



SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY NORM ARENDT

FEBRUARY 2008

Continuing our discussion from last month, Have you ever wondered why some people seem to have all the luck? Maybe you are one of the "lucky" ones. In general, "lucky" people achieve excellence by focusing on:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Forgiveness | vs. Anger |
| Others | vs. Self |
| Opportunities | vs. Problems |
| Gratitude | vs. Envy |
| Abundance | vs. Scarcity |
| Today | vs. Yesterday |
| Building up | vs. Breaking down |
| Humor | vs. Drama |
| Controllable things | vs. Uncontrollable things |
| Giving | vs. Taking |

To check our focus, we can look at how we spend our time. Is it mostly on the right- or left-hand column? Your answer will tell you if luck is in your future.

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February Chapter Meeting

<i>Topic</i>	David Weber will present on the Renovation of the Madison First Unitarian Society Meeting House (see page 3 for details).
<i>When</i>	February 20, 2008. Social hour at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM, scholarship awards and presentation at 7 PM.
<i>Where</i>	Edgewater Hotel, 666 Wisconsin Avenue, in Madison (608) 256-9071.
<i>Menu</i>	Traditional roast turkey served with sage bread stuffing, whipped potatoes, and gravy. Fudge bottom pie will be served for dessert. A vegetarian meal is available upon request (please indicate in your RSVP).
<i>Price</i>	\$32 for members and guests (cocktails not included). \$16 for students. A cash bar will be available for purchase of alcoholic beverages.
<i>RSVP</i>	Please RSVP to Cassie Goodwin at cassie.goodwin@jir-us.com or 608-327-4427. RSVP by 12 PM, Friday, February 15. If you are unable to attend and someone does not take your place, we will invoice you for the amount listed above.

MATHCOUNTS

Another successful chapter competition has been completed. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors that made this possible. Velma Hamilton Middle School of Madison walked away with the championship. Thomas Jefferson Middle School was second in the team competition followed by Spring Harbor Middle School. Special thanks to Peter Rafferty of Traffic Engineering at the UW Engineering School for running the scoring room flawlessly. Volunteers are needed for the state competition. If interested, e-mail me ASAP so I can put you on the list.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As a Southwest Chapter member, this is your newsletter. If you have any information or articles of interest for the newsletter, please submit them to me. The deadline for all articles is one week after the monthly board meeting to go into the following month's newsletter.

Do you have a write-up on your company? If so, I can include it in our company profile column. Do you know of any special events or accomplishments of a member? Let me know.

I am always looking for input on the newsletter content. Hope to hear from you soon.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES-FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Budget was discussed in relationship to both Mathcounts and scholarships. After reviewing the budget, it was decided to award four scholarships of \$500 each. The recipients will be two large school and one each of small and medium sized. Norm will send letters out today to the winners.

Mathcounts regional competition is over. The team title was won by Hamilton followed closely by Jefferson and Spring Harbor; Hamilton in total qualified five for state, Jefferson the team of four, and Spring Harbor two.

Norm and Ron lead a discussion on awards. At this point, we will award the Engineer of the Year and the Engineer in Education awards. Ron will see what other votes came in and e-mail the board. Norm will get the certificates made up.

2008 GOVERNOR'S NEW PRODUCT AWARD AND DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

The Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers is proud to sponsor the 2008 Governor's New Product Awards (GNPA) competition at our upcoming Discovery Conference! Mark your calendars now for April 17, 2008. Both events will be held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The Discovery Conference theme will be Preventing Disasters. The speakers will include:

- Jeff Western, WisDOT
- Finn Hubbard, WisDOT
- Wendy Arnold, Holmes, Murphy & Assoc.
- Norm Arendt, SHE
- NSPE Delegate – TBD

Keep watching for additional information!

FEBRUARY 20 JOINT MEETING WITH ASCE

In 2007 the Madison First Unitarian Society embarked upon a renovation of its Meeting House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1948-1951. The project dealt with unique construction methods and materials including asbestos wallboard. Updating the electrical system and improving accessibility were two of the goals of the renovation.

A major part of the project became structurally improving the building's roof when the structure was revealed to be deficient after removing the ceiling.



David Weber is the Owner's Representative for the First Unitarian Society Building Project, which includes a new 500-seat auditorium in addition to the renovation of the Historic Auditorium. He is a retired family doctor, with a medical degree from

the University of Cincinnati and undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago.

*Please volunteer
for the March 1
MATHCOUNTS®
competition.*

*Contact
Norm Arendt to help.*

608-274-2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Lucky leaders are skilled at creating, noticing, and acting upon chance opportunities. They do this in various ways. One powerful way is to remain open to new experiences. When people become aware of something—a problem, a trend or an opportunity to excel—they tend to see more of that thing. This opportunity can be a speaking engagement, participation in organizational meetings and conferences, or the giving of your time and talents to help others.

As an example, when was the last time you saw a yellow car? You might see a yellow car once a day or so. Now, for the next week check out how many yellow cars you see. Why yellow? Yellow is a color that manufacturers picked that will stand out in people's vision and therefore will cause fewer crashes. You will now focus your mind on yellow cars, and like a magnet, you will see more of them.

Excellence works the same way. When we focus on excellence, we see more of it in our people, projects, product. It's all around us! Lucky people also expect good fortune. They are certain that the future will be bright. Over time, expecting good luck becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy because it helps people persist in the face of failure and positively shapes their interactions with other people. They do not dwell on ill fortune and they take control of improving the situation... with action.

The challenge to you is now to be lucky; be lucky with WSPE and other organizations to which you belong. Your luck will make the organizations lucky.



Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

c/o RMT, Inc.

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February 2008 Newsletter

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER- WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

<i>Chapter Meeting Schedule</i>		<i>Board Meeting Schedule</i>
February 20, 2008	Engineer's Week Dinner Meeting, Joint with ASCE	March 4, 2008
March 2008	Topic and date to be determined	April 8, 2008
April 2008	Topic and date to be determined	May 5, 2008 (Mon)
May 2008	Topic and date to be determined	June 3, 2008
<i>All Meetings Thursday Unless Otherwise Noted</i>		<i>7 AM Tuesdays Unless Otherwise Noted</i>
<i>Upcoming Events Schedule</i>		
March 1, 2008	Mathcounts State Competition - Lowell Center, Madison	
April 17, 2008	2008 Discovery Conference and Governor's New Product Awards	