



# Members At Large

FY17 Newsletter, Issue 3

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## President's Corner

Greetings MAL Members,

Spring is quickly coming, and along with spring are SWE elections and region conferences. We also have the SWE We Locals this year as well. I encourage all of you to attend your region conference, since this will be the last year. There are updates on the governance at both WE Local and the region conferences. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, and I will pass them onto the governance task force. Also, consider taking a role in SWE leadership. My various positions with the MAL organization have really benefitted me!

Also, spring brings on a lot of outreach events as well. E-week brings out a lot of events, but remember, an outreach event does not always have to be during E-week. It can be as simple as going and talking to a

class or scout troupe, or hosting an outreach event with many people in attendance. Just remember, if you participate in an outreach event, please make sure to log it in the outreach metric tool for the MALs!



Wishing you all a warm and happy spring!

Debbie Jacklitch-Kuiken  
SWE FY17 MAL President  
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## FY17 SWE Individual Awards Program



*By Stacey Culver, MAL Awards Chair*

Each year the Society of Women Engineers recognizes SWE members and individuals who enhance the engineering profession and advocate for women in engineering through contributions to industry, education and the community.

Information on the 19 different awards offered as well as the award requirements and instructions can be found within the [Individual Awards Packet](#) posted to the SWE website. Nominators can submit the complete nomination package online by uploading supporting files after creating a login. Submissions can be edited up until the deadline.

The nomination deadline for all individual awards is March 31, 2017. Awards will be presented at the WE17 Annual Conference in Austin, TX, on October 26 – 28, 2017.

For information or if you have specific questions on the awards requirements, please contact the [SWE Awards Chair](#). If you have questions on the process

## Eweek 2017!

Engineers Week, or EWeek, was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. This year it fell on February 19-25, 2017, with many activities extending weeks before or after the official week. But this doesn't mean that your STEM volunteering can't extend to other times of the year! EWeek is committed to raising public awareness of engineer's positive contributions to our daily lives. And many of their programs and materials can be used throughout the year.

Over the years, EWeek has become a formal coalition of over 120

societies, corporations, and government agencies. These groups support recognition of the importance of a STEM education among parents, teachers, and students through a variety of activities in thousands of community groups, schools, and businesses in the United States.

Some of the formal programs that exist are Changing the Conversation, DiscoverE, New Faces of Engineering recognition program, New Faces of Engineering, College

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Edition recognition program, Future City Competition, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Global Marathon, Family Day. You can find more information on these programs [here](#).

Though it can be difficult to get involved as a Member at Large, there are many [programs](#) all

over the country in which you can get involved for EWeek. Check for [events near you](#), or host your own event using the available [tools and resources](#).

## SWE Congressional Outreach Day

*Source: AllTogether Blog*

Once again, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is taking the lead in organizing a spring Congressional outreach event on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The program entitled "Diversity and Inclusion Fuels Innovation in STEM," which was held on March 15-16, 2017. This event, which is open to other STEM organizations, increases awareness of the need for and the importance of increased diversity and inclusion in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce.

During the two day event, SWE members participated in pre-visit trainings and a reception, in addition to having the opportunity to meet with their representatives or congressional staff.

### **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

A Congressional Visit Training was held, followed by a Congressional Reception.

### **Thursday, March 16, 2017**

A Congressional Breakfast and Visit Prep were followed by Congressional Visits, beginning at 10:00 AM and scheduled throughout the day.

At the training, representatives from key Congressional committees, such as the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce shared Members' vision for 2017 and beyond. Additionally, updates on the Administration's actions regarding science and technology were offered by on the ground advocates from the STEM Education Coalition. A presentation on the culture on Capitol Hill, communicating with congress both online and in person, how policy is made and how and when SWE members can influence outcomes was also offered.

If you'd like to be involved in the future, please contact SWE's Washington representatives Della Cronin and Russell Armstrong at [SWEHillVisits@swe.org](mailto:SWEHillVisits@swe.org) or 202-349-2304.

For more information about SWE's public policy priorities, please see the [advocacy section of All Together](#) as well as a [replay of our April 25, 2016 webinar](#).

## What is the SWE Senate Doing?

*By Olivia LeBlanc, SWE Region C MAL Rep. and Senator*

At the end of January, the Senate, Board of Directors, and HQ staff met in Austin, Texas for the Annual Strategic Plan Review (ASPR) and the Winter Senate meetings. The Winter Senate meeting was the second face-to-face meeting of the strategic body in FY17. During the Senate meeting, all proposed amendments passed Senate approval. The background and details of the motions are on the Senate website ([Senate.swe.org](http://Senate.swe.org), see the Amendments and Motions page):

S-1713: Other Groups  
 S-1714: Collegiate Director Eligibility  
 S-1715: Senate Procedures Updates  
 S-1716: Procedure Review for SWE Membership Conduct  
 S-1717: Endorsement of Proposed Governance Changes

After a fun lunch, the Governance Task Force gave a great update on work done to date and the path forward to accomplish the governance changes still outstanding. The work done to date has been successful and enabled SWE to grow at a very fast rate, which is atypical and above average for a non-profit organization, as described by McKinley Advisors.

Penny Wirsing, task force leader, and Dayna Johnson, task force member and senator, proposed a motion to gain Senate approval and agreement on the path forward to achieve these changes. The motion passed, and the Governance Task

Force will work with the Bylaws Committee to bring motions forward to make the changes listed below. The Society bylaws have not been changed yet, but the Senate was asked to approve the general direction of the governance changes that include:

- Collegiates will be granted full voting rights in SWE
- Terms for Senators will be 3 years
- All nominations and elections will be competency-based without regard for geographic location
- Regions shall be dissolved by end of FY18
- Selection of the nominating committee will be on the basis of the competency, not based on geographic location

During the Special Reports, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC) gave presentations and training to the Senate in preparation for FY18. In FY18, the duties of the SPC will be carried out by the Senate and the SPC will be sunset to allow the Senate to be the strategic body of SWE, per the current bylaws. The Senate had several discussions regarding the strategic planning process to plan for these changes and prepare for FY18.

In order to prepare the Senate to focus on the strategic plan and becoming a true strategic body, we

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need to ensure we nominate big-picture people to be on the SWE Senate for next year and the years to come. It would be ideal for the senate nominees to be active learners and have backgrounds with strategic planning.

The last presentation with given by Karen Roth, Director of Professional Excellence. Karen shared that she, her committees, and several other SWE groups are working together on a

plan to provide section support and continuous professional training once the regions are dissolved.

Remember to check out [senate.swe.org](http://senate.swe.org) and [governance.swe.org](http://governance.swe.org) for upcoming updates regarding senate and governance task force work.

## How to Become a SWE Senator

*By Olivia LeBlanc, SWE Region C MAL Rep. and Senator*

Are you interested in becoming a senator and want to learn more about the job responsibilities?

Senators are responsible for charting the strategic direction of SWE by developing and adopting the long-range goals for the Society, in addition to developing and/or adopting proposed changes to the Society bylaws, policies, and procedures that are in line with the strategic plan. The senate is made up of 2 professional and 1 collegiate senators per region, 2 international senators, and up to 2 special senators elected to provide specific expertise to the body when needed. The Board of Directors and Senate Leadership Team are also non-voting members of the senate. In order to conduct business throughout the year, the senate meets virtually monthly and face-to-face two times per year: at the Annual Conference and at the Winter Senate Meeting. Senators are expected to:

- Come prepared to all senate meetings
- Read all provided materials in advance
- Discuss proposals among senators and constituents in advance of voting meetings

As needed:

- Review the senate procedures and SWE Bylaws

- Review parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order
- Confer with other senators, speaker/deputy speaker, bylaws committee, participate in SWE Senate Teamwork discussions
- Vote promptly on the senate minutes and any other motions presented electronically or by mail
- Regularly participate on the senate committees and task forces

With the governance changes, there will be a few changes to the senate in FY18. The senate will assume the responsibilities of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and the Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC). By taking on this work, the senate will operate as strategic body in alignment to its charter and the strategic plan. Senators and other SWE leaders will also begin to recruit and elect new senators based on leadership competencies with focus on strategic thinking/ planning, not geographically.

To find out more about becoming a senator, please reach out to [Olivia LeBlanc](#) or any of your current/ past senators and region officers.

## How Webinars Can Support Your Career Development

*By Emily Ongstad, MAL Vice President and Newsletter Editor*

Most of us are busy working professionals, but beyond our careers we likely have several other commitments that keep us busy. It's important for all of us to continue our own professional development so that our careers don't become stagnant.

In my company's calendar year, it is time for goal setting. While I will consider my work performance in setting these goals, I also plan to address several professional development goals. To ensure that I make time to work on these goals, I find that setting a professional development calendar for the year can be extremely helpful.

When our schedules don't allow us to attend a workshop during work hours, for example, one well-curated, time-flexible resource for career development is the repository of SWE Webinars available to us through the Advance Learning Center. Any member of SWE has access to the webinar archive, and



can sign up free of charge for any SWE webinars that happen throughout the year.

You might want to start with the "[Top 10 Webinars of 2016](#)," which covers the most popular and helpful content from last year. These webinars cover topics from networking to selling yourself to the impostor complex. Or maybe you want to check out the [newest content from 2017](#). Either way, the [web archives](#) contain these topics and so many more.

So what do you want to work on this year?

## MAL Leadership Contacts

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**Society of Women Engineers**  
Aspire / Advance / Achieve

**Stay Connected!**

As a MAL, it can be difficult to stay connected to SWE. Find us on social media and online to stay in the know about MAL and the Society!

## Help Wanted!

**Newsletter Contributors:** Looking for articles 200-1000 words to include in future newsletters. A broad range of possible topics include but are not limited to your local outreach events, career tips, leadership, mentoring in your workplace, etc. The MAL awards committee will select the best newsletter article award

each fiscal year. Additionally, authors of all published articles are eligible for the newsletter contributor drawing. If you would like to contribute, please send your articles to our editor, [Emily Ongstad](#). This is your newsletter!

## MAL Calendar

Society Awards Nominations Due

March 31

MAL Leader Elections

May 1