



Western Washington Section

Attention: Paper Copies of Newsletter to Be Discontinued!

The number of members who receive a hard (paper) copy of the newsletter has declined dramatically in recent years, and we no longer send enough to qualify for good bulk mail rates. As a result, the paper newsletters are a high-cost activity that serves a very small segment of the membership, and the executive board has discussed eliminating them for several years. Of the 2007 Member Survey respondents who indicated that they receive the newsletter in paper format, not one had attended a single section activity in the previous year, suggesting that no major change in participation will result from the paper mailings being eliminated. Members who would like to continue receiving the newsletter in electronic format should visit <http://my.asme.org> and update their profiles with a valid e-mail address.

January 2008

7-9 January and 14-15 January, Lean Manufacturing Certificate Program at Green River CC in Auburn

The Lean Manufacturing program consists of five workshops: Intro To Lean Manufacturing, Kaizen and Kaizen Event Implementation, 5S and the Visual Workplace, Waste Reduction and Creating Standard Work, and Mistake Proofing and Set-up Reduction. For more info, visit <http://www.sections.asme.org/westernwa/training.asp>.

Wednesday, 16 January, Georgetown Steam Plant/Georgetown Powerplant Museum Tour

Our January meeting will feature a tour of the Georgetown Steam Plant/Georgetown Powerplant Museum. Please note that this tour is on a Wednesday, not the traditional Tuesday night for our meetings. The tour will be on 16 January from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Georgetown Steam Plant, a surprisingly complete and operable steam power plant after a career of nearly seventy-five years, was built in the early 1900s when Seattle's inexpensive hydroelectric power attracted manufacturers. Much of the power produced at this plant operated the streetcars. It marks the beginning of the end of the reciprocating steam engine's domination in the growing field of electrical energy generation for lighting and power.

The plant's three Curtis turbines, manufactured by the General Electric Company between 1906 and 1917, represent the first two generations of this American innovation. The design of the Curtis turbines established the steam turbine as a practical and compact prime mover, capable of producing large amounts of power. The Curtis steam generator was smaller, had three times the power, and operated more cheaply and smoothly than current-day generators.

The plant was built in 1906 for the Seattle Electric Company. Puget Sound Traction and Lighting Company (now Puget Power) bought the Seattle Electric Company in 1912. The plant supplied power to the Seattle-to-Tacoma Interurban and Seattle streetcars as well as residential and industrial power to Georgetown. Unlike many early boiler plants originally designed to burn coal and later converted to oil or gas, the Georgetown Plant began as an oil-fired plant only to be converted to a coal-fired plant in 1917 when oil had been in short supply. Fortunately, the plant had already made provisions for coal firing in the original design so all that was needed was conveyors and ash removal facilities.

According to a Seattle Steamer (newsletter of the Seattle Boiler Inspection Unit) article: "In April of 1995, the Georgetown Powerplant Museum was founded by Paul Carosino and Lilly Tellefson to restore, maintain and operate the Georgetown Steam (Power) Plant as a dynamic museum and teaching facility. They, along with a number of occasional and regular volunteers have been working to restore the plant and each piece of equipment."

Directions: located on the northwest corner of King County Airport/Boeing Field, at 6605 13th Avenue South, Seattle. Please RSVP to Rachel Wittrock by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 10 January. Her contact points are wittrockr2@asme.org or by phone at 206-544-9810, with the former preferred.

Wednesday, 16 January, Lean Office Class at Green River CC in Auburn

This intensive 4-hour course will outline how to apply Lean principles to the administrative functions of your business to help you identify and reduce wait times, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and reduce costly and time consuming errors. For more info, visit <http://www.sections.asme.org/westernwa/training.asp>.

16-17 January, The Bolted Joint Class in Spokane, WA

This two-day course provides an overview of bolted joint fundamentals, including behavior, troubleshooting, and various design approaches. For more info, visit <http://www.sections.asme.org/westernwa/training.asp>.

Thursday, 17 January, ASME North Puget Sound Section January Meeting

ASME North Puget Sound Section will hold a Dinner Presentation on Thursday, 17 January, 2008 at 6 pm with Dynamic Speaker Nikhil K. Rao on "Culture for Innovation". Location: Paine Field Building C-80 at the Everett Community College Aviation Maintenance Technology School. Please RSVP by 16 January to Marcia Smith at 425-670-1939, or aircraft.mechanic@verizon.net.

Tuesday, 29 January, PSEC Engineering Exploration Night at UW

The purpose of the Engineering Exploration Night is to inform and excite students, mostly sophomores or juniors, about careers in engineering, by giving them an opportunity to meet and talk with practicing engineers. If you're interested in volunteering as a mentor, please visit <http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/> for more info and sign-ups. Note that this is a one-night activity (no long-term mentoring relationship required, and that mentors will be asked to describe their experience in the profession and answer questions posed by students.

February 2008

Wednesday, 6 February, Dinner Meeting

The February 2008 Dinner Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6 February, at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Seattle. The speaker will be Ron King, presenting on the topic of engineered insulation materials, the forgotten element in energy conservation.

18-22 February, Engineer's Week 2008

Engineer's week will be 18-22 February. More info can be found at <http://www.eweek.org>. The February newsletter will contain more information about local activities during E-week.

50th Annual Puget Sound Engineering Council Awards Banquet

The PSEC Banquet will take place 23 February at Palisade in Magnolia. We would like to solicit nominations for the PSEC Awards. The awards are listed below, and anyone who is interested can read about past recipients at <http://www.pseconline.org/Events/AwardsBanquet/>. Nominations are due 12 January, so there is still time to put together strong nomination packets for these great honours.

WW Section members can email Kalan Guiley at guileyk@asme.org with nomination proposals. Assistance in putting together a nomination packet is available. The awards include:

- o Young Engineer of the Year
- o Academic Engineer of the Year
- o Government Engineer of the Year
- o Industry Engineer of the Year
- o Professional Engineer of the Year

20-22 February, Pipe Stress Analysis Class in Calgary, AB, Canada

The 2008 Pipe Stress Analysis Per ASME B31.3 Process Piping Code Seminar will feature Dr. Quy Truong, ASME Fellow. For more info, visit <http://www.sections.asme.org/westernwa/training.asp>.

March 2008

Tuesday, 11 March, Dinner Meeting

March will have the Student Paper Competition, where engineering students from local schools will compete, with judgement rendered by the Members in attendance. Plan to come and hear the future of our profession do their best. More information will be in upcoming newsletters.

Giddens Industries Inc. Tour

A tour of Giddens Industries is in the works for the last week of March, in partnership with the North Puget Sound Section. Giddens Industries (www.giddens.com) has been serving the aerospace industry since its inception in 1974, with a manufacturing focus on large complex machined and sheet metal parts.

Other News

New and Improved Western Washington Section Website

The section website has gotten a facelift courtesy of Section Secretary and Webmaster Frank Shih! Check out the improvements at <http://sections.asme.org/westernwa/>.

2007 Member Survey: The Highlights

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the 2007 Member Survey! Here is a quick summary of the results:

Respondents ranked the following six topics as most interesting: Machine Design (50%), Aerospace (50%), Engineering and the Environment (43%), Manufacturing (35%), Bioengineering/Medical Device Engineering (32%), and Engineering Management (30%). The executive board is taking these interests into account as we plan our 2008 programs. The Georgetown Steam Plant Tour and the presentation “Insulation, the Forgotten Technology for Energy Conservation” have already been announced—keep your eyes peeled for more exciting meetings and tours.

Respondents overwhelmingly selected tours as their preferred activity (70%), followed by dinner meetings (52%). Professional development courses came in as a distant third (25%). As a result, the executive board will focus on organizing tours, and we will likely forego some of our dinner meetings in favour of tours. We are also investigating the possibility of hosting a short course on lean manufacturing in May. This will be the first such course we have hosted in over a decade!

Among those who do not attend meetings, the most popular reasons for not attending were scheduling conflicts (40%) and inconvenient location (16%). To mitigate these factors, the executive board will be working to diversify the timing and the locations of our 2008 meetings. You may notice that our January and February meetings are both scheduled for Wednesdays (instead of the normal second Tuesday of the month), and that the January meeting is in South Seattle near Boeing Field.

Other changes that you can expect to see over the next year include the following: transition to online registration for activities (62.5% positive, 25% neutral); elimination of all paper mailings (48% positive, 17% neutral); some new venues for dinner meetings (36.5% positive, 55.5% neutral). 91% of survey respondents were male, 79% were over 40 years of age, and 30% were over 70. If you don't feel that the results of the survey match your perspectives, or if you'd just like to help us get a more representative sampling of the section membership, please keep an eye out for the 2008 Member Survey, which will be sent out next summer.

Online Job Board

Our online job board, with a listing of job opportunities we've become aware of, is available through the section website (<http://sections.asme.org/westernwa/>). Section members who are aware of opportunities that should be posted can forward them to Kalan Guiley, at guileyk@asme.org.

Section Officers

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