Section Officers:

**PRESIDENT**
Cybil Boss  
[president@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:president@swe-nebraska.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Angel McMullen-Gunn  
[vice_president@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:vice_president@swe-nebraska.org)

**SECTION REPRESENTATIVE**
Janis Pfingsten  
[COR_rep@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:COR_rep@swe-nebraska.org)

**TREASURER**
Elizabeth Hunter  
[treasurer@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:treasurer@swe-nebraska.org)

**SECRETARY**
VACANT  
[secretary@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:secretary@swe-nebraska.org)

**WEBMANAGER**
Lara Syrocki  
[webmanager@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:webmanager@swe-nebraska.org)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**
Angel McMullen-Gunn  
[membership@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:membership@swe-nebraska.org)

**OUTREACH CHAIR**
Amanda Stahlnecker  
[outreach@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:outreach@swe-nebraska.org)

**UNO STUDENT SECTION COUNSELOR**
Rebecca Reinhardt  
[UNO_Counselor@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:UNO_Counselor@swe-nebraska.org)

**UNL STUDENT SECTION COUNSELOR**
Angel McMullen-Gunn  
[UNL_Counselor@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:UNL_Counselor@swe-nebraska.org)

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CHAIR**
Karla Romereim  
[program_development@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:program_development@swe-nebraska.org)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
Irma Nicholls  
[newsletter@swe-nebraska.org](mailto:newsletter@swe-nebraska.org)

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**Congratulations, Angel!**

Angel McMullen-Gunn was presented the 2011 SWE Distinguished New Engineer Award by SWE President, Melissa Tata (right), during WE11: the Society’s Annual Conference, October 14, in Chicago. (See page 3 for full article).
Greetings!

As I am writing this, our Region Conference Bid Committee is finalizing Eastern Nebraska’s bid package to host the 2013 Region Conference in Omaha! The bid effort was the result of collaboration between the Eastern Nebraska Professional Section and collegiate members from both the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Omaha Student Sections. Please join us at the 2012 Region Conference in Tulsa, OK on March 2-3 and show your support for Eastern Nebraska (http://orgs.utulsa.edu/swe/conference/home.shtml). Many thanks go out to the Bid Committee who worked extremely hard over the past 6 weeks (and holidays!) to put together this package.

The Board is pleased to announce that Ms. Karla Romereim (Kellogg Company) has volunteered to serve as the Program Development Chair. Karla recently moved from Michigan to Omaha, and was instrumental in chartering her local SWE section in MI. Please share any program ideas you have with Karla (program_development@swe-nebraska.org).

On the Outreach front, the Section is scheduled to host our biannual WOW! That’s Engineering event in Fall 2012. This event is FREE for middle and high school girls and includes a keynote speaker and hands-on activities designed to stimulate engineering in the minds of these young girls. We will be forming a committee in early 2012 to plan and execute this event. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to a fun and rewarding activity! Contact our Outreach Chair, Amanda Stahlnecker (outreach@swe-nebraska.org) to participate.

2012 is shaping up to be a great year for the Eastern Nebraska Section, and we hope to see you at a SWE event soon! Be sure to check out the calendar included in this newsletter.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

-Cybil Boss
President
Eastern Nebraska SWE Member Presented with National Society of Women Engineers “Distinguished New Engineer” Award

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is pleased to announce the 2011 award recipients. Fifty-two individuals were honored for various accomplishments, yet all have demonstrated success, leadership and initiative in their areas of expertise.

“This year’s award recipients all positively influence women engineers and technologists, inspire the next generation, and help multiply the momentum within SWE and their own communities,” says Melissa Tata, SWE President. “SWE is proud to honor these individuals who have reached momentous achievements and continually exhibit how to achieve success on their own terms.”

The awards were presented at two ceremonies during WE11, the Society’s Annual Conference held at McCormick Place, October 13-15, in Chicago. More than 5,800 attendees included collegians and professionals from the industry, government and academia.

The award honors women engineers who have demonstrated outstanding technical performance, as well as leadership in professional organizations, such as SWE, and the community, in the first 10 years of her career.

Local Eastern Nebraska SWE Member, Angel McMullen-Gunn, was recognized with the 2011 SWE Distinguished New Engineer Award for her career achievements spanning several engineering realms and for significant involvement in SWE as an officer and role model.

Angel is a Manufacturing Production Manager at Schneider Electric – Square D, in Lincoln. She holds a B.S. Mechanical Engineering (2003) and M.Eng in Engineering Management (2007) from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln; and M.S. Quality Systems Management with Six Sigma Black Belt Certification (2010) from the National Graduate of Quality Management of Falmouth, MA.

As a professional SWE Eastern Nebraska member, Angel McMullen-Gunn has fulfilled many roles locally, regionally, and nationally. She currently serves as Eastern Nebraska SWE Vice-President, Membership Coordinator, as well as UNL SWE’s Counselor. Additionally she is Region I Lieutenant Governor and sits on the National SWE Membership Committee.

McMullen-Gunn and her husband, Darrin, live in Seward with their young son, Lucian.

For more information on the Distinguished New Engineer Award and Angel, please visit SWE Magazine’s online conference issue at http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/swe/conference2011/#/146

Source:
## FY 2012
### Eastern Nebraska SWE Section Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Year New You</strong></td>
<td>January 26, 2012</td>
<td>New Year = New You! SWE can help you with your resolutions so plan on joining us to get organized and simplify your life at work and at home. Location: HDR Westroads 5:30 Social, 6:00 pm Presentation, 7:00 Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNL - E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues</strong></td>
<td>February 16, 2012</td>
<td>Water and Global Security: &quot;Is a Global Water Crisis Avoidable?&quot; Lied Center for Performing Arts 301 N. 12th Street, Lincoln NE All Lectures are free and open to the public. <a href="http://enthompson.ule.edu/node/1">http://enthompson.ule.edu/node/1</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engineer’s Week 2012</strong></td>
<td>February 19 - 25, 2012</td>
<td>Multiple activities available all around our area. Please communicate via facebook and/or linked-in to coordinate group activities and take advantage of these great opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E-Week Banquest</strong></td>
<td>February 23, 2012</td>
<td>The Engineer’s Week Banquet will be held at the Strategic Air &amp; Space Museum in Ashland on February 23th. Registration form is available in this newsletter! 6:00 Social Hour (cash bar), 7:00 Banquet &amp; Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upcoming Events</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 2 &amp; 3 - Region I Conference - Tulsa OK April 26 - Technical Tour - Boiler and Steam Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Ideas?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please contact the Program Development Chair (<a href="mailto:program_development@swe-nebraksa.org">program_development@swe-nebraksa.org</a>) with any program ideas.</td>
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Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

ANNUAL E-WEEK BANQUET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Sponsored by the Engineer’s Roundtable
0.1 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or
1.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH) available

Banquet Location:
Strategic Air and Space Museum
28210 West Park Highway
Ashland, NE  68003

6:00 PM – Social Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 PM – Banquet & Speaker

FIND THE SIGN-UP FLYER AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

Are you ready for 2012 WOW!
That’s Engineering?

As the New Year kicks off, so will the planning for this great outreach event. Check out our website

www.swe-nebraska.org

and click on the “WOW! That’s Engineering!” link for information about the past events. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, contact Amanda Stahlnecker at wow_event@swe-nebraska.org.

Engineers Roundtable website:
http://engineerroundtable.org/
Upcoming Meetings

Region I Conference

This year’s Region I Conference is in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 2nd – 3rd, 2012. Registration is OPEN: $75 for Professionals and $45 for Collegiates. All meals are included with your registration. The Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Tulsa Aquarium. Please visit the conference website at orgs.utulsa.edu/swe/conference/ for additional information and to register.

Registering before February 10th will guarantee the lowest rate for the conference. You can either register online (with a small fee) or print out and mail in your registration. Tulsa is a 7-hour drive from Lincoln or Omaha.

All events will be held at the Hilton Southern Hills in Tulsa, OK. The special room rate for SWE is be $82/night.

Add-on events include a technical Tour ($10-$15) and the Tulsa Engineering Summit ($45 with up to 7 PDH credits) on Friday.

Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month at 11:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The officers and chairs will provide monthly reports and discuss unfinished and current business of the section. For more information contact the president, Cybil Boss, at president@swe-nebraska.org.

SWE Outreach Achievements

A special thanks goes to Janet Doan, Jo Whitaker, Janis Pfingsten, and Cybil Boss for their volunteer efforts at the first round of presentations at four Completely Kids Program schools. The Pop Fly activity was done at four elementary schools with after school programs (Jackson, Liberty, Field Club, and CK26). At each school between 12 and 20 girls in 5th and 6th grade participated in the activity.

It was a great success and wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers. If you would like to help out at any of the future presentations through the SWE Outreach efforts for the Completely Kids Program, contact Amanda Stahlnecker at outreach@swe-nebraska.org.
Preparing for winter driving with walk-around
By Bruce Marxsen

The preparation for winter driving occurs before the first snowfall. It is a good idea to have your car winterized. Along with a certified mechanic tune-up, you personally should give your car a ‘walk-around’ to build confidence your car can get you safely through the winter.

Begin your pre-winter ‘walk-around’ by checking the vehicle’s fluids; antifreeze/coolant, brake, oil, and transmission levels to ensure they are at manufacturer’s suggested levels for full. Your mechanic has probably already and filled those fluids, but your check is a confidence builder. Your ‘walk-around’ also needs to include checking all lights to ensure they work as required; headlights high/low beam, turn signals front/back, brake lights, back up lights. Replace the lights as needed.

Tires are usually the least-worried-about part of your car, until there is something wrong with them, particularly if there is a problem while driving in rain, mud, ice, and snow.

The key to your vehicle’s winter tires is proper tire pressure and available tread. Ensure the tire pressure is inflated to the manufacturer’s recommended pressure. If the tires are not up to pressure, get them filled. (Do not forget to check the spare tire, too) Checking tire pressure throughout the winter months is highly recommended. For tire tread, the minimum tire tread to maintain good traction in winter driving is 2/32 of an inch. To check on the depth of tread, the ‘penny test’ can be used. Hold the penny on the end opposite of Lincoln’s head. Select a point on the tire where the tread appears at its lowest, and insert the penny into the groove. If Lincoln’s head is covered by the tread, the tire is in good shape for traction. If you can see all of Lincoln’s head, it’s time to get new tires.

The next evaluation is the windshield wipers. During the summer, the wipers may have limited use, and could be subject to heat-related cracking and warp. Check to see if they will clear water off the windshield without leaving gaps or streaks. If they do not clear properly, have them replaced before they are needed during your winter driving. The last thing you need to do is check your ‘winter emergency kit’ for completeness; remove it from its summer storage to be placed in your vehicle for winter use. Anything can happen while driving in winter weather, but if you have performed your ‘walk-around’ at least you will have confidence you and your vehicle are ready for adapting to the conditions around you.

Bruce Marxsen writes monthly Staying Prepared columns (neighborhoodEXTRA.com) on behalf of the Preparedness Volunteer Group of Volunteer Partners.
PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Three Reasons for Organizing Your Workstation
By The Organization Station

Do you have piles of papers on your desk at work? How do you think this mess is impacting your career? In a recent CareerBuilder study about office hoarding, 2,662 hiring managers and 4,912 workers were surveyed. The study revealed the following reasons to organize your workstation:

- Your stuff could be weighing down your productivity. One-third of workers said they tend to be hoarders. Thirty-eight percent of workers say that between 50 and 100 percent of their desk is covered with work and other materials, while 16 percent of workers said 75 percent or more of their desk is covered.
- You’re less likely to receive a promotion. Twenty-eight percent of employers say they are less likely to promote someone who has a disorganized or messy workspace.
- An employer’s perception of you could be affected. Nearly two in five employers say piles of paper covering a desk negatively impacted their perception of that person. Twenty-seven percent feel that person is disorganized; 17 percent sense he is just messy.

If you think you could use some help organizing at the office, here are a few ways to organize your workstation:

Create a filing system. Whether you have paper or computer documents, a good filing system can help avoid a cluttered desk or desktop. First, create separate folders for different needs. For example, if you work with clients, give each one his own folder. That way, when you go to look for important documents, you know exactly where they should be.

Get rid of things you no longer need. Recycle old papers, throw away trash, and put everything away in its proper place. If you only need one or two pens for everyday use, donate the rest to your office supply room or to a co-worker.

Focus on one thing at a time. When you’re multitasking, it’s easy to let things get out of hand and neglect cleaning your workspace. To avoid this, set aside blocks of time for each project and focus on the task at hand. If you don’t finish with it, put away the documents in their proper place and come back to the task later.

Keep things you use every day within reach. Do you use a stapler or tape every day? Keep in on your desk, if you do otherwise keep them in a drawer or on a shelf.

Source: The Organization Station, September 20, 2011 http://askanorganizer.wordpress.com/
I came across an interesting statistic the other day… According to the Bureau of Labor, the average American will spend a whopping 69 hours dealing with junk mail and unsolicited phone calls this year.

Personally, I can think of a LOT better ways to spend my time. If you agree, here are a few easy ways to cut down on the amount unsolicited intrusions on your time:

- To stop telemarketing calls, log on to www.donotcall.gov and register all your phone numbers. Don’t forget to register your cell phone numbers. Telemarketers shouldn’t call your number once it’s been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint at the same website.
- Set spam blocking filters on your email account to "high." Your virus protector or email program may already offer free spam filters. If not, you can find spam filtering software at www.mailwasher.com.
- To stop junk from filling up your snail mail box, contact just the Direct Marketing Association at www.dmaconsumers.org. You’ll stop mail for five years from all member organizations from which you haven’t ordered products.
- Stop all those annoying credit card applications that clutter your mailbox at www.optoutprescreen.com.

Source: Cyndy Salzmann, February 2, 2011 www.cyndysalzmann.com

Cindy is our featured speaker for the January 26th SWE Meeting!
“New Year = New You”
Getting Organized

The holidays are over, gifts are all unwrapped. Now, where do I put everything?? Is it time to get your home or office organized again? This SWE meeting may be just what you need to get yourself motivated.

- Learn how to get organized and run your day instead of letting your day run you.
- Useful tips and tools to help you become more successful at home and at work.

Our guest speaker, Cyndy Salzmann, also known as “The Clutter Coach” has been helping people get their lives in order since 1997. A multi-published author and popular speaker, Cyndy has developed a personality inventory to help her clients discover their unique organizing style.

Cyndy is also the author of several books, including:
“Making your Home a Haven: Strategies for the Domestically Challenged” and “The Occasional Cook: Culinary Strategies for Overcommitted Families”.

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012
Location: HDR Westroads
1120 N. 103rd Plaza, Suite 300 Omaha, NE
Time: 5:30 pm Social & Networking
      Appetizers, Soda, Coffee and Water provided by HDR
      6:00 pm Presentation
      7:00 pm Door Prizes
      7:05 pm Officers Business discussion, all are welcome
Cost: $5 members, $10 non-members
E-WEEK BANQUET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Sponsored by the Engineer’s Roundtable
http://engineerroundtable.org/
0.1 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or
1.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH) available

Jody S. Farhat, P.E.

Jody Farhat has served as the Chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management office since May 2009. Her office, which is part of the Corps of Engineers’ Northwestern Division, is located in Omaha, Nebraska. She and her staff regulate the six Corps’ dams on the main stem of the Missouri River to serve the Congressionally authorized project purposes. Jody has spent the past 23 years of her career working in all aspects of Missouri River Water Management. Prior to coming to the Northwestern Division, she worked in the Hydrologic Engineering Branch of the Corps’ Omaha District.

Jody is native of Iowa, and has a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Iowa. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska.

Banquet Location:
Strategic Air & Space Museum
28210 West Park Highway
Ashland, NE 68003
402.944.3100

Dinner Selections & Prices:

Entree Choices:
Filet Mignon $33.00
Chicken Marsala $30.00
Grilled Salmon $32.00

(All meals include: garden salad, seasoned oven roasted red potatoes, green beans Almandine, roll & butter, your choice of N.Y. Style Cheesecake or Chocolate Decadence Cake and coffee/tea)

Time:
6:00 PM – Social Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 PM – Banquet & Speaker

The lead society for this year’s national E-Week is The American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the lead company is Battelle.

Please note that this event is a Thursday evening. In order to provide a total attendance count to the Museum, only advanced reservations will be accepted. Advanced reservations, menu choices, attendee’s name and payment must be received by noon, Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (Monday the 20th is a mail Holiday). Checks should be made payable to the “E-Week Roundtable.” Please clip the reservation form below (add an additional sheet if required), attach payment and send to the address shown.

Send to: Elizabeth Hunter, Leo A. Daly Company
8600 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114, (Phone # 402-390-4473)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendee’s Name(s)</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Menu Choice</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Filet Mignon</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chicken Marsala</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grilled Salmon</td>
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<td>Total Cost</td>
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Attendee’s E-mail address or daytime phone number: ________________________________