply details about graduate schools, companies, and career changes, too. SWE is a resource on many issues for women in engineering. Check out the information available from this web site!

**T**ime for yourself: Don't you deserve a night out every once in awhile? At local meetings, you can converse with a peer group that is hard to find at work or in your neighborhood.

**S**upport: As women engineers and scientists, we can sometimes feel isolated in the workplace. SWE gives you a feeling of belonging, with members to reassure you that you can succeed.

The above article taken from the SWE website at <http://www.swe.org/SWE/MemberServices/mainmem.htm>.

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## Letter from the Editor

Hi All:

Time sure flies. Here it is, the end of June already. Our SWE group has decided to suspend activities over the summer so we can spend time with friends and family. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002. We are planning a potluck picnic at a local park in the Quad Cities area. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. I plan on spending time with my family and hopefully doing a little traveling. As always, if you have any suggestions for future newsletters or information on any upcoming events, please email me at [heather.t.bishop@usace.army.mil](mailto:heather.t.bishop@usace.army.mil).

Thank you,  
Heather Bishop

## Upcoming Events

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### **Proposed Quad Cities/Muscatine SWE Section September Meeting**

Tuesday September 24, 2002 at 6:30 pm

Location: To Be Determined

The September meeting will be a Potluck Kick-off Picnic. More details will be provided closer to the date.

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### **2002 SWE National Conference**

October 9-12, 2002

Cobo Conference/Exposition Center – Detroit,  
Michigan

The theme of the conference is the Art of Engineering, which speaks to the fact that engineering is not a technological study alone, but rather a combination of art and science. The 2002 SWE National Conference will be a cultural experience as well as a technical one. For more information, please see the conference website at <http://www.swe.org/SWE/Convention/detroit/>.

