

# The Gear

Serving the 363 Members of the SWE-WI Section

Sept - 2024

## President's Welcome

*Kyela Specht, SWE-WI FY25 President*

Welcome to another great year of the SWE-Wisconsin Section! I am honored and thrilled to be able to serve you as this fiscal year's president! FY24 was an exciting year with the 50th anniversary of SWE-WI and I'm looking forward to continuing to build off of our successes last year and the years prior.

FY25 kicked started in July with our Executive Committee meeting at our annual Summer Strategic Planning Meeting. I'm looking forward to working with the Executive Committee, Committee Members, and the section to put into action the goals set forward in July. We have a lot of great ideas, outreach and social events, and professional development opportunities and learnings planned for the year. I'm looking forward to seeing our members both in person and virtually through these gatherings!

Make sure to register for the Annual Conference on October 24-26th in Chicago, IL this year. Join thousands of women for one of the largest conferences for women in engineering and technology! Many of our members are on the local host planning committee for WE Local, so be sure to mark your calendars for WE Local Milwaukee on March 14-15th! Keep an eye out for more information throughout the year.

Our section is always looking to grow, both with members, ideas, and women empowerment. I am always impressed with how our section continues to support our members, collegiates, youth and other engineering societies. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please reach out to me or any member of our EC Board, we are always looking for members to fill positions or to assist in planning a social event near you!

As always, keep an eye out for SWE-WI's weekly e-blast, website, and social media posts for all the up to date happenings for the Section.

Best,  
Kyela

## Key Upcoming Events

- Sentry Manufacturing Tour – Oconomowoc, WI – 10/4
- WE24 – Chicago, IL – 10/24-10/26
- 2025 WE Local Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI – 3/14-3/15

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



## Inside this Issue

President's Welcome 1

FY25 Strategic Planning Meeting 2

SWE Tour and Gathering 3

Plan a SWE Wisconsin Event 4

WE24 Registration Open! 5

SWE-WI Outreach Policies 6

FIRST Volunteer Opportunity 7



# FY25 Strategic Planning Meeting

## FY25 EC Board, Chairs, & Committee Members

SWE-WI FY25 Executive Council (EC) Board, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members had the annual summer strategic planning meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The group reflected on the previous fiscal year, set goals, and began planning out events and initiatives for FY25.

If you are interested in getting more involved with SWE-WI, check out the open committee/voluntary roles on the [SWE-WI FY25 Org Chart](#) and/or reach out to SWE-WI Section President Kyela Specht for more details. SWE-WI thrives with a strong leadership pipeline, and there are roles of many different levels of commitment to fit any interested member!



Maureen Duthie, Michele Dodez, Kyela Specht, Gina Janke, Sowmya Kethireddy, Susan Schlett, Sam Billetdeaux, Heidi Balestrieri (*Natalie Gamez not pictured, attended virtually*)

## 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 Tour and Gathering

## *Sentry Equipment*

Date: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Time: 2PM-4PM

Location: Sentry Equipment in Oconomowoc, WI

Celebrate Manufacturing Day at Sentry Equipment by taking a tour of the manufacturing facility and then gathering with SWE members for a social. Sentry designs and manufactures sampling equipment used in multiple industries including food and beverage, power generation, and cement. Must RSVP by **September 27th**.

RSVP to: [heidi.balestrieri@sentry-equip.com](mailto:heidi.balestrieri@sentry-equip.com)



**Renew your  
SWE  
Membership  
for FY25**

If you have not done so already, please renew your SWE membership! \*Note that SWE works on a fiscal year of July 1 - June 30th. If you are unsure of your membership status, contact your membership chair, Susan Schlett, at 262 337-3934 or at [schlett@yahoo.com](mailto:schlett@yahoo.com).

Please keep in mind that a portion of all SWE dues goes back to our local section to do a lot of really great stuff. Help us keep our SWE-WI section strong!



# Plan a SWE Wisconsin Event

Reach out to [Kyela Specht](#) or [Natalie Gamez](#) if interested in planning a SWE Wisconsin event!

## PLAN A SOCIAL OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT!

IS THERE A FUN PLACE AROUND WHERE YOU LIVE THAT WOULD BE A GREAT SWE-WI SOCIAL EVENT? IS THERE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPIC YOU ARE INTERESTED IN?

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SWE-WI is looking for members who are interested in planning an event in their local areas! The event can be a happy hour, a dinner, a meetup at an event – anything and everything!

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If this is something that interests you, reach out to **Kyela Specht** and **Natalie Gamez**

[kyelaspecht@gmail.com](mailto:kyelaspecht@gmail.com)

[natalie.m.gamez@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.m.gamez@gmail.com)

Save the Date - The [2025 WE Local](#) US conferences have been announced:



- **San Jose** – February 28 – March 1, 2025
- **Cherry Hill** – March 7 – 8, 2025
- **Milwaukee** – March 14 – 15, 2025

# WE24 Registration Open!

Registration is now open for the annual SWE conference, WE24. This conference is a great opportunity to build your professional skills by learning from the best women engineers from across the globe. Don't miss the chance to attend such an inspiring event right in our backyard, held in Chicago, IL.

For more details about the event and to register, visit: <https://we24.swe.org/>



**We24**  
World's Largest Conference for  
Women in Engineering and Technology

**TOGETHER  
WE RISE**

**OCTOBER 24 - 26**  
McCORMICK PLACE » CHICAGO, IL

**#WE24 » WE24.SWE.ORG**

## WE24 Wisconsin Meet Ups

Are you interested or planning on attending the FY24 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL on October 24th - 26th? Fill out this [google form](#) to let SWE-WI members know or email Michal Riege at [mriege@wi.rr.com](mailto:mriege@wi.rr.com) to let the section know! We're looking to organize a meet up and take a section picture. We hope to see you there!

# SWE-WI Outreach Policies

## *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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:outreach@swe.org)

# FIRST Volunteer Opportunity

TWIST (Together, Women in STEM Thrive), is an event for FIRST Robotics teams dedicated to providing an opportunity for girls to show their strengths in a predominantly male-dominated field. Unlike typical robotics competitions, TWIST requires teams to have girls driving the teams' robots during the competition. Through this event, we hope to contribute to closing the gender gap in STEM and promoting inclusive team cultures. Last year our event had 19 teams, over 1200 attendees, and thousands of live stream views from across the Midwest. SWE is a [Strategic Alliance](#) partner of FIRST.

This year's event will take place October 12th, 2024 at Muskego High School in Muskego, WI. If you would like to learn more about the event, be a woman in STEM role model as a volunteer, or attend to see what FIRST robotics is all about, visit <https://warriorbots6421.com/twist/>.



## 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/>