



SWE - EWS - NEWS

*Society of Women Engineers,
Eastern Washington Section
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Opening Notes

Members and Supporters –

I can hardly believe that we are entering into 2015! Last year included some great events where we saw old and new faces! Coming up in the next few months we are making plans for Engineers week, a technical tour, and more!

Take a look at what is going on at the Society level by reading Michelle Hicks article on her experience at WE14. The experience led to the formation of our very own “NERD” bookclub – check out the details to see if you would like to join.

Planning continues for hosting JCON 15 in April with registration opening this month! We could still use volunteers to help out during the event April 10-12. Send us an email if you are interested.

Jennifer Williamson
EWS President

Upcoming Events

Jan 17th NERD Book Club – 1st meeting
April 10th – 12th Region J Conference

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Announcement!

Congratulations to **Colleen Smalley** who recently passed her Professional Engineer’s Exam!

High School Friendly Competition

The Hanford Engineers Week Committee is seeking volunteers for the Engineers Week High School Friendly Competition held at Kennewick High School on March 6, 7:30-11AM. There is no preparation needed other than to read the rules ahead of time. The purpose of the Friendly Competition is for students to explore the various phases of the engineering process including determination of requirements, conceptual planning, research and development, final design, materials management, construction, and system testing. To volunteer or for more information, please contact **Lori Weidner** (lbweidner@yahoo.com).

WE14

By **Michelle Hicks**

The Society of Women Engineers 2014 Conference: A Global Exchange for Change was amazing! This year, WE14 also hosted the International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ICWES16). The conference opening keynote was presented by Elizabeth Bierman and SpaceX President and COO Gwynne Shotwell. The conference closing celebration included a surprise celebrity appearance by Cher! From beginning to end it was PACKED full of networking, mega sessions, lightening talks, the career fair, and fun! Local SWE-EWS members **Anna Taylor** and **Michelle Hicks**, and former EWS member (now located in Colorado) **Michaela Trenidad**, presented a lightening talk “Leveraging Differences: A Key Asset to Driving Success.” This talk, based on work experience at the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant highlighted the key role that the team members’ diverse backgrounds played in the success of a project and exemplified how embracing individuality can help overcome any obstacle. Overall the conference was motivational and inspirational, and resulted in the formation of the NERD book club!

NERD Book Club

By **Michelle Hicks**

Are you interested in expanding your leadership and communication skills? Or looking to share your thoughts with others on professional development topics? Well this is what the NERD book club is all about! NERD, or Nurturing Empowerment through Reading and Discussion, empowers by providing an opportunity to strengthen skills for professional and personal environments. Some of the book themes will include: **negotiations, leadership,**

women empowerment, motivation, and public speaking.

Our first read and discuss for NERD will be: *Playing Big: Find Your Voice, Your Mission, Your Message* by Tara Mohr (a presenter at WE14!), with discussion meetinh on January 17th. The NERD Book Club is open to everyone – men and women, and all walks of life!

To learn more about the NERD Book Club or to be included on any future NERD communications, contact **Anna Taylor** (cmoon4@gmail.com) or **Michelle Hicks** (chel516@hotmail.com).

Holiday Party!

By **Cristina Marinovici**

The SWE EWS Holiday Party was hosted by Alicia Boyd on December 13th. As in years past, the gift exchange was lots of fun for participants as well as for the audience (including the big cat). Everyone had a wonderful time relaxing, getting to know each other, and laughing! The kids had a blast too, as you could see in the pic one of our little ‘engineer’ in training ;)





Eat, Drink, Engineer



JCON15

The Society of Women Engineers, SWE, Region J Conference, **Eat, Drink, Engineer** will be held **April 10th-12th 2015** at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, Washington. Registration for the conference will be opening this month at jcon.swe.org.

Committee Positions

The following committee positions are open for FY15. Contact easternwashingtonswe@gmail.com if you are interested in more information about any of the following positions):

- Professional Development Committee – Assist Ann Langevin in planning the SWE-EWS professional development event.
- Outreach Advocacy Chair
- Fundraising Chair
- Communications Committee– Assist Taran Woo in pulling together the newsletter and other SWE-EWS communications related activities

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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Do you have articles, pictures, or information to share with SWE members and friends?

Send to the NEW newsletter



editor

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SWE's Mission: Stimulate women to achieve 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.