

The Gear

Serving the 293 Members of the SWE-WI Section

Nov - 2023

SWE-WI at WE23

(Continued on page 3)

SWE-WI had several members in attendance at WE23 in Los Angeles, CA over October 26-28th. See photos of different meetups with SWE-WI members and our affiliated collegiate SWE section members. Congratulations to WE23 award recipients, including the SWE-WI section. See the virtual WE23 Awards Hall to learn more: <https://we23awards.swe.org/>



Key Upcoming Events

- SWE-WI 50th Anniversary – Milwaukee – 12/2
- 2024 WELocals – various cities – Feb-Mar 2024
- Save the date, Spring Forward 2024 – La Crosse – 4/13

Stay up to date on all SWE-WI events at our [Google Calendar \(link\)](#)



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WE23 – LA Conference Session Summary

Membership Meeting Highlights – Gina Janke

WE23, the 2023 Annual Society of Women Engineers Conference was held on the last Thursday through Saturday in October at the Los Angeles Convention Center. It was well attended with 17,800 in-person participants and 2,929 virtual attendees and 41 countries represented. One session that I find interesting is the Saturday morning Membership Meeting. This meeting is a summary of all the high-level Society activity, as by the volunteers, President and various committee chairs and members, and paid Headquarters (HQ) staff.

The Trustees' Report covers the Society's investment health and disbursements over the last fiscal year (July 2022 to June 2023). The investments have been doing well with \$508,738 in disbursement with 71% (\$360,602) funding 127scholarships.

The Award Committee was a focal point in the President's Report. A new streamlined awards program has been initiated for this year. There are 2 categories for awards: SWE Awards (Apex and Aspire) and SWE Recognition. The SWE Awards, based on achievement, must have nomination packets in by March 1 & SWE Recognition nomination packet must be submitted by June 15.

The Executive Director's Report covers the highlights of HQ staff activities. Two areas discussed included improvement in member and section relations and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB).

One of the newest staff roles for HQ is Section Relations Manager, Jessica Ames. In this role, Jessica will help the sections interface with the Society, working with Sections on use of requested financial software and other section engagement plans and touchpoints.

An example of DEIB activity, research staff member, Roberta Rincon, PhD, Associate Director, presented several slides in a separate Friday session, "State of Women in Engineering". To make engineering a more diverse workplace, SWE is a part of 29 organizations awarded \$5 Million from National Science Federation for work on Women of Color in Engineering Collaboration. The 5 challenges to address in these collaborations are:

- Improve pathways to internships, scholarships and jobs
- Reduce microaggressions, racism and sexism in the workplace
- Retain and amplify women of color in the workplace
- Increase network inclusivity and sponsorship of women of color
- Raise openness and reduce backlash to DEI practices

The Membership Meeting closed with summary of Society financial report and short video on the host city for WE24. The FY24 Treasurer, Dianne Beever, reported record cash flow, healthy available reserves and solid investment performance for the Society finances. The closing video was a montage of Chicago area scenes, site of next year's conference. Hope to see you next year in Chicago, WE24, October 24-26, 2024

SWE-WI Newsletter Entries

Send us your stories! We want to see what our professional SWE-WI and affiliated collegiate SWE members are up to! We are looking for events that SWE has hosted, member milestones, interesting articles/books to share, and more! If you have something you want to see in the newsletter, please fill out the following Publicity Request Form and check 'The Gear Newsletter'.
SWE-WI Publicity Request Form: <https://forms.gle/CztqytTXYQB2hK6JA>

SWE-WI at WE23 (continued)

Photos of SWE-WI professional and affiliated collegiate members throughout the WE23 Conference!



Connect
with
SWE-WI

SWE-WI Website – wisconsin.swe.org

SWE-WI Facebook – www.facebook.com/SWEWI

SWE-WI LinkedIn Group – www.linkedin.com/groups/782747/

SWE-WI Google Calendar – [Link to Google Calendar](#)

SWE-WI Outreach Future Volunteer Opportunities

Engineering Role Models Needed – 11/15

You can't be what you can't see. Help young women in grades 6-12 from 15 area schools see themselves as Women Engineers by volunteering an hour or more of your time to answer their questions about your career and engineering in general during a school trade fair. This year they are highlighting Women in Trades. Any time you can volunteer between 7:15-2pm on November 15th would be greatly appreciated. The event is being held at Whitnall High School in Greenfield. All Engineering or Engineering adjacent disciplines are invited. Lunch will be provided. Please contact me if you are interested- swewioutreach@swe.org, I'll forward you details and coordinate times.

Save the Date!

Save the date for these future Outreach Opportunities:

- **December 9th** - Glen Hills Middle School STEAM Fest (9am-1pm)
- **January 20th** - Future Cities Judging at MSOE (~8am-12pm)
- **February 3rd** - Women in STEAM Hands-on Event (WISH Initiative) in Brookfield
- **March 3rd** - Girls & STEM at Discovery World (9am-4pm)
- **March 15th** - Engineering Machine Design Contest Judging at Discovery World (~9am-12pm)
- **April 26th** - Contrapt Contest Judging in Waukesha (~9am-12pm)
- **May 10th** - Contrapt Contest Judging in Milwaukee (~9am-12pm)

SWE-WI Advertisement Information

Are you a company looking to show your support of SWE-WI, advertise on our website or in our newsletter, or post a job opening? If so, we want to hear from you. If you are interested, please find additional details and fill out the contact form on our corporate involvement page of the SWE-WI website:

<https://wisconsin.swe.org/corporate-involvement/>

SWE-WI Outreach

Outreach Volunteer Notice

SWE has implemented a Youth Protection Policy. This year to be a volunteer at a SWE-WI sponsored event you must have completed the Youth Protection course and provide a SWE Certificate to the organizer.

Please consider taking the youth protection course early and sending SWE-WI a digital copy of your certificate. This course will need to be taken every three years. To access the course, or for more information please visit <https://swe.org/youthprotection/>

Outreach Involvement

If you have been involved in an outreach event and are a SWE member, send information about the event to Heidi Balestrieri at swewioutreach@swe.org so we can report the information in the SWE outreach tool.

Information needed for the report: event name, date, all SWE sections that were involved, description of event, breakdown of girls and boys who participated, age of students, number of adult guests, number of SWE member volunteers, number of other volunteers, any partner organizations involved, or any other information to share.

Girl Scout STEM Badges

Would you be interested in working with a Girl Scout Troop and introducing a girl to engineering? The Girl Scouts have introduced new engineering and STEM badges and troops are looking for engineers who would be willing to help them earn these badges. For information on how to be involved, project ideas, and how to find a troop contact swewioutreach@swe.org

SWENext Membership



SWENext is a way to become part of SWE as a student through the age of 18. Joining is free, any student 13 or older can become a SWENext on their own, for those younger than 13, a parent will need to be the primary contact. When registering for SWENext use event code: **Wisconsin**
Learn more about SWENext visit: <https://swe.org/k-12-outreach/swenext-2/>
For any SWENext questions, contact: outreach@swe.org

SWE-WI Website – New Look!

SWE Wisconsin's website is at the same address, <https://wisconsin.swe.org/>, but has a new look! Check out the new site to learn more about the SWE Wisconsin leadership team, upcoming events, past newsletters, and more! If you have any questions or suggestions, use the contact us form to get in touch with our webmaster.



WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS WISCONSIN
PROFESSIONAL SECTION

SWE-WI

As one of the largest SWE professional sections, we strive to provide our members and partners with valuable programs and networking opportunities. We want to inspire women to achieve their full potential as engineers and leaders, and support as they seek to be their authentic selves in all stages of their careers and lives.

Whether you are interested in professional development, outreach, or networking with fellow women engineers – SWE-WI has something for you!



SWE Wisconsin celebrates 50 years as a SWE Section this December! The section was originally chartered on December 3rd, 1973 on the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Campus.

Our section plans to have a 50th anniversary celebration on December 2nd from 12-3PM at UW Milwaukee. Stay tuned to the weekly e-blast and SWE-WI website for more details!