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Contact Us  
SWE Mid-Michigan

### E-Mail:

Mid-  
MichBoard@swe.org

## About Mid-Michigan SWE

The local Mid-Michigan SWE section, chartered May 11, 2009, covers the Great Lakes Bay Region, including Alma, Bay City, Bridgeport, Frankenmuth, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, and Saginaw. Currently we have approximately one hundred women representing twenty companies as a part of our local section. These companies represent many different industrial sectors including automotive, chemical, construction, consumer products, and solar.

Below are a few ways to get more information about your local Mid-Michigan SWE Section. They are a work in progress so check back frequently for up-to-date information.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SECTION WEBSITE:

<http://midmichigan.swe.org/>

See more information about SWE and view the upcoming events calendar!

JOIN OUR LINKED IN GROUP:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Women-Engineers-SWE>

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK GROUP\*:

<http://www.facebook.com/midmichigan.swe>

**\*If you cannot access Facebook from your work email, please forward to your personal email address!**

*NOTE: Our SWE Mid-Michigan Website contact form is now working, however we were unable to receive emails via the contact form between 12/1/2014 – 3/14/2015. If you tried to contact us during this timeframe, please resend your request again. We apologize for this inconvenience.*

FY15: 2015–2016

**Executive Board:**

**President**  
Tracy Voet  
Styron LLC

**Vice President**  
Nancy Tseng  
Dow Chemical

**Section Rep**  
Rebekah Feist  
Dow Chemical

**Secretary**  
Lauren Zinger  
Hemlock Semiconductor

**Treasurer**  
Megan Clark  
Dow Corning Corporation

## Foundation for Effective Communication

On October 14 and 28, Adam Peterson hosted a workshop on the Foundation to Effective Communication. The workshop was held from 11:30 – 1 pm on both days and included lunch catered by the Grand Traverse Pie Company. This event was the first part of a 2-part workshop on communication and will be focused on how to develop strong people skills. In it, Peterson explained how to better manage emotions and solve problems in stressful situations. The second part of the workshop will occur in the spring of 2016.

## Ted Talk Luncheon

A TedTalk luncheon is being scheduled for the beginning of December. In this session, participants bring their lunch and can discuss matters of personal and professional development in a safe environment with other SWE members. To drive the discussion, two TedTalks will be shown, and after each one, time will be given to elaborate on the video. Please come for an engaging and fun talk!

## National Conference Info Session

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Membership Committee held a SWE National Conference Informational Session at Pi's Chinese Restaurant. This year's conference will be in Nashville, TN on October 22-24. We had a small group, but we were fortunate to be joined by a member from the collegiate chapter at SVSU! President Tracy Voet shared her experiences from past conferences to help attendees prepare for this year's event. Discussions centered around volunteering for events, going to seminars, and meeting new people. This year's group can't wait to go and see what it's all about!

## Meet the Executive Board Members

### Tracy Voet, President

Tracy has worked for Trinseo LLC for 26 years, and is a MET & Process Engineering Leader for the Latex business. Trinseo LLC was created as a separate company when it was sold by the Dow Chemical Company in 2010. She has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Wayne State University.

Tracy is married to another Chemical Engineer and has 2 daughters.. Both



daughters are at Michigan Technological University and one is graduating with an Engineering degree this year. It must be genetic! In her spare time, she enjoys anything outdoors including walking, kayaking, boating, fishing and hunting.

Tracy has been involved with SWE Mid-Michigan section since 2010. And is currently serving as the President since July 2014. She has attended 3 National Conferences and 1 Regional Conference. Tracy enjoys volunteering with SWE and “giving back”, while sharing her experiences and encouraging young girls to pursue engineering.

### **Nancy Tseng, Vice President**

Nancy is a production engineer at the Dow Chemical Company’s Michigan Operations complex supporting a Dow Agrosiences plant. She has been with Dow for 4 years after graduating with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan.



Nancy has a silly cat named Tuna and enjoys playing tennis, reading, and watching horror movies. She has been involved with SWE Mid-Michigan since 2012 and is currently serving as the Vice President. She just recently went to the National SWE Conference in Nashville and had a blast and is looking forward to the next one. Nancy loves the different outreach and social events organized by SWE Mid-Michigan and takes advantage of the multitude of webinars that can be accessed as part of her SWE membership.

### **Rebekah Feist, Section Representative**

Rebekah has worked for The Dow Chemical Company for 8 years, and is currently an R&D Leader in Core R&D. She has a Bachelors in Chemical Engineering and a Masters and PhD in Electrical Engineering, all from the University of Minnesota.

Rebekah is married to another Chemical Engineer and has 2 children. In her spare time she enjoys being with her family and partaking in anything outdoors including running, back-packing, hiking, fishing, and gardening.

Rebekah has been involved with SWE since 1997 in various roles and more recently with the Mid-Michigan section since 2014 serving as the Section Representative. She has attended 2 Region H Conferences and 1 Region H HART Conference. Rebekah is passionate about volunteering and helping others achieve their goals.



### **Lauren Zinger, Secretary**

Lauren has worked at Hemlock Semiconductor for 3 years, and is a quality engineer in the semiconductor products finishing area. Prior to that, she was a process engineer in the polysilicon decomposition area. She has a B.S in Chemical Engineering and a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.



Lauren just got married in 2015. Her husband Eddie works at Dow Corning as a reliability engineer. She has a 1.5 year old chocolate lab named Penny. She spends her free time running, cooking, going to U of Michigan sporting events, and walking/playing with Penny.

Lauren has been involved with the Mid-Michigan section of SWE since 2014 and is currently serving as secretary.

### **Megan Clark, Treasurer**

For the past 18 months, Megan has worked at Hemlock Semiconductor as an economic evaluator in the finance function. For the previous four years, she was a manufacturing engineer at Dow Corning's Midland Plant supporting Resins, Coatings, and Adhesives. Prior to that, Megan worked in the sales and marketing functions at Dow Chemical. She has a B.S in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.



Megan is enjoying the joys of parenting small children with her husband, Andy. Their boy and girl just turned three and one. She spends her free time exploring cultural and natural exhibits with her children, cooking and baking, learning Mandarin and Spanish, camping, snowshoeing and playing with her family.

Megan was introduced to SWE while at an engineering outreach event in high school. She immediately became involved with SWE when starting college and held collegiate roles at UW-Madison including President and Outreach Coordinator and a national role as a Section Vitality Representative. She has been involved with the Mid-Michigan section of SWE since 2010 and is currently serving as treasurer of the local section and training coordinator for the national finance committee. She also has a passion for outreach; she enjoys connecting with people and groups who can move forward together towards a common goal of informing and engaging youth to spark a passion for STEM.

## Watch for our upcoming events!

Watch your emails and check the SWE calendar for event announcements! As we are all enjoying the holiday season, SWE is hard at work planning events for 2015. Events for professional development, networking, volunteering and more will be coming up.

Do you have an idea for an event? Do you have an event that your group would like to partner on with us? If so please let us know by emailing:

[Mid-michboard@swe.org](mailto:Mid-michboard@swe.org).

### Pottery Glaze Social

**-What:** Pottery Glazing

**-Where:** Painterly Pottery, 923 N Water St. Bay City, MI

**-When:** Saturday, December 5 from 10:30am-12:30pm

Mark your calendars! The Membership Committee will be hosting a pottery social on Saturday, December 5 beginning at 10:30 AM at Painterly Pottery in Bay City. Participants will have the opportunity to select from a large variety of items to glaze. This is the perfect opportunity to make gifts or decorations for the upcoming holiday season!

This is a family friendly event and all are welcome, so feel free to bring your kids or a friend! This event will be a great opportunity to meet SWE members while expressing your creative side! Many pottery options are available for purchase (\$9 and up). As part of this group, each person will also receive 25% off their pottery purchase! All skill levels are welcome, and assistants from Painterly Pottery will be available to help you make your special piece. Pottery will be fired in the kiln and ready for pick-up 7-10 days after the event. Snacks and refreshments will be provided! Look for more details coming out via email in the coming weeks, please direct any questions to [michelle.sikarskie@dowcorning.com](mailto:michelle.sikarskie@dowcorning.com).

## You're on our Email List, but are YOU a Member?

### How to become a Member of SWE:

While signing up to be on our email distribution list and attending Mid-Michigan SWE events is great, there is a little more to becoming a SWE member. Don't get us wrong – we welcome anyone to our events, member or not. We are also thrilled to have the opportunity to network and meet other women who may not be members of SWE, and help them find opportunities to volunteer in our communities.

Unfortunately, when we charge for events, we typically need to charge non-SWE members a little more than our rate for members. Why is this? As it turns out, a portion of the fee that you pay to SWE nationals when you sign up to be a member of SWE comes back to the section to help fund events. That's why we can charge members less – a portion of our budget is funded by their memberships!

So, if you want to become a member of SWE, here is what you do:

1. Go to [swe.org](http://swe.org) and click on Membership.
2. Click on Types and Benefits to see the different kinds of memberships available and other information throughout the page. These include a standard professional membership for \$100 annual fee, joint membership options with other minority organizations, and discounts for recent grads and those who are retired or may be unemployed. (The most common membership type is Professional, and anyone with a degree in engineering or similar field qualifies.)
3. After you determine which membership group you fall into, select Join across the top bar or the yellow button that says Join/Renew.
4. This will open another window and click on "Become a Member (Non-member)".
5. Follow the prompts to create your account.
6. Select your membership. There is a one-time processing fee of \$20 for all new members. You can then proceed to the Checkout.
7. Processing may take a little time, but you will typically be notified by mail with your membership number, and you will start to receive the occasional email from National SWE.

The most common question we hear is, "Will my company pay for my membership?" In our experience, some companies do, and some do not. We even have seen employees of the same company get different answers depending on their department policies or their boss's discretion. It doesn't hurt to ask, but be prepared that not all employers are funding professional memberships. If you have any other questions, feel free to contact [Mid-michboard@swe.org](mailto:Mid-michboard@swe.org) and we will do our best answer your questions!