The Eastern Nebraska Professional Section was proud to honor two of our own at the 2014 Nebraska Engineers Roundtable E-Week Banquet, February 20th at the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland. President Angel McMullen–Gunn was pleased to present an extraordinary women engineering this evening with our Eastern Nebraska Section Outstanding Leadership Award. This year’s recipient, Cybil Boss, is a past Section President and held many other offices and committee chair positions throughout her career. Most recently she chaired our Region I conference that the Nebraska Section hosted last year in Omaha. Region I is comprised of 8 Professional and 20 Collegiate Sections located in Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Illinois. Last March our Conference offered educational, training, and networking opportunities to prepare our SWE members to meet the current challenges faced the engineering community. In addition, members were given the opportunity to hear from the Society President as well as conduct Region business. It was a huge undertaking for our small Section, but yielded great successes including feedback from the Society President and others on the Board that said it was the best Region Conference they attended in their 30+ years in the Society. (continued pg 8)
Hello Members!

As I said in last quarter’s newsletter, Eastern Nebraska’s FY2014 marks our Section’s 30th Anniversary, and we have been celebrating all year with a Program full of premier professional development activities! My favorites have included “Courageous Conversations” with Susan Ann Koenig, JD; Dennis Rourke’s “Memory Training”; as well as January’s meeting: “Organized Office = More Productive Life” with Wendy Tridle of Organized by Design. It has been great meeting new faces and sharing such great learning and professional development with my SWE friends.

Eastern Nebraska SWE was chartered June 2, 1984 with 17 members. Today SWE Eastern Nebraska has grown to 50+ members and growing! We have a 30th Anniversary Committee planning a fun time to celebrate how far we have come in our 30 years, so make sure and save the date for June 5th!

SWE’s FY2014 is winding down, so now is the time to reflect on our successes and plan for FY2015. We will be hosting our annual Strategic planning in June and would like your input! Look for the link to our survey – share what you like and did not like so we can make our Programs to your liking! We will strive to host quality programs that support the strength of our Section. We will also be working to formalize succession planning procedures to ensure leadership continuity for another 30 years to come. We currently are preparing for our Section Elections in May. As a member, you already know that SWE is a great opportunity for you to participate in professional development, meet and socialize with other engineers, share your skills and enthusiasm with our youth and introduce them to future careers in engineering. But SWE is also an excellent organization to build and sharpen your management skills in a less stressful way than at your work.

You can build these skills by joining a committee or becoming an officer in SWE, either at the Section, Region, or Society levels. Most of the Section committee positions typically require a 1-2 hour commitment every 1 month. Officer and Committee Chair elections for the Eastern Nebraska Section will be coming up in May 2014, and are for a 2-year term. We will open the nominating period in April 2014, and will include descriptions of all of the positions (see our Section in this newsletter). This is a great way to learn more about SWE and get involved. These opportunities also demonstrate leadership skills in your professional portfolio! What area is best suited for you? How you can contribute to the continued success of our organization and improve your skills too? If interested Section leadership, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

Angel McMullen-Gunn
FY14 Eastern Nebraska President
The Region I Conference was held on February 28 – March 2, 2014 in Wichita, Kansas. The theme of the conference this year was “Take Flight with SWE”, which is appropriate since Wichita is home to Beechcraft, Cessna, Spirit, and GE Aviation. Six of our professional members from Eastern Nebraska section attended the conference. Over 200 SWE professionals and collegiate members from around the region attended the conference this year.

Friday evening was Game Show Night, a night of fun and games. Everyone was encouraged to participate in “Minute to Win It” challenges to earn tickets to a drawing for some awesome door prizes.

Breakfast with Keynote Speaker: Saturday morning started with an awesome keynote speaker during breakfast. Our keynote was Dondi Scumaci, an international speaker, author, and expert in professional and personal development. Her address was based on her book “Designed for Success: The 10 Commandments for Women in the Workplace” which empowers women to be more effective, successful, and satisfied at work. Breakfast was followed by the collegiate, professional and joint meetings. Lunch was a time to meet up with friends from other sections that you had not seen in a while, make new contacts, and meet with your mentor or mentee.

Sessions: The afternoon consisted of 5 session tracks, Collegiate, Entrepreneurship/Leadership, Professional Development, SWE (LCC and CLCC modules), and Personal Development. Janis Pfingsten, a region leadership coach from our section, gave a talk on Succession Planning, and Karla Romereim sat on a panel showcasing women in engineering at various stages in their careers.

Career Fair: All afternoon there were Career Fair exhibitions to visit. Some of the exhibitors came from Garmin, Beechcraft, Cessna, Koch Industries, Spirit, Burs & McDonnell and Union Pacific, as well as from local universities.

Dinner with Keynote Speaker: Saturday evening’s dinner was followed by a keynote address by Paul Bowen who is an aerial photographer. He is credited with over 950 magazine covers and several advertising campaigns. He was one of nine people who were inducted into the San Diego Air & Space Museum Hall of Fame this past November. His photo presentation was wonderful. He sold signed copies of his photography books at the end of his presentation.

The weekend ended with a breakfast on Sunday morning and the State of SWE Address, which was presented by Colleen Layman, director of Regions. Colleen works for HDR, Inc.

Optional Tours: Two of the attendees, Lara Braddy and Lauren Allpress, attended two tours that were offered during the conference. They attended the Karg glass tour on Friday and the Spirit Aerosystems on Saturday.

For the Karg glass tour they visited the nearby town of Kechi, Kansas where they got a tour of the small Karg facility.

Continued on page 4.
The business is basically a small building with a store of glass treasures in the front, and all the blood, sweat and tears happening in the back. After talking with the owner, they found out that she and her husband, Rollin Karg, who was originally an industrial engineer, started the business in their garage some years ago. They are now world famous for their work. Check it out if you get a chance at [http://www.rollinkarg.com/](http://www.rollinkarg.com/). Each attendee on the tour had the opportunity to head into the back where all the magic happens, to make our own glass ball ornaments. Attendees really didn’t do too much of the work other than blow in a tube while the real crafters dipped the hot lava glass into the fire, spun and manipulated an ornaments into a work of art. Everyone on the tour got to take home a beautiful ornament.

They also attended the **Spirit Aerosystems** tour on Saturday, which was fascinating. The company has their own facility and also resides partially in the old Boeing facility. Talk about an assembly line! The huge facility holds about 20-30 fuselage currently in production for 787 aircraft. Each one sat on its own huge hydraulic lift where it moves from one station to the next until final delivery. The max production is around 14 per month with an average of 10. They got to see from the beginning where the panels are constructed and then wrapped in a composite material, all the way to the end where all the bells and whistles were installed. If one station is behind, it can throw off the whole production line. The tour guide did point out that the reason so many people were working on a Saturday was because they were in fact, a little behind. Can you imagine having to manage a schedule like that! No pictures were permitted on this tour.

The SWE Region Conference, which is held each year around February or March, is a great opportunity for everyone to receive some awesome training, meet other women engineers, network with other companies, and meet with our region leaders. We hope that all of you will consider attending the conference next year.

### Section Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Angel McMullen-Gunn</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>UNL Student Section Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Development Chair</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Terri Norton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:newsletter@swe-nebraska.org">newsletter@swe-nebraska.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Networking is more about ‘farming’ than it is about ‘hunting’. It’s about cultivating relationships.

Join the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) for a night of networking, wine, and painting! Join us at The Corky Canvas, where you’re sure to uncork your creativity! With a glass of wine in one hand, a paintbrush in the other and the music rock’n, it’s a great way to spend time with friends and paint your very own masterpiece. We will be painting “Northern Lights.”

Please RSVP to: program_development@swe-nebraska.org by Friday, April 18th.

**JOIN THE SWE-NE LEADERSHIP TEAM!!!**

Help the Eastern Nebraska local Section of SWE uphold the national mission, volunteer for the executive board. Officer and Committee Chair elections for the Eastern Nebraska Section will be coming up in May 2014, and are for a 2-year term. We will open the nominating period in THIS MONTH in April 2014!

**Vacant Positions FY2015:**

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Program Development Chair
- Newsletter Editor
- Vice President
- Web manager
- Membership Chair
- Outreach Chair
- UNO Student Section Counselor
- UNL Student Section Counselor

**LOCATION:** Corky Canvas 3157 Farnam Street, Omaha

**COST:** $35 (including all painting supplies)

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Wine & other beverages will be available for purchase.

**For more information contact:** president@swe-nebraska.org
Organized by Design

By Terri Norton

Zachry hosted our January meeting in Omaha. Wendy Tridle from Organized by Design talked to us about how we can conquer clutter and live an organized life. She provided examples and gave helpful tips on organization and lifestyle management.

Some of the memorable lessons from the presentation were:
1. The less you have the more you will manage it, use it, search for it.
2. Don’t make excuses when trying to get rid of things you don’t need or use.
3. Clutter can make you feel overwhelmed and depressed. It robs you of energy.
4. Use your room or space for what is important (i.e. the kitchen table is for eating, not storing mail).
5. Label everything.
6. Make a decision to be organized, be intentional about the areas in your life that need organization.

Networking. Simplified.

By Lara Syrocki

HDR hosted our March Meeting in Omaha. Kelly Britton did a great job teaching our members the value of networking. Kelly encouraged the members to create a LinkedIn account and to keep it current to highlight career achievements. Kelly shared various tips to networking professionally and personally and added humor to her presentations. At the end of the meeting, three members won door prizes related to networking.
It’s that time of year again! April 15th is quickly approaching, so as you gather up your receipts for the year, grab your SWE records to share with your CPA as well. Did you know the costs associated with your volunteer work with the Society of Women Engineers may add up to a tax deduction? If your unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenditures relate directly to the mission of the Society (a 501c3!) and you file an itemized tax return, the following may be deductible according to IRS guidelines:

**Volunteer Hours.** The value of your time or services cannot be deducted, although those you lead, mentor, and serve may find your time invaluable. Check with your employer, as often times they may offer grants for your time served. While hours are not deductible, may more items are...

**Transportation.** Traveling to and from SWE volunteer charitable work can earn you a deduction! You can deduct as a charitable contribution any unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, such as the cost of gas and oil, directly related to the use of your car in giving services to our charitable organization. You cannot deduct general repair and maintenance expenses, depreciation, registration fees, or the costs of tires or insurance. If you do not want to deduct your actual expenses, you can use a standard mileage rate of 14 cents a mile to figure your contribution. Furthermore, you can deduct parking fees and tolls whether you use your actual expenses or the standard mileage rate, however you must keep reliable written records of your car expenses.

**Overnight Travel.** If you pay your own expenses when you travel overnight for a charitable purpose, such as to present at your SWE Region Conference, your out-of-pocket expenses are deductible if they are reasonable and are not for leisure. An example, similar to one given by the IRS, states that if you are a leader for a tax-exempt youth group and you take the group on a trip, let’s say a STEM outreach event. You are responsible for overseeing the setup of the event and for providing adult supervision for other activities during the entire trip. You participate in the activities of the group and enjoy your time with them. You then transport the group home. You can deduct your travel expenses. Another example is you spend the entire day attending a SWE regional meeting as a chosen representative. In the evening you go to the theater. You can claim your travel expenses as charitable contributions, but you cannot claim the cost of your evening at the theater.

**Donations and Incidentals.** Volunteers may deduct the cost of monetary donations, as well as postage stamps, stationery, computer paper, and other out-of-pocket costs incurred with SWE volunteer work. Volunteers can deduct the cost of buying and cleaning your uniforms if the uniforms are not suitable for everyday use, and you must wear them when volunteering. For example, if a SWE-visit requires you to wear a specific polo, jacket, etc., you can deduct the cost of said article as well as the cleaning of it. However, if the coordinator of a SWE outreach event asks you to wear black pants and a white shirt, you cannot claim these as uniforms as these clothes can be worn outside of the event.

**Records.** You should keep receipts or canceled checks to back up your SWE deductions. And don’t forget to keep track of your volunteer service hours — SWE has made it easy! SWEeter Futures is an online tracker that measures SWE’s individual and collective impact on outreach and the future of engineering. This portal will allow us to keep a rewarding and accurate record of our ability to make engineering an exciting and viable career choice for K-12 students, as well as allowing the Society to better track how much outreach we do and how well we really do it. SWEeter Futures is in part an effort to help the Society answer this question quantitatively.

Outreach Activities

Pink Hardhat Days (PHDs) for Girls
This 2.5 day camp encourages high school students (grades 9-12) to pursue engineering and construction as a field of study and career. This year’s camp will be June 18-20, 2014 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Omaha campus/ Peter Kiewit Institute. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in student engagement (i.e. presentation, hands-on activity, etc.), approx. 1 hour commitment. Contact Dr. Terri Norton (tnorton3@unl.edu) for more information.

Completely KIDS is an Omaha nonprofit whose mission is to develop youth and their families through out-of-school time and family strengthening programs in communities where they live. Eastern NE SWE Professionals has partnered with Completely Kids the past few years, by leading fun hands-on STEM activities in Omaha for 4th and 5th grade girls. We are looking for volunteers to assist again this year. Estimated time commitment is approximately 1 hour, and dates are flexible. Like to help out? If you are interested in scheduling to assist one of these activities, please email Janis.Pfingsten@tconl.com.

Aim for the Stars Summer Camp We are looking for volunteers to lead a 1.0 to 1.5 hour presentation for the Aim for the Stars all-girls Engineering Camp in June 2014. The program targets girls in grades 4-8, and the camp leaders are hoping to inspire these young women to consider engineering. The presentation format is open-ended (i.e., presentation, hands-on activity, etc.). Please email Cybil Boss (membership@swe-nebraska.org) if interested in this opportunity!

Junior Achievement Lincoln Volunteers needed. SWE is gauging interest is supporting JA in Lincoln. JA’s mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy in order to improve their lives—and the lives of everyone in our community. Volunteers commit to spending between 5 and 8 hours in a classroom, depending on the grade level. That’s right—only 5-8 hours! Exact schedules are worked out between the volunteer and their assigned teacher. More info can be found at http://jalincoln.org/ Sessions start in January; if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Angel.Gunn@SWE.org

Like to help out? If you are interested in helping out with either of these partnerships or would like to volunteer for one of the upcoming activities, contact outreach@swe-nebraska.org for more information.

E-week 2014 continued from page 1
Cybil was the driving force that brought every detail of the conference together to make it the success it was. It is for these reasons that we honored Cybil Boss with our Eastern Nebraska SWE 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award. Additionally the Section recognized the National Society of Women Engineers 2013 Entrepreneur Award to Life Member Pam Dingman. The Entrepreneur Award honors an individual whose independent path to create an engineering/technology-based business serves as inspiration to others, me included. Ms. Dingman’s award spotlights her success and honors her dedication to the Society’s mission with her life-changing achievements, as CEO of Engineering Design Consultants LLC. Additionally Ms. Dingman was recently selected by the Lancaster County Commission as the first woman to hold the office of Lancaster County Engineer. A licensed civil engineer in Nebraska and Iowa, Ms. Dingman recently announced that she will seek re-election of the position in this spring’s primary election. Pam was recognized in October at the National Society of Women Engineers convention in Baltimore, receiving a standing ovation for her message about her perseverance in Engineering and inspiring others. As the Banquet was held on E-Week’s “Introduce a Girl to Engineering” Day, there was not a more fitting mentor and role model to honor that day than the Society of Women Engineers 2013 Entrepreneur Award, Pam Dingman. Congratulations to both ladies and thank you for your outstanding SWE support!
Eastern Nebraska Professional Society of Women Engineers invites you to celebrate “Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work” Day on Thursday April 24, 2014!

**THEME for 2014 is "PLANT A SEED, GROW A FUTURE"**

Need to Coordinate an event at your workplace, here is some guidance!

**Need some activities to plan:**
- Activities from Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day!
- Learn how to present engineering
- Browse activities that showcases engineering

**Get Social!**
Please share pictures letting us know how your work makes a difference and use the hashtag #SWENebraska. Follow Us if you aren’t already.

- LinkedIn (SWE – Eastern Nebraska)
- Twitter (@SWENebraska)
- Facebook (SWE – Eastern Nebraska)

So get involved! Eastern Nebraska Professional Society of Women Engineers would love to see what you did to celebrate “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day”. We will feature any stories / photos you share in our upcoming newsletter! Email information to vice_president@swe-nebraska.org

Photos from SWE Nebraska Wow! That’s Engineering!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Info</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 April 2014</td>
<td>Corky Canvas – Painting Party w/ NAWIC. 6pm. $35/person. RSVP before 4/18 to <a href="mailto:program_development@swe-nebraska.org">program_development@swe-nebraska.org</a></td>
<td>6:00pm Time to Paint! 3157 Farnam Street Snack/appetizers potluck. Cash bar.</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
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<td>15 May 2014</td>
<td>Conflict Management w/ SWE Leadership Coaching Committee Member Janis Pfingsten. Learn the six steps to conflict resolution, describing conflict types and characteristics as a basis for understanding.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td><strong>Happy 30th Birthday to us!</strong> Eastern Nebraska SWE Section chartered in 1984!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 or 7 June 2014</td>
<td>Tactical Planning</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2014</td>
<td>FY15 BEGINS</td>
<td>Time to renew!</td>
<td>Olathe, Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10 August 2014</td>
<td>FY15 Region I Leader Summit</td>
<td>2 officers from each section to attend. Registration open end of April</td>
<td>Olathe, Kansas</td>
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