

Chicago Section News – 2017-1

Message from the Chair

Steve Slowik

The Chicago section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers is one of the largest active sections in the United States. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of a membership organization with such deep history and value to society. Engineers have been, and will continue to be, a driving force in the advancement of technology and improving the quality of life.

As I begin my tenure as Chair of the Chicago Section of ASME, I am excited by the opportunities that await the members of our unit. Along with an amazing team of colleagues comprising the Section Operating Board, I am looking forward to reinvigorating the Chicago section, and realizing its mission to help our members advance their careers in the profession.

I am a strong proponent of lifelong learning, and of venturing out of one's comfort zone in order to expand one's horizons and learn new things. For this reason, the ASME-Chicago Section Operating Board has chosen a diverse range of topics for this year's programs and events. We have selected topics including Mechatronics, the Internet of Things (IoT), Industrial unmanned vehicles (including a demonstration of UAVs and UAGs), and Railway Safety.

Our first program is planned for November 9, 2016 at the Addison Public Library. The topic of this event is "Join the Maker Revolution". If you have ever wished that you could buy a product that didn't exist, you should plan to attend this event and learn how you can 'DIY' your own personal custom product.

I look forward to meeting with as many members as possible over this next year. Please don't hesitate to

reach out to me should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on how to improve the ASME-Chicago Section.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Slowik, PE

Strengthen the Section

Ed Feldy with Bill Medcalf

Join the section leadership as we dig in and make decisions to help strengthen the Section. The Section Operating Board (SOB) met on 14JUL2016, to address the need fill some vacancies in the operating board. In accordance with Article V of the Section By-laws, the board elected Steve Slowik and Tom Peterson to fill the offices of Section Chair and Vice-chair, respectively for the remainder of the ASME year. All agreed we REALLY need input, support, participation and leadership contributions from a larger number of members. PLEASE feel free to email any board member if you feel you can help in any way.

Section Scholarship Program

The section scholarship program will continue with the SOB having authorized the awarding of up to three scholarships of \$2,000 in the Fall of 2016.

Chicago Section scholarships may be awarded to students studying any engineering discipline and who are immediate family of section members. Rules for the scholarship and the application form, for both renewal and new awards, are found on the Section website at www.asmechicago.org.

If you have a son, daughter, grandchild, or parent who is, or will be studying for an engineering degree, don't miss this opportunity for some financial assistance.

K-12 Outreach

The Chicago Section remains committed to having a strong STEM outreach program to students. All members are encouraged to join in active participation, at almost any level, at some time during the year.

Outreach to the lower elementary students is usually one or more visits to acquaint students with science and the work of engineers.

At upper elementary and middle schools, mentoring becomes the more common mode of outreach. Sometimes it consists of providing help with math or science projects, or consulting on a STEM contest such as Future Cities or Science Fair projects. It may even involve guiding and advising students in the design and building of a Lego robot, using Mindstorms.

High School students are more often engaged in FIRST Competitions, so the mentoring takes on a much stronger engineering component. FIRST offers competitions from 4th grade through high school where students conceive and construct robots to carry out predefined tasks. The requirements of these robots become increasingly more stringent, and costly to meet, as the students progress through the various competitions. Building robots for the top two competition tiers requires design, management, construction, and teamwork. The ASME Chicago Section contributes financially and members actively mentor FIRST teams. We are always seeking more mentors.

Section Leadership Team

On the section website, www.asmechicago.org, you will find (left side) a bar: "Officers and Board." There you will find a list of our officers (the Section Operating Board) and chairs of the several standing committees.

The Section Operating Board is always seeking members who would be willing to contribute a few hours each month to serve fellow engineers through service to the section.

You are encouraged to contact any listed member of the Section Operating Board (phone numbers and email addresses are given) on the section website.

Engineers Week 2017

Traditionally, each year one week has been designated to recognize engineers for their contributions to society. That week, "Engineers Week", (E-Week) for short, was managed by the NSPE but has morphed into "**DiscoverE**" and E-Week may have disappeared. Never fear, the tradition lives on!

The Chicagoland Engineers Week Awards Event will be held on 24FEB2017. This event will, as is its mission, recognize about 100 pre-college students for their STEM competition. In addition, the **Washington Award** – the oldest continuing engineering award in the USA – will be presented.

Plan now to attend the event. It showcases the amazing work of regional students as they present their projects and robots for your examination. It is also an opportunity to network with other engineers from a variety of technical sectors throughout the metropolitan area. Be aware that you may feel encouraged to get more deeply involved in the K-12+ Outreach activities of the section.

Your section has a role in selecting the next recipient. ASME, as one of the earliest professional societies, has two representatives serving on the Washington Award Selection Commission. The Commission is in meetings as this is being written. The selection will be made during August and announced in November. Lou Wozniak is the representative selected by the ASME Chicago SOB to represent the section. The second representative is from the ASME Fox Valley Section.



Programs and Tours

The program topics for the year (SEP2016 thr JUN2017) have been selected. Dates are still a bit fluid, pending confirmation of hosts and venues. For planning, note on your calendar, with exact dates TBD and watch the section website www.asmechicago.org for details.

Nov 9	Join the Maker Revolution
Winter	Job Fair
Mar 30	Industrial UAVs, UGVs
Spring	Mechatronics
Spring	The Internet of Things (IoT)
Spring	Railway Safety

Short Courses

Excel for Engineers